

# Hollywood Lutheran Church

6th Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday, July 5, 2026



## **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.



## Welcome To Worship

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to offer God's Word of Love, Grace, Mercy, and Justice to our homes, congregation, city, and all creation.**

**Welcome**—we're glad you're here. Take a breath, settle in, and participate at your own pace; let the congregation and bulletin guide you. Join us after the service for refreshments—we'd love to meet you. If you're not feeling well, please consider wearing a mask so we can keep one another safe.

**Visitors** are invited to complete the attendance card in the pew and share any prayer requests or concerns. Sing as you're able—just praise, no need to be perfect. Children are a joyful part of worship; their sounds are welcome, and crayons and coloring sheets are available in the narthex. We celebrate Holy Communion today—all are welcome, with wine, grape juice, and gluten-free bread available.

The rainbow candelabra on the altar serves as a reminder of this community's inclusive and intentional welcome to the LGBTQ+ community.

The Paschal candle at the entrance to the sanctuary symbolizes the welcoming light of Jesus Christ and has traditionally been a sign of Christ as the Light of the World.

*Join us after the service for refreshments in Hoick Hall. We look forward to meeting you.*

### In Today's Liturgy

**Minister:** Rev. Toni Castañeda Carrera

**Assistant Minister:** Ted Goulet

**Lector:** Tom Scott

**Organist:** Michael Anderson

**Cantor:** Phyllis Lundine

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Plants and Flowers are given to the glory of God.

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### PRELUDE

Michael Anderson

*The congregation is invited to stand as they can or feel comfortable.*

**Welcome, This Morning Worship Service Begins With**  
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus (ELW 742)*



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

## 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.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,

and of the + Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

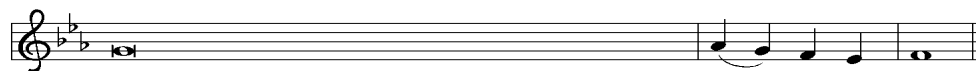
## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



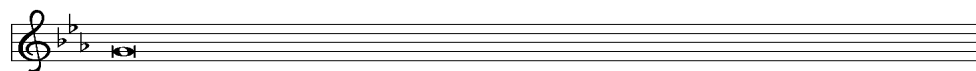
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Now the Feast and Celebration (ELW 167)*



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

*The congregation is invited to be seated.*

## **FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12**

A reading from Zechariah.

*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14**

*Refrain ( R ):* The LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works. R**

All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,**

that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.**

**You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down. **R**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a**

A reading from Romans.

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*You are invited to stand, as you are able or as you feel comfortable.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

Jesus spoke to the crowd saying: “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; 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.”

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; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 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.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation is invited to be seated.*

## **SERMON**

Rev. Toni Castañeda Carrera

*You are invited to stand, as you are able or as you feel comfortable.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (ELW 608)*



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,



watch - ing for you and for me.  
mer - cies for you and for me? “Come home, come home!  
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

## 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

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

God our unity, your church flourishes in different languages, cultures, and movements. Grant us wisdom to discern when our yokes are too heavy, that we may live and serve in the freedom of your rest.

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

God our life-giver, we grieve the pains placed upon our common home through war and neglect. What you have lovingly crafted, guide us to lovingly tend.

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

God our freedom, you are no tyrant but bring peace. As this nation marks its declaration of independence, teach us our part in announcing peace for future generations.

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

God our comfort, liberate all in our community who are captive to fear, who have become isolated or ill, or who are in any need.

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

God our guide, we do not always have the strength to do the good we wish to do. Free us from the cycles of violence that bind us, that all know your liberation.

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

God our home, you model freedom through the love shared across communities of trust and goodwill. As we remember those now gone to eternal rest, we thank you for the gifts of life together.

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

For what else shall we pray for today?

*We invite prayers from the congregation to be shared.*

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

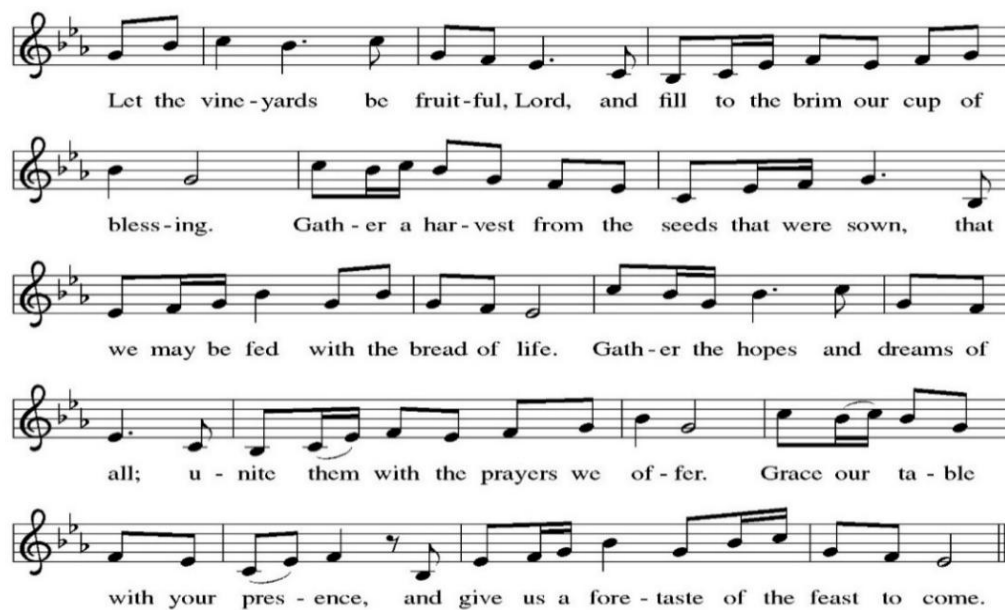
*The congregation is invited to be seated.*

*The usher will now pass the offering plate.*

Special Music by Michael Anderson

## OFFERING

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*



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.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## 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 our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are they who are called to His table."

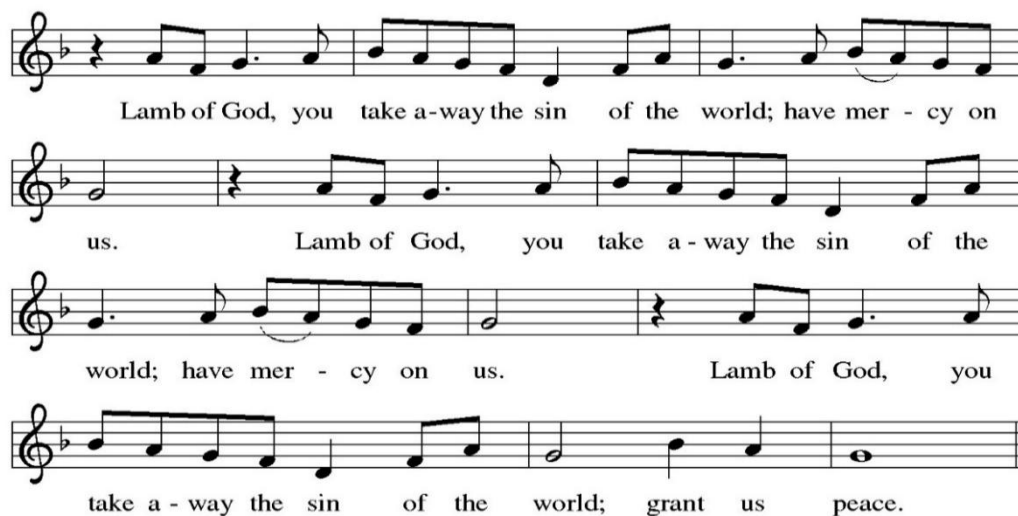
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.

## COMMUNION SONG



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.

*You are invited to stand, as you are able or as you feel comfortable.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## BLESSING & SENDING FORTH

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee (ELW 697)*

*Refrain*



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



*Refrain*

I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**



**Please offer your prayers throughout the week for the following individuals:**

**Special Prayer:**

God of peace, we ask you to guide the leaders of all nations with wisdom and compassion, that they may choose peace over war and dialogue over conflict. Hold close all families who are being separated, and surround them with your love. Comfort those who are afraid and caught in the midst of uncertainty.

Provide for those in the middle of all that is happening—grant them what they need for safety, protection, and daily life. Remind leaders and all the world that we belong to one human family. Fill every heart with hope, courage, and the assurance that no one is alone.

**Healing:**

Lorene Yaros, Irene Yaros, Charlette Johnson,  
Lee Nelson, Vallery Steward, Bill Richards,  
David Conrad, Scott Aries, Amara Olivera,  
Jeffrey Forbar, Roy Mariano

**Healing & the Strength in the Fight Against Cancer:**

Anna Harris, Ashlyn, Jennifer Yates, Jaha  
Blackwell, Debra Lande

**Wholeness and well-being:**

Marie Sorensen, Adelina, Deborah An Monahan,  
Thomas Richardson

**Hope & strength:**

The Douglas Family, Wilke Family, Haddad  
Family, Luna Family  
For all military people who are deployed or serving.

**Trust in God’s mercy:**

Kat Nelson, Tamara Olivera & Alonzo Perez De  
Arre, Zakaria, Karin Garcia, Arvik Rostamians

**In Loving Memory, candles are lit in remembrance of:**

Terry Douglas, Barbara “B” Wilke, George Haddad,  
Martin Luna

If you would like to add, update, or remove a name, please contact the church office at  
hlchurch.office@gmail.com or (323) 667-1212.

Names are generally kept on the list for one month, unless otherwise requested.



**HOLLYWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**105<sup>th</sup> Year**

We are a welcoming congregation of the Southwest California Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, committed to serving our community with faith, compassion, and hospitality.

**Contact Us:** Email: [hlchurch.office@gmail.com](mailto:hlchurch.office@gmail.com)  
Phone: (323) 667-1212 Website: [www.hollywoodlutheranchurch.net](http://www.hollywoodlutheranchurch.net)

**HLC Schedule:**

Worship Service — Every Sunday @ 10:00 AM  
Food Pantry Delivery — Mondays 8:00 AM  
Food Pantry Distribution — Wednesdays from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

# Eternal Father, Strong to Save



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the  
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -  
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os  
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its  
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and  
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and  
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we  
calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we  
give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we  
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.