

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Serving Absecon - Galloway Township

Rev. Heidi Link – Pastor

Brian Conover - Music Director

Sunday, June 21st, 2026

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

* OPENING SONG

Let the Whole Creation Cry



- 1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
- 2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,
- 3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"
those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.
and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:

... song continues ...

* - Congregation Stands (If for any reason you are unable to stand during the service, please remain seated.)



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - jice.
all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
"Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832–1916, alt.

Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702

* APOSTOLIC GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray: Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-13

⁷ O LORD, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;

you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.

⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"

For the word of the LORD has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;

I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

¹⁰ For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him
and take our revenge on him."

¹¹ But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.

They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.

¹² O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous;
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³ Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!

For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18

⁷ Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,
and shame has covered my face.

⁸ **I have become a stranger to my own kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.**

⁹ Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

¹⁰ **I humbled myself with fasting,
but that was turned to my reproach.**

[¹¹ I put on sackcloth also,
and became a byword among them.

¹² **Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,
and the drunkards make songs about me.**

¹³ But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O LORD:
“In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.

¹⁴ **Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.**

¹⁵ Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up;
do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.

] ¹⁶ **Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;
in your great compassion, turn to me.**

¹⁷ Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

¹⁸ **Draw near to me and redeem me;
because of my enemies deliver me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 6:1b-11

^{1b} Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

* SONG OF PRAISE

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je-sus lift-ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je-sus lift-ed me. I'm so glad
Sa - tan had me bound, Je-sus lift-ed me,
When I was in trou - ble,



sing-ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

* THE WORD OF GOD: Matthew 10:24-39

A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but

cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father,

and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Children of the Heavenly Father

Truggare kan ingen vara



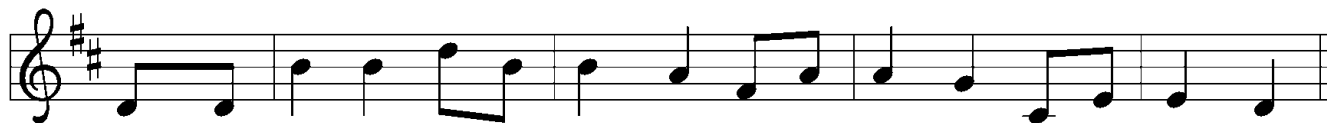
Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,

1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;

2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.

3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;

4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.

nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.

From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.

un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.

his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

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*** APOSTLE'S CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake. Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect those with marginalized identities to whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Faithful God, we give thanks for saints (*like Onesimos Nesib*) who have claimed their baptismal promises. May we follow their example of faith and service. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

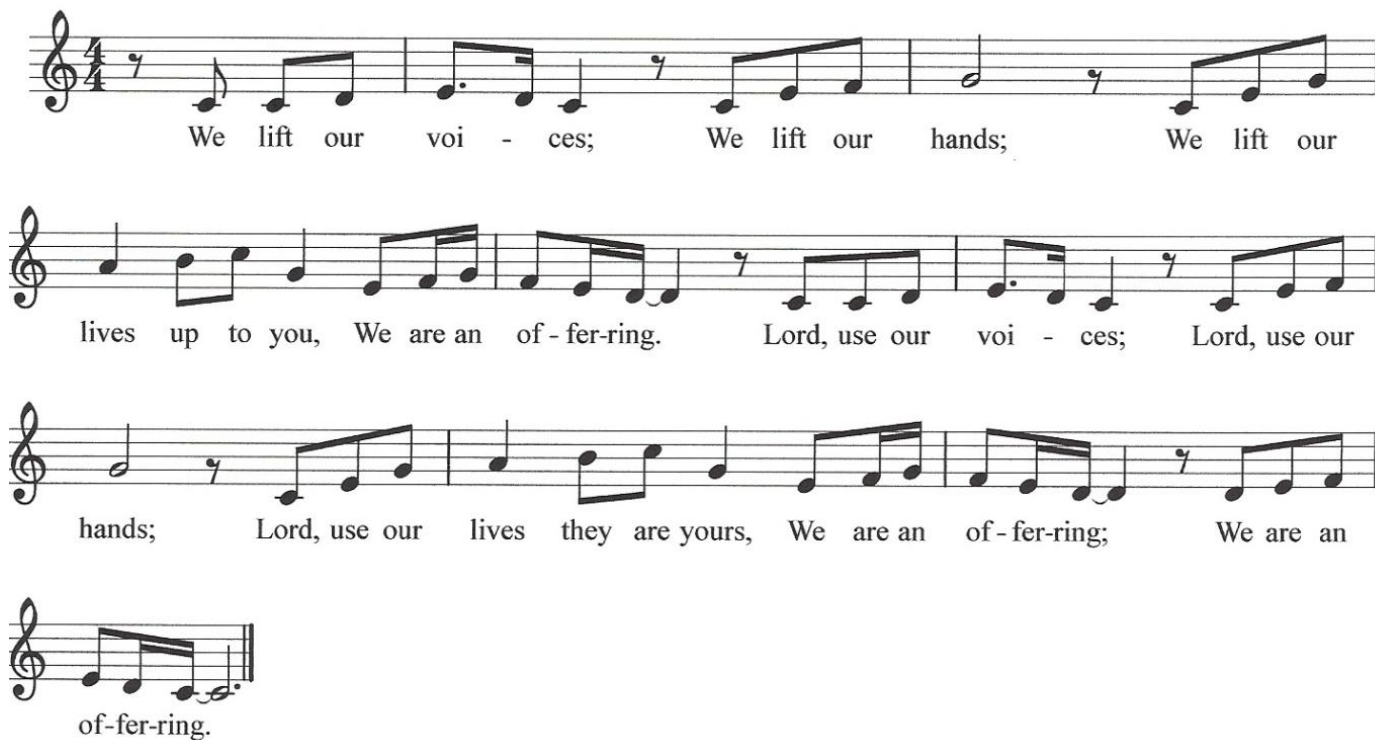
*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

* OFFERING SONG



We lift our voi - ces; We lift our hands; We lift our
lives up to you, We are an of - fer-ring. Lord, use our voi - ces; Lord, use our
hands; Lord, use our lives they are yours, We are an of - fer-ring; We are an
of-fer-ring.

* OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

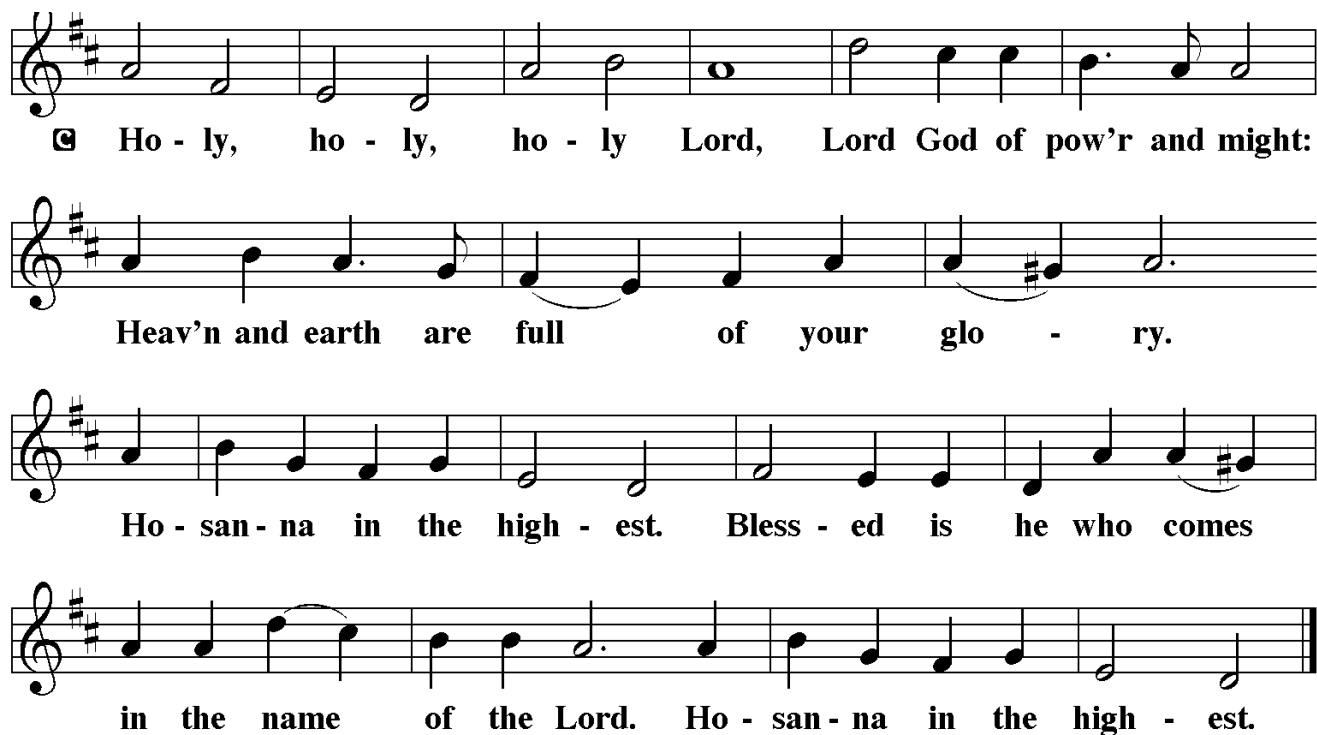
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary...*(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

With Thanksgiving, we remember that in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying: "Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me."

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

We come.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe that the risen Christ is present in the Eucharist to forgive sin and renew life are invited to either come to the altar area for communion as directed or share at your pew. If you come forward, you will receive the elements. If you choose to receive at your seat, please remain there, kneel as you are able, and receive the elements using the communion packets available from the ushers. If there are other special needs, please speak to an usher.)

* POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

*** POST COMMUNION HYMN**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.

Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com-fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff features a different melodic line, primarily using quarter notes. The fourth staff returns to the first melody and concludes the hymn with a double bar line.

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

*** BLESSING**

And now a blessing: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

*** CELEBRATIONS!**

*** CLOSING SONG**

Guide My Feet



1 Guide my feet
 2 Hold my hand
 3 Stand by me while I run this race.
 4 I'm your child
 5 Search my heart



Guide my feet
 Hold my hand
 Stand by me while I run this race.
 I'm your child
 Search my heart



Guide my feet
 Hold my hand
 Stand by me while I run this race,
 I'm your child
 Search my heart



for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual

*** SENDING**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

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