

# Saint James Lutheran Church

July 5, 2026

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



## The Rev. John Locke

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Musician: Alyssa Hall

<b>Worship Leaders</b>		
	<b>July 5 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>July 12 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>
Assisting Minister	Ruth Ann Crecelius	Nathan Stockham
Lector	Kathy Brown,	Rick Black
Communion Assistant	Tonie Neal	Jacky Hummel
Ushers	John & Gayle Frinak	James Peterson, Tonie Neal
Greeter	John & Gayle Frinak	Patsy Linkous
Acolyte	Victoria Orellano	Gabriel Thomas
Rover	Tom Liedig	Dave Runkle
Worship Nursery	Tonie Neal, Sue Rink	Erika Stockwell, Jennifer Linkous

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

## WORD OF WELCOME

## GATHERING MUSIC – WE CELEBRATE FREEDOM

<i>What Wondrous Love Is This</i>	ELW 666 vs 1, 3
<i>Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer</i>	ELW 618 vs 1, 2
<i>Oh, For A Thousand Tongues To Sing</i>	ELW 866 vs 1, 3, 5

*We Stand*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, and shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation!

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!**

As we mark 250 years of this nation's journey, we remember that it is God who establishes the foundations of the earth and watches over all who seek justice and peace.

**Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and whose hope is in the unfailing love of our Creator.**

God calls us to stand firm, to seek humility, and to share His love with our neighbors near and far. Let us worship the Lord together.

**We come to celebrate God's blessings, to seek His healing and guidance for our future, and to center our lives in the grace of Jesus Christ. Let us worship God!**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
source of hope in every nation,  
rest for the weary,  
glory and peace to the ends of the earth.  
**Amen.**

Let us bring every burden to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of all mercy,  
**we have sinned against you,  
our neighbors, and your creation.  
Within ourselves and our communities,  
our desire to do what is good  
is at war with the evil that dwells in us.  
We lament the evil that holds us captive.  
We repent of the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us  
for lives of compassion and courage  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

All-merciful, Almighty God  
forgive you all your sins  
through the grace of + Jesus Christ,  
and by the Spirit's power  
strengthen you in doing what is good.  
**Amen.**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG**    *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*    ELW 807

### **GREETING**

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. Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

**PSALM 145** We sing

*Before You, Lord, We Bow*    ELW 893    by Francis Scott Key

### **GOSPEL Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup> "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup> 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

<sup>18</sup> "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Pastor John

## These hymns will be included within the sermon

*America the Beautiful*

ELW 888 (Katherine Bates, Samuel Ward))

*This Land Is Your Land*

(Woody Guthrie)

This land is your land and this land is my land  
From the California to the New York island  
From the redwood forests to the Gulf Stream waters  
This land was made for you and me

As I went a-walkin' that ribbon of highway  
I saw above me that endless skyway  
Saw below me that golden valley  
This land was made for you and me

I roamed and rambled and I followed my footsteps  
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts  
All around me a voice was sounding  
This land was made for you and me

This land is your land and this land is my land  
From California to the New York island  
From redwood forests to the Gulf Stream waters  
This land was made for you and me

*God Bless America*

(Irving Berlin)

While the storm clouds gather far across the sea  
Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free  
Let us all be grateful that we are far from there  
As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer

God bless America, land that I love  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Through the night with a light from above  
From the mountains to the prairies  
To the oceans white with foam  
God bless America, my home sweet home  
God bless America, my home sweet home

*America, also known as My Country, 'Tis of Thee*

(Samuel Francis Smith)

1 My country, 'tis of thee,  
sweet land of liberty,  
of thee I sing:  
land where my fathers died,  
land of the pilgrims' pride,  
from ev'ry mountainside  
let freedom ring.

4 Our fathers' God, to thee,  
author of liberty,  
to thee we sing:  
long may our land be bright  
with freedom's holy light.  
Protect us by thy might,  
great God, our king.

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

ELW 803 (Isaac Watts)

## APOSTLES CREED

We join with the Great Communion of Saints in confessing our faith, using the words of the Apostles Creed.

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

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

*(Names of those on the congregation's prayer list are listed in the back of the bulletin)*

*Each petition of the prayers ends with these words:*

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

## PEACE

The peace of God be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*We share this peace as a sign of our baptismal unity as children of God. The "exchange of peace" (also commonly called "sharing the peace" or "passing the peace") is an act of reconciliation that serves as a transition point between the Word and Meal portions of the liturgy.*

*We sit.*

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*



Support of the ministries of St. James, as well as the wider church, is appreciated. To donate with cash or check use an envelope from the back of the pew or scan the QR code to donate digitally. Thank you for your generosity.



**OFFERING SONG** *Shall We Gather At The River* ELW 423 vs. 1-3

*We stand.*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God,  
for waves of grain and harvesters,  
fruitful vines and winepresses,  
for our labor and our rest,  
for the gifts of your hand in this land.  
Transform us and what we offer  
into the banquet of your compassion,  
serving your love without limits  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **THANKSGIVING AT TABLE**

Holy God,  
you alone are Majesty,  
you alone are Excellency,  
you alone are Sovereign.

Within the vast reaches you splashed into being,  
you formed our star and this planet:  
purple mountains, fruited plains,  
crystal waters, towering forests, gleaming mines.  
Here you fashioned human beings  
in our infinite variety and hue,  
yet each one created equal,  
to care for one another  
and our earthly home.

In a time of peace  
enforced by the cruelty of empire,  
you came in Jesus to share our life.  
Born under the rule of a merciless king,  
Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God.  
Moving across borders  
to people broken and oppressed,  
Jesus brought healing, restoration, and freedom.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the 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 for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime,  
Christ's resurrection that buries death,  
Christ's ascension to rule with love forever,  
we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

God, shed your grace on us.  
Shower your Holy Spirit  
on these gifts of bread and wine  
and on your people gathered this day.  
Ignite in us the flame of freedom—  
freedom from prejudice, from supremacy, from fear;  
freedom for acceptance, for welcome,  
for the *shalom* that you have first shown to us.

Faithful God, loving God:  
Your Majesty shines forth in weakness.  
Your Excellency is revealed to infants.  
Your Sovereignty reigns from a cross.  
Yours, O God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
is the everlasting kingdom,  
the peaceable power,  
and the humble glory,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** (*Traditional Version*)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven:  
Taste and know that God is good to all.

*We sit.*

## COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

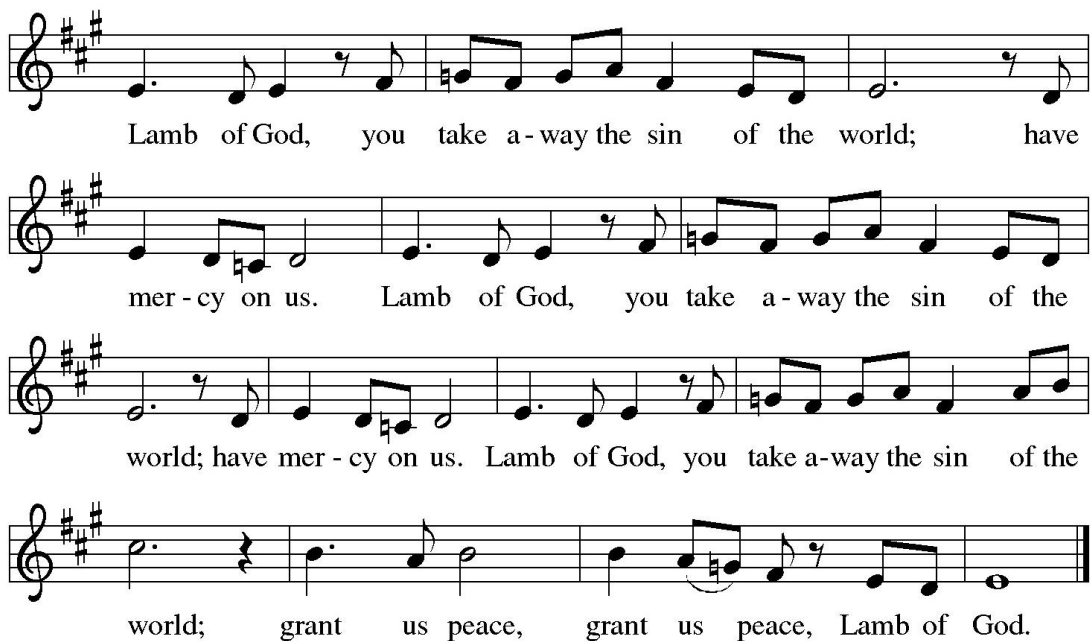
*All are welcome at Holy Communion. Lutherans believe that Jesus' real presence is in, under, and through the bread and wine. The sacrament is effective in either bread or wine, so if you have an issue with either bread or wine, you may commune with one element. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available for those who prefer. We will distribute bread and wine by individual cup. Children and others not communing may fold arms across their chest, and they will receive a blessing from the communion minister.*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*And each person may respond* **Amen.**

## COMMUNION SONGS

*Lamb of God (Setting 8)*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## Swing Low, Sweet Chariot


*Refrain*



Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com-ing for to car-ry me home.



Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com-ing for to car-ry me home.



1 I looked o - ver Jor - dan, and what did I see,  
2 If you get . . . there . . . be - fore . . . I do,  
3 The bright - est . . . day . . . that ev - er I saw,  
4 I'm some - times . . . up, . . . I'm some - times down,




com-ing for to car - ry me home? A band of an - gels  
com-ing for to car - ry me home; tell all my friends I'm  
com-ing for to car - ry me home; when Je - sus washed my  
com-ing for to car - ry me home; but still my soul feels



*Refrain*  
com-ing af - ter me, com-ing for to car - ry me home.  
com - ing . . . too, com-ing for to car - ry me home.  
sins . . . a - way, com-ing for to car - ry me home.  
heav-en - ly . . . bound, com-ing for to car - ry me home.

## I Need Thee Every Hour

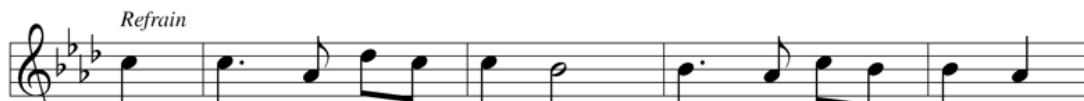


1 I need thee ev - 'ry hour, most gra - cious Lord;



no ten - der voice like thine can peace af - ford.

*Refrain*



I need thee, oh, I need thee, ev - 'ry hour I need thee;



oh, bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come to thee.

2 I need thee ev'ry hour,  
stay thou near by;  
temptations lose their pow'r  
when thou art nigh. *Refrain*

3 I need thee ev'ry hour,  
in joy or pain;  
come quickly and abide,  
or life is vain. *Refrain*

4 I need thee ev'ry hour,  
teach me thy will;  
and thy rich promises  
in me fulfill. *Refrain*

5 I need thee ev'ry hour,  
most Holy One,  
oh, make me thine indeed,  
thou blessed Son. *Refrain*

*We stand.*

### **TABLE BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you, God of heaven and earth,  
that you fill our deepest need  
with the very gift of Jesus Christ,  
broken and poured out for us.  
Pour us out into a broken world.  
Channel our common life  
toward the common good,  
following the way our Savior leads us  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **BLESSING**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,  
✠ one God,  
bless, heal, and hold you  
today and always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** *Amazing Grace* ELW 779

### **DISMISSAL**

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

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

July 5, 2026

The list in the weekly bulletin is intended to be for persons in immediate crisis. Generally, those names will be moved to the newsletter after 3 weeks. The newsletter has our long-term prayer list which is updated as you tell us.

**Members** · Beth Sessoms · Larry Schiebe · Philip Williams · Anna Lena Andersen · Brenda Killett  
· Betty Kern · Cayla Chaplin · Valerie Brewer

### Friends & Family

· Diane Stultz · Peter Lundell · Gregg Nazario · Sandy Pangle · Stasha · Alan Carlson · Katie Maxwell  
· Darcey Beale · Charlotte Choice and family · Sara Brown · Mindy Quinby · Morgen Jensen  
· Jason VanDervoort · Bob Matlack · Yvonne Wheeler · Buddy Prevatte

**People at Home or in Care facilities:** · Charlotte Davis · Brenda Killett · Carolyn Uchtorff

### Our military members (\*deployed)

· Earl Stockham · Dan Gibson · Joshua Trogdon\* · Bella Fish · Hochang Min · Alex Habermehl  
· Robert James · Matthew Porter\* · Derek Carlson · Howard Hogan\* · Justyce Crecelius\* · Zach Fuhr



## Ministry at St. James ... July 5 - 12, 2026

**Sun. July 5**

### *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

*We'll sing various hymns that have been popular in the Church during America's history, and learn some background about them as well. How has the church impacted the development of the country, and how has the growth of the country influenced the church?*

9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Men's class only)

10:00 am Worship

**Mon. July 6**

9:00 am Quilting Ministry Team (Annex)

**Tue. July 7**

12:00 pm Prime Timers Luncheon

7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troop 747 Meeting

7:00 pm Fellowship on Zoom

**Thu. July 9**

9:00 am Women's Breakfast at "Eggs up Grill"  
(2951 Town Center Dr) in *Traemoor Village Center*

**Sun. July 12**

### *Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

9:00 am Sunday Morning Faith Formation (Men's class only)

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Congregation Council

