

**June 29, 2025**  
**Third Sunday After Pentecost**

10:00am service with Holy Communion  
The Reverend Ben Groth, Preaching and Presiding  
Matthew Harrison, Director of Music

## **Welcome!**

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We are so glad you have joined us for worship! If this is your first time here, please fill out the yellow welcome card in the pew and place it in the offering plate if you would like to be contacted by Pastor Ben, would like more information about the church, or would like to sign up for our weekly news email.

**Restrooms:** Our restrooms are located downstairs at the bottom of the stairways at the back of the sanctuary. There are signs about which side has the men's and women's restrooms. There are any-gender solo restrooms in the education wing, one of which has a changing table. Please knock and ensure no one else is inside!

**Care and Prayer:** If you would like to request prayer or speak with Pastor Ben about struggles, joys, or anything else, please feel free to email him at [bgroth@1stlutherannb.org](mailto:bgroth@1stlutherannb.org) or call/text at 860-348-3966.

**Children:** We love having children in worship! At the front of the sanctuary there is a "pray ground" with lots of space to spread out and sit comfortably, some toys, and a great collection of books for different ages. All children and caretakers are welcome to use that space anytime during the service!

**Volunteering:** We have lots of opportunities at First Lutheran to volunteer and serve our community. Our Monday Morning Mingle free meal takes place from 8-9am each Monday, while our free Pasta Dinners take place from 5-6pm each Wednesday. Both of these programs can always use volunteers. If you'd like to help out, or are interested in helping with worship or other things at First Lutheran, please contact Pastor Ben.

**Coffee Hour:** After the service, please join us downstairs for goodies and coffee, and a chance to get to know one another better!

# Gathering

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## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as able*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

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

*A brief silence.*

**P** Gracious God,

**C** have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and  
given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and  
humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known  
and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to  
do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we  
may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**P** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and  
made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the  
name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God  
strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live  
in your hearts through faith. Amen.

THE GATHERING HYMN # 579

Lord, You Give



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and  
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -  
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,  
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they  
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you

preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,  
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,  
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,  
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure  
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,

and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness  
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new  
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the  
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and  
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the

to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:  
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:  
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:  
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:  
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

*Refrain*

With the Spir-it's gifts em-pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Almighty God,

**C** we praise you that your blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you by their martyrdoms. Grant that your church throughout the world may always be instructed by their teaching and example, be knit together in unity by your Spirit, and ever stand firm upon the one foundation who is Jesus Christ our Lord, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated*

## Word

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### THE FIRST READING

Acts 12:1-11

**A** A reading from Acts:

<sup>1</sup>About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. <sup>2</sup>He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. <sup>3</sup>After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) <sup>4</sup>When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. <sup>5</sup>While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. <sup>6</sup>One very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. <sup>7</sup>Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. <sup>8</sup>The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." <sup>9</sup>Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. <sup>10</sup>After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. <sup>11</sup>Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 87:1-3, 5-7

Read Responsively

- A** <sup>1</sup>On the holy mountain  
stands the city God has founded;
- C** <sup>2</sup>**the LORD loves the gates of Zion  
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.**
- A** <sup>3</sup>Glorious things are spoken of you,  
O city of our God.
- C** <sup>5</sup>**Of the city it shall be said, “Everyone was born in Zion,  
and the Most High shall sustain the city.”**
- A** <sup>6</sup>Enrolling the nations, the LORD records:  
“These also were born there.”
- C** <sup>7</sup>**The singers and the dancers will say,  
“All my fresh springs are in you.”**

## THE SECOND READING

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

- A** A reading from Second Timothy:

<sup>6</sup>As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. <sup>17</sup>But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup>The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. The word of the Lord.

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

*Please stand as able*

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION # 786 V. 1 O Holy Spirit Enter In



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, and in our hearts your  
work be - gin, and make our hearts your dwell - ing. Sun of the soul,  
O Light di - vine, a - round and in us bright - ly shine, your strength  
in us up - well - ing. In your ra - diance life from heav - en now is  
giv - en o - ver - flow - ing, gift of gifts be - yond all know - ing.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to John:

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

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 21:15-19

**P** <sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup>A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup>Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” <sup>19</sup>(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated*



## THE SERMON

Pastor Ben Groth

*Please stand as able*

## HYMN OF THE DAY # 584

The Son of God, Our Christ



1 The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the Way,  
 2 In ev - 'ry test, in tri - als man - i - fold,  
 3 To - day, as then, Christ sum - mons us to dare  
 4 In cit - y street, in town, or on the soil,  
 5 Wher - e'er we find our wit - ness should be made,



shared hu - man life and toiled through - out the day;  
 these ser - vants wit - nessed, by their faith made bold;  
 to fol - low bold - ly and his work to share,  
 may each serve Christ in faith - ful dai - ly toil,  
 what - e'er our task, be thou, O Christ, our aid,



from com - mon folk he called the twelve to be  
 and with the gifts and tal - ents which they brought  
 to help and heal the sick, the blind, the lame,  
 and in each thought and kind - ly word and deed,  
 that we may glad - ly give for thee our best



co - work - ers in his sa - cred min - is - try.  
 the church was found - ed and God's mes - sage taught.  
 de - clar - ing to the world his ho - ly name.  
 o - bey Christ's call and go where he shall lead.  
 and find each task di - vine - ly sent and blest.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**P** Let us confess the Christian faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C** 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.

## THE PRAYERS

**A** Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

*A brief silence.*

**A** We pray for the church. As you raised up apostles like Peter and Paul, raise us up to share your life-giving gospel. Enrich the proclamation of bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. God of grace,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** We pray for the nations. As you bid Peter to feed your sheep, bid our leaders to feed all in need and work for their good. Make peace in places of conflict and bring justice to each community. God of grace,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** We pray for all who suffer. As you stood by Paul and gave him strength, stand by all who know loneliness, and give strength to all who know persecution. Comfort those in grief and heal those who are sick especially Elaine, Scott, Gini, Bill, Kate, Susan, Lin, and Barbara. Channel our restlessness into your work in the world. God of grace,

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

**A** We pray for this assembly. As you freed Peter from prison, free us from lethargy and fear. Loose the chains of timidity and doubt and teach us to pray fervently. Strengthen the ministry of prison chaplains and ministries and accompany all who are incarcerated and their families. God of grace,

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

**A** We give thanks for all who rest in your eternal mercy. As you reserved a crown of righteousness for Paul, reserve for us a place in your heavenly kingdom, and bring us to life that knows no end. God of grace,

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

**A** Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C** **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

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

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

**The minister and congregation may greet one another  
in the name of the Lord.**

**P** Peace be with you. **C** Peace be with you.

*Please be seated.*

THE OFFERING is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

**The offering is brought to the altar during the Offertory Response**

*Please stand as able*

## THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #876 V. 1 Let the Whole Creation

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"

Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"

Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;

sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.

# Meal

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Let us pray. God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### THE INITIAL DIALOG

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

## THE PREFACE

- 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.  
 Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,  
 you pour out the fire of your Spirit,  
 uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.  
 And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the  
 resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
 and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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. Blessed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THE THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

- P** ...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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
- ☐ **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 INVITATION TO THE TABLE

- ☐ The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

*Please be seated*

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Hymn # 480


O Bread of Life From Heaven




1 O bread of life from heav - en, O food to pil - grims  
 2 O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er  
 3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den



giv - en, O man - na from a - bove: feed  
 stream - ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come  
 splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh,



with the bless - ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com -  
 now, your love be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and  
 let the veil be riv - en, and our clear eye in



plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.  
 flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.  
 heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.



## THE COMMUNION HYMN# 793

## Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Please stand as able*

## Sending

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## THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**C** Amen

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

## THE BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C Amen**

THE SENDING HYMN # 574

Here I Am Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

*Refrain*



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

## THE DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

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*Thanks to  
Worship Assistant  
Gail Bates*

*Communion Assistant  
Laurie Kosich*

*Reader  
Alan Robertson*

*Ushers - Louise Patterson, Frank Murphy*

*Coffee Hour Goodies - Gail Jorden*

*and*

*Videographer  
Eric Nilsson*

*for volunteering  
to be a part of the service this morning*

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*People Power for 7/6/2025*

*Worship Assistant - Nancy Peterson*

*Communion Assistant - John Halverson*

*Reader - Holly Erickson*

*Ushers - Jane Holmstrom, Paul Koerner*

*Coffee Hour Goodies - Nancy Peterson*

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# calendar

- June 30** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- July 1** - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company
- July 1** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- July 1** - Tuesday, 7pm - Executive Meeting
- July 2** - Wednesday, 1pm - Mission/Outreach
- July 2** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- July 2** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- July 2** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- July 2** - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- July 4** - Friday, 2pm - Cleaning Company
- July 6** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- July 6** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- July 7** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- July 8** - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company
- July 8** - Tuesday, 4pm - Worship & Arts
- July 8** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- July 9** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- July 9** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- July 9** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- July 9** - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- July 11** - Friday, 2pm - Cleaning Company
- July 13** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- July 13** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- July 14** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- July 15** - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company
- July 15** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- July 15** - Tuesday, 6pm - Bible Study
- July 15** - Tuesday, 7pm - Council Meeting

Monday Morning Mingle 8am-9am  
 Wednesday Come-As- You-Are Worship Service 4:30pm  
 Wednesday Pasta Dinner 5pm-5:45pm  
 Clothing - Please call Marianne Farr  
 for more information (860)-637-6460

## PRAYER LIST

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*Please note: Prayer names will remain for two weeks unless renewed in the church office. Named in parentheses are those who submitted the names they follow.*

Elaine Borselle; Scott Johnson (Carol McQueeney);  
 Gini & Bill Sonstrom (Sue Sonstrom); Kate Koonce, Susan Cramer  
 (Jane Holmstrom); Lin, Barbara (Eileen Buys).

**Serving in the armed forces:** Kevin Dubois; Wesley Givens  
 (Beverly Walsh); Zack; Millind; Kienen Dyer (Barbara Pond); Shawn  
 Dubois.

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## OUR VISION

**First for what is first: Christ, our Lord**

**First** in nurturing youth and families in faith

**First** with inspiring worship, fellowship and service

**First** by reaching out to all

## First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

*A community of believers in Jesus Christ*

77 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut  
 (860) 224-2475 ✚ [www.1stlutherannb.org](http://www.1stlutherannb.org)



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.