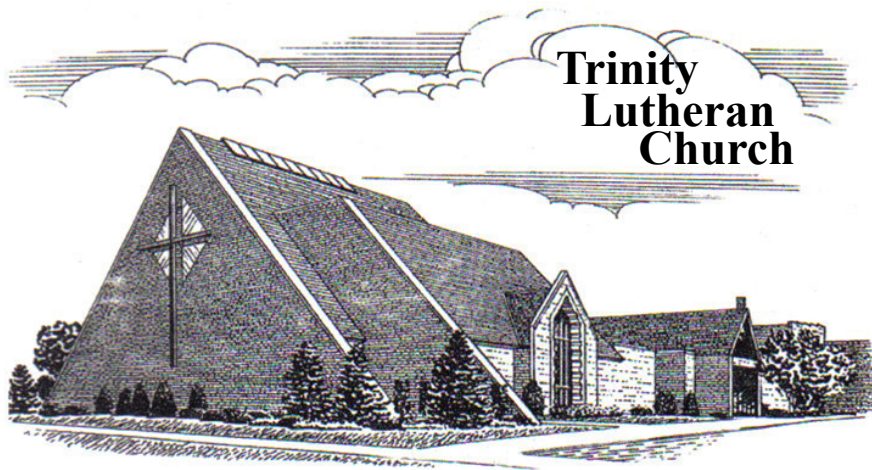


# Proper 6



**June 8-14, 2026**

# Weekly Outline

## **Invocation**

L: In the way of your testimonies I delight.

**C: I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.**

L: O Lord, take away from me all coldness, all wanderings of the thoughts, and fix my soul upon thee and thy love, O merciful Lord and Saviour, in this hour of prayer.

**C: Amen.**

## **Scripture**

**June 8: Exodus 19:2-8**

**June 10: Romans 5:16-25**

**June 12: Matthew 9:35-10:8**

## **Devotion**

### **Closing Prayer**

L: Ever blessed Trinity, to thy mercy I commit this day, my body and soul, together with all my ways and undertakings. I beseech thee to be gracious unto me; enlarge my heart and open my lips, that I may praise and magnify thy name which alone is holy. And as thou hast made me for the praise of thy holy name, grant that I may yield my life a sacrifice to thy honor in humble love and fear.

**C: Amen.**

## **Monday**

When John the Baptist is born, his father, Zechariah, says these words, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people...that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear." The purpose of Christ's life is to free us from our enemies so that we can serve God without fear. At first, that might not seem like exciting news. We often don't see service to God as a good thing. We want to be free from every god and every lord, serving only ourselves. But it is not true that we can be free from every lord. Each person must serve something. The choice is between God and Satan.

We see this clearly in the story of the Exodus. As slaves in Egypt, the Israelites were not able to choose their own lord. They were forced to serve Pharaoh. He was their lord. This is how we are before Christ saves us. Satan is our lord and we cannot choose another. God then sends Moses to tell Pharaoh, "Let my people go!" and after rescuing his people, they find themselves at the foot of Mount Sinai, where God says, "If you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine." God delivers his people from slavery to Pharaoh so that they can take him as their Lord and He can take them as his people.

All of us are born in slavery to sin and Satan. Without God's intervention, we would be unable to choose another lord. But now that Christ has bought us back from sin and Satan, we are enabled to choose for ourselves a different Lord, or rather, we have been chosen by our Lord to be his people and recipients of his salvation. Under his reign, we are truly free. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Wednesday

My younger brother recently proposed. His bride-to-be said yes, and he gave her the largest diamond I have ever seen. The stone is 2 carats. If anyone wonders whether my brother loves his fiancée, they just need to look at the ring. When you love someone, you give them costly gifts. These gifts may cost you money; they may cost you time. The debt of love can be paid with many currencies. But it will cost you something. True love is never free.

Because God loved us, he was willing to pay a tremendous cost for us. Paul writes, "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." It is easy to love someone who is a good person and to pay small costs associated with that love. Should a woman love a man a great deal, she may even agree to become his wife. The costliest gift she could give is the gift of herself. But she should only give that gift to a man who is worthy of receiving it. What sets God's love apart from our love is that God loves the unworthy, the unrighteous, and the wicked. He does not wait for us to be worthy of receiving his love before he pays the cost of love, the blood of his dear Son.

When we consider the actions of God toward us, there is only one thing we can conclude, "God loves me dearly, loves even me." Should you ever wonder about God's love for you, look at Christ. He is like a diamond God set on your finger. You can be certain of God's love for you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Friday

All of us evaluate life from a certain viewpoint. A mom with young kids will see life differently compared to a man who is unattached. A liberal will evaluate policies differently than a conservative. A Christian should see the world differently than his unchurched peers. These viewpoints give us different perspectives on ideas and events. They also give us a perspective on people.

We live in a country that is increasingly divided along racial, sexual, and political lines. As we interact with others, we try to evaluate whether they are friend or foe based on which side of the divide they fall into. Should we like someone, we assume that they share the same ideas about politics that we do. Should we dislike someone, we assume that their views differ from ours and that those views are harmful. We consider some to be saints and some to be sinners based on our viewpoint. But Jesus teaches us to see others from his viewpoint. He is going through the cities and villages of Galilee, and when he sees the crowds in this region, "He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." When we look from the viewpoint of Christ, we see ourselves and others as sheep in need of a shepherd.

Everyone has to assume a viewpoint to make sense of life. But when we look at others, we must remember that no one is a saint because of their skin color, sexual life, or race. We must also remember that all people are sinners, not just those on the other side of the divide. Each of us is a sheep, harried by lies, harassed by sin, and pursued by the devil. What we need is a shepherd, and that is what God gives to us in Christ. A shepherd who gathers the lost and brings them home. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Evening Prayer**

You may pray one or more of the following after dinner or before bed:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray you that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.



Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to keep; if I should die before I wake, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to take; and this I ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.



Visit, O Lord, our home, and drive from it all the snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell in it to preserve us in peace, and may your blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

## **A Parent's Blessing**

You may place your hand on the head of your child before kissing them goodnight and say:

My loved one, rest securely,  
for God this night will surely  
from peril guard your head.  
Sweet slumbers may he send you  
and bid his hosts attend you  
and through the night watch o'er your bed. Amen.

## Memory Verse

