

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

## THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 19 & 20, 2025

5:30PM & 8:00AM

### AS WE GATHER

We try to exercise our freedom and planning, but God's way is always better. It was better for Abraham and Sarah in the Old Testament Reading and gets Mary's attention in the Gospel. It was still taking some time for the new believers of Colossae to fathom that God had done so much for them in Christ. And when their friends found the treasure of the Gospel, they, too, must have laughed that God had such gracious plans for them, plans that are always better than they imagined.

"Make God laugh," a wise man once said, "—plan something!" He meant that God always has the last laugh, especially when we make mistakes, and His will is done anyway. That's what God did with Sarah and has done every time someone uncovers His promised, gracious rewards. The Colossians were laughing with Him, and in the Gospel, Mary has enough faith to listen to Jesus. Don't try to get God laughing; join Him rejoicing in all His blessings.

### WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HYMN** "Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun" *LSB* 868, sts. 1-6△

### INVOCATION

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

### OPENING SENTENCES *Colossians 1:21–22; Psalm 27:14*

**Pastor:** And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,

**People:** Christ has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death,

**Pastor:** in order to present you holy and blameless

**People:** and above reproach before Him.

Pastor: Wait for the LORD; be strong,

**People: and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God is gracious and full of compassion. Let us go to Him with contrite hearts. Heavenly Father,

**People: like Sarah, we laugh when it seems like You are doing the impossible. Forgive us for failing to see Your almighty power at work for us.**

Pastor: O Holy Spirit,

**People: sometimes, like those who have not heard the Good News, we have thought Your promises are dependent on our good works. Forgive us.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus,

**Pastor: although all the Father's promises came true through Your efforts, too often we depend on our own thoughts, words, and deeds to merit Your grace and mercy. Forgive us for not accepting Your last laugh in the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Pastor: Sarah gave birth in her old age, Scripture records for everyone how God's many promises were kept, and in Christ's resurrection is the power to work inside and through you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### HYMN "Thy Word Is a Lamp" LSB 973, sts. 1-2

ref Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.

1 When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,  
Still You're there right beside me.  
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near.  
Please be near me to the end. Refrain

2 I will not forget Your love for me, and yet  
My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;  
And I will love You to the end. Refrain

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**KYRIE**

**People:** Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**SALUTATION**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.  
**People:** And also with you.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.  
O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word  
**People:** and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will;

**Pastor:** O Lord, give us a lively faith,  
**People:** and help us to listen to Your Word so that we will know the joy You have promised to all who know Your eternal will;

**Pastor:** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**People:** Amen.

**Please sit****OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 18:1—14***

(Sarah laughs when she hears that she shall have a son.)

<sup>1</sup>The LORD appeared to [Abraham] by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth <sup>3</sup>and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, <sup>5</sup>while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have

said." <sup>6</sup>And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup>And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent."

<sup>10</sup>The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son."

(continued...)

And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. <sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.

<sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?"

<sup>13</sup>The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup>Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM Psalm 27:1–6**

P <sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

C <sup>2</sup>**When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.**

P <sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

C <sup>4</sup>**One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the, LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**

P <sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

C <sup>6</sup>**And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen**

### **GRADUAL** *Romans 10:15b, 18b; Isaiah 52:7b, alt.*

Pastor: How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news,

People: **who publish peace and bring good news of salvation.**

Pastor: Their voice has gone out to all the earth,

People: **and their words to the ends of the world.**

**EPISTLE Colossians 1:21–29**

(The mystery—that the Gentiles are included in God’s promises—is cause for rejoicing among the Colossian Christians.)

<sup>21</sup>You, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup>he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, <sup>23</sup>if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

<sup>24</sup>Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, <sup>25</sup>of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God

that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup>the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup>To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup>Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. <sup>29</sup>For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Please stand**

**VERSE** Colossians 2:6b–7a

Pastor: Alleluia. As you received Christ Jesus the Lord,

**People: so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL Luke 10:38–42**

(Martha learns that her sister Mary has chosen to listen to Jesus; she has chosen well.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the tenth chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup>Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. <sup>39</sup>And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help

me.” <sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, <sup>42</sup>but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Please sit**  
**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “One Thing’s Needful” LSB 536, sts. 1,3,4

**WORD OF GOD AND SERMON**

Pastor: Frequently we conclude the reading of Holy Scripture with the phrase, “This is the Word of the Lord!” More than just a “word” from God, this is his revelation in which he makes known to us his will, most specifically, his merciful will that desires our salvation.

Ultimately, this word points us to the Word, the incarnate Son of God. He is God's final and full revelation to us, the mirror of the Father's heart.

That is the point that the writer to the Hebrews makes in the opening verses of his epistle: “In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets, but now in these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son” (Heb. 1:1-2a).

Only through him — God's only Son — are we able to know the Father's favor and grace.

In the sermon, the Word of God is brought to bear on the lives of the hearers. This is the equivalent of sitting at the feet of Jesus. But it's more than mere instruction.

Through the sermon, God speaks to us with his two-edged sword of condemnation and promise, Law and Gospel. The subject of the sermon is both God and us.

Through the sermon we come to a better understanding of ourselves, especially our need for God's forgiveness. But we also come face to face with God's mercy and love.

Week after week, God's faithful hear the voice of their Good Shepherd, preparing them, in a sense, for that final day when Jesus calls them to their eternal reward.

**SERMON** “THE EUNUCH WENT AWAY REJOICING” (*Text: Acts 8:26-40*)  
*The Rev. Peter Gueldner*

**Please stand**

**CREED     *Apostles' Creed***

**People:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

**Please sit**

**CANTICLE     “My Soul Rejoices”    LSB 933, sts. 1-2**

**TITHES AND OFFERING**

**Please stand**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Let us join together and go to our gracious God in prayer for all people. For all who, like Abraham, provide for the needs of strangers and travelers, those who tend flocks, who raise crops, who distribute food, clothing, and shelter, who make the bounty of this earth available to one and all, that God would give them good weather and opportunities to serve the people around them, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** For all who do not know the guidance of the Lord, our light and salvation, or who have not heard the Gospel, as well as all who doubt in the face of oppression and injustice, who languish alone, who deal with long-term ills, [*especially . . .*], or sudden crises, who need to hear again the joyful news, that God would visit, relieve, console, and re-awaken faith within them, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** For all who joyfully carry the news of Christ, those who travel to distant lands, who speak to their friends and neighbors, who gather others around them for worship and instruction, that God would strengthen them in their joyful task, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** For all who, like Mary, have chosen the good portion, joining their brothers and sisters around the world to listen to our Lord, that our gracious God would enliven their faith and uplift their spirits with His sure, joyful promises, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Into Your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercies for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**People:** Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:** 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.

**BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People:** Amen.

**Please sit**

**HYMN** "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" LSB 575, sts. 1-4

**DISMISSAL**

**Pastor:** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

\* \* \* **TO GOD BE THE GLORY** \* \*

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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