

# The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

06-21-2026

Nancy Werner, Guest Pastor

Greg Fetzer, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

## PRELUDE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen**

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for our sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen**

## GATHERING HYMN [ELW#596 – “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”](#)

**P** From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

**HYMN OF PRAISE** [ELW#863 "My God, How Wonderful Thou Art"](#)

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. Gracious God,

**C** **you revealed yourself to Jacob in his wandering, showing mercy even as he fled in fear and guilt. Be present to us in our journeys, that trusting your promises we may return to you with grateful hearts, and offer you the first fruits of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*Please be seated.*

**PSALM 40:1-10**

**L** <sup>1</sup>I waited patiently upon the Lord, who stooped to me and heard my cry.

**C** <sup>2</sup>**The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

**L** <sup>3</sup>The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and they shall trust the Lord.

**C** <sup>4</sup>**Happy are they who trust in the Lord!  
They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**

**L** <sup>5</sup>Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God!  
In your plans for us, none can be compared with you!  
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them!  
But they are more than I can count.

**C** <sup>6</sup>**Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;  
you have opened my ears:  
burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.**

**L** <sup>7</sup>And so I said, "Here I am; I come. In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

**C** <sup>8</sup>**"I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep within me."**

**L** <sup>9</sup>I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;  
I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.

**C** <sup>10</sup>**I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart;**

**I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;  
I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.**

**GENESIS 28:10-17**

**L** A reading from Genesis: <sup>10</sup>Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup>He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. <sup>12</sup>And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup>And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, <sup>14</sup>and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. <sup>15</sup>Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." <sup>16</sup>Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" <sup>17</sup>And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** [ELW#796 – “How Firm a Foundation”](#)

**SERMON:** [\(Sermon Audio Link\)](#) – Pastor Nancy Werner – “The Metaphorical Pit”

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C** **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

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

*A brief silence.*

**L** 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,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**L** 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,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**L** 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,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**L** Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering. We pray for Barbara Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, Rhina Chroniger, Lincoln Dippel, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Bob Hardy, Mark Hughes, Charlotte Leer, John McCarthy, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Claudia Schober, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. God of grace,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**L** 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,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**L** For whom or what else shall we pray?

- *For peace and reconciliation among the nations, especially in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, Mali, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela...*
- *For all immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers...*
- *For the families of those killed in shootings in California, Alabama, Illinois, and Mississippi, and for an end to gun violence...*
- *For all affected by storms and severe weather...*
- *For safety and peaceful resolution amidst protests in Belfast...*

- For an end to hate crimes and hateful demonstrations...
- For farmers and ranchers amidst the screwworm livestock emergency...
- For responsible and ethical approaches to new and developing technologies...
- For the success of peace talks in northern Nigeria...
- For all impacted by the Ebola outbreak in central Africa...
- For synods of the ELCA as they gather in their assemblies and for bishops and bishops-elect...
- For World Cup travelers and for global community, collaboration, and celebration...

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

**C** **hear our prayer.**

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

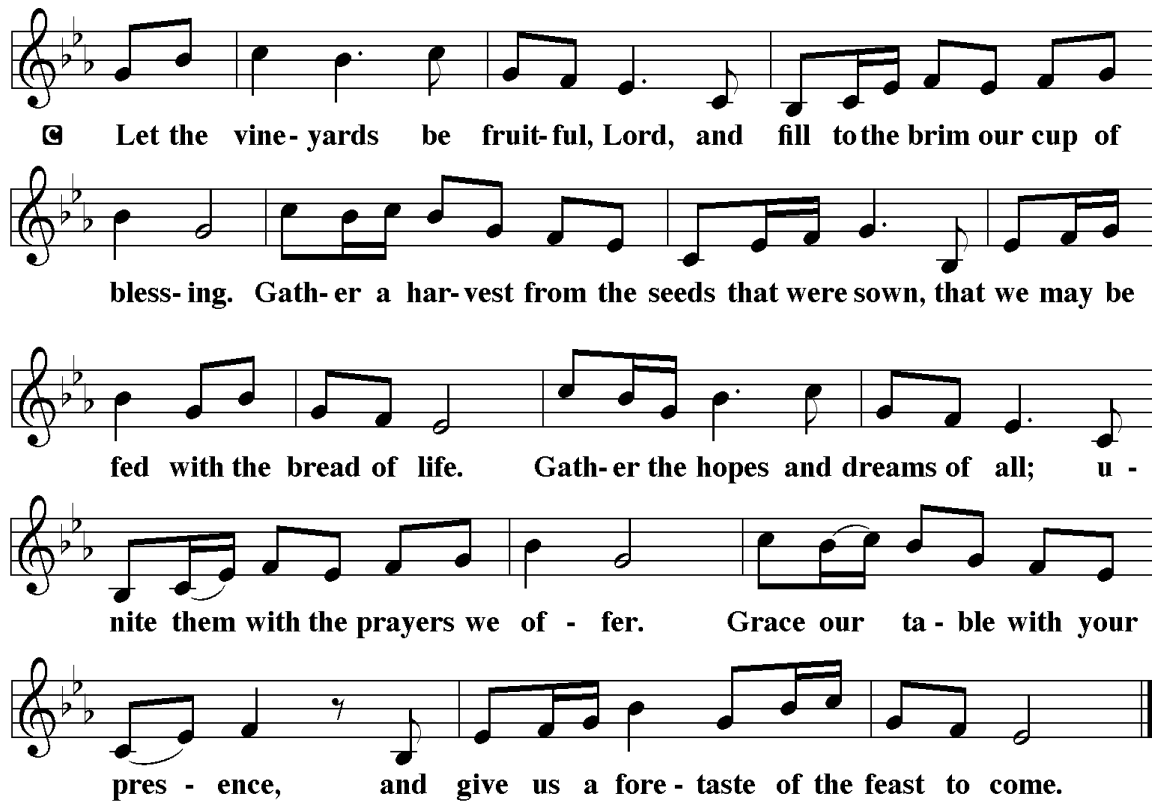
**C** **Amen**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

**OFFERING\*:** ([On-Line giving Link](#))

*The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
 fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

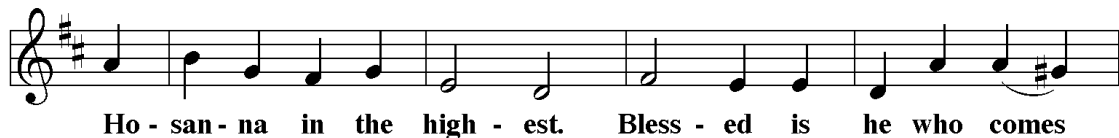
**P** Let us pray. Merciful Father,  
**C** **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



**P** Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**C Amen**

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C** **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**

**P** The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for the table is now ready.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*After all have communed, the following is sung:*



**☩ 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.

*Please stand, as you are able.*

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

**P** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.  
Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.  
He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy  
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

- P** Let us pray. Almighty God,  
**C** you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

- P** 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.  
**C** Amen

SENDING HYMN: ELW#714 – [“O God of Mercy, God of Light”, v. 1-4](#)

- P** Go in peace. Love and serve God and neighbor.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Announcements**

- Special thanks to Pastor Nancy Werner today for leading our worship as Pastor Greg is enjoying a weekend off
- **Saturday, Aug 1, 6 pm** - Frederick Keys Baseball Game - Meet at 5:30 pm at the stadium
- **Sunday, Aug 9, 9:30 am** - Outdoor Worship in the Neumann Chapel – bring a lawn chair

\*Offering to be sent to  
 Robert Brackbill  
 10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane  
 Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
 9122 Sybert Drive  
 Columbia Hills  
 Ellicott City, MD 21043  
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: [https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291)

**(TENTATIVE) SUMMER READINGS PLAN**

<b>Dated</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Leader</b>
<b>June 21</b>	Genesis 28:10-17*	Ron
<b>June 28</b>	John 7:40-52	Pastor Greg
<b>July 5</b>	John 8:31-38	Heidi and Bob
<b>July 12</b>	John 8:39-47	Julie and Dave
<b>July 19</b>	John 8:48-59	Ron
<b>July 26</b>	John 10:31-42	Monica
<b>Aug 2</b>	John 11:46-57	Heidi and Bob
<b>Aug 9</b>	John 12:37-43	Julie and Dave
<b>Aug 16</b>	John 12:44-50	Ron
<b>Aug 23</b>	John 15:18-25	Monica
<b>Aug 30</b>	John 16:1-4a	Pastor Greg
<b>Sep 6</b>	John 16:16-33	Heidi and Bob
<b>Sep 13</b>	John 21:20-25	Julie and Dave

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