



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026
ESTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

INTRODUCTION:

Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.

PRELUDE

BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Please stand as you are able

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

P: Let us praise our God!

C: Who has heard us every time we cried.

P: What is there to give back

C: For all God has given to us?

P: Let us lift up God's name

C: So everyone can hear it!

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Patient God,

C: You have taught us all we need to be your faithful people. And yet we persist in going our own way, doing our own thing, and minding our own business when we ought to be about the business of your kingdom. Forgive our selfish neglect of others and bring us back into wholeness with our brothers and sisters. Amen.

P: God is merciful, patient, kind and forgiving. We have been pardoned for all that we have done, and all that we have overlooked. May we give now as we have received: generously and extravagantly, in the way of our loving teacher, savior and friend.

C: Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: “*God Is Here!*” (ELW 526)**

- 1 God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.**
- 2 Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.**
- 3 Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,**

**Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.**

**4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
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***GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

***KYRIE: *sung* (ELW pg. 213)**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**
Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.**
Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE “*Glory to God*” (ELW pg. 213)**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God’s people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: God of compassion,

C: You have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

SPECIAL MUSIC - Esther Harmony

WORD

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

FIRST READING: EXODUS 19:2-8a

At Sinai God assured Israel, “You shall be my treasured possession,” and commissioned them to serve as mediating priests for the nations. The people commit themselves completely to God’s will.

²[The Israelites] journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.³ Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: ⁴‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.” ⁷So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. ^{8a}The people all answered as one, “Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do.” Here ends the first reading.

PSALM 100 ~ Congregation reads the bold

We are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture. (Ps. 100:3)

¹Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands!

²**Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God’s presence with a song.**

³ Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong; we are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture.

⁴**Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the courts with praise; give thanks and bless God’s holy name.**

⁵ Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 5:1-8

We are no longer God’s enemies but have peace with God because we were brought into a right relationship with God through Christ’s death.

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Here ends the second reading.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: (ELW pg. 216)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 9:35—10:8

The mission of Jesus' followers is to continue the mission of Jesus himself. Here, he instructs his first disciples as to how they might proclaim the gospel through their words and deeds.

³⁵Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

^{10:1} Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. ⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those

with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. The word of the Lord... **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S TIME & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “*God’s Work, Our Hands*” (ACS 1000)

- 1 God’s work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and sheltering the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**

- 2 God’s work, our feet: traveling together,
following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God’s future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**

- 3 God’s work, our voice: singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice,
claiming God’s love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**

- 4 God is at work in and around us:
seedlings are sprouting and bread’s on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,
gifted by grace, we respond in God’s love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

L: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L: Let us pray for an end to the waste of God's creation, for access to the fruits of creation to be shared equally among all people, and for communities and nations to find sustenance in the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us. Faithful God,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: Lord God, Creator of all things, guide our steps and strengthen our hearts during these months of summer and vacation days. Grant us refreshment of mind and body. May we constantly strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our loved ones and in the world around us as we enjoy the warm days of summertime. Faithful God,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: The crowds were drawn to you, O Lord, because you cured their every disease: ailments of body and soul. Touch us now with that same healing spirit, especially Jerry, Bruce, Cheryl, Chris, Kristy, Ricky, Larry, Joan, Dennis, Lois, Dale, Bev, Gary, Shirley, Joyce, Allison, Becky, Kim, Cadence, Sara, Marg, Leroy, Karen, Pete, and Margaret. Faithful God,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you. Faithful God,

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.**

Please stand as you are able

***APOSTLES' CREED: (ELW pg. 217)**

**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.**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Please be seated

OFFERING

*We thank you for our gifts of time, talent, and treasure that help this congregation,
to continue our ministry together, and to make Christ known in our
communities and the world.*

OFFERING HYMN: “Beautiful Savior” vs. 1 (ELW 838)

**1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

Please stand as you are able

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

P: Dear God,

C: **There is nothing great enough that we could give you, O God, in return for all the blessings you shower upon us daily. Accept these gifts which we offer as a token of thanksgiving and love for all of your children around the world. Amen.**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER: *sung* (CLH 632)**

**Our Father, which 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to our neighbor in need

***BLESSING:**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✠ one God,

bles, heal, and hold you
today and always.

THREE FOLD AMEN

***SENDING HYMN “*I Love to Tell the Story*” (ELW 661)**

**1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.**

Refrain

**I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.**

- 2 I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word.**

Refrain

**I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.**

- 3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long.**

Refrain

**I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.**

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

***DISMISSAL:**

P: Lord, thank you for this time together. Go with us as we leave and guide us in your ways.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jerry Anderson Kristy Fyhrie
Larry Sather Joan Burquest
Dennis Rosenquist Lois Rosenquist
Ricky Hart Sara Skoglund
Margaret Wehking
Leroy Olson – father of Becky Arvidson
Cheryl Farber – mother of Melissa Schlosser
Rev. Bruce Miller- father of Karin Wagner
Marg Peterson -friend of the Thoms
Dale Flemming – father of Laurie Ratajesak
Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons
Shirley Nesges – friend of the Thoms
Bev Lorine – mother of Mandy Arvidson
Joyce Muyres – friend of the Thoms
Bev Guse-Ohlrech – friend of the Pedersons
Allison Dotzler – friend of Kathy Mittag
Cadence Smith – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Becky Yttrie – friend of the Townsends
Kim Casavan – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Karen Schlosser – mother of Justin Schlosser
Pete Baugh – brother-in-law of Pr. Ken Bowman
Chris Clapshaw – step-brother of Mark Ratajesak
Family and Friends of: Sarah Pomeranz, David Anderson, Katie Jahnke, Colleen Burquest, Doug Tvedt, Alma Robinson, Jerry Pogose, Terry Burns, Wayne Lund, Bruce Carter, Inez Nelson, Gary Willie, Connie Pesta, and Kathy Wilkins

THIS WEEK AT ESTHER

Sunday, June 14th – Third Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday Fellowship Before & After Worship

8:30 am - WELCA

10 am – Worship led by Pastor Preston

2 pm – Worship at St. William's

5:30 pm – VBS Starts!

Monday, June 15th

5:30 – VBS Supper
6-8 pm – Lessons, Music, Crafts & Worship

Tuesday, June 16th

5:30 – VBS Supper
6-8 pm – Lessons, Music, Crafts & Worship

Wednesday, June 17th

5:30 – VBS Supper
6-8 pm – Lessons, Music, Crafts & Worship

Thursday, June 18th

5:30 pm – VBS Potluck
6:30 pm – Program

Sunday, June 21st – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday Fellowship Before & After Worship

10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by SAM Jewel Townsend

2 pm – Worship at St. William's

SERVING IN JUNE

Pastor: June 14- Pr. Dennis Preston, June 21- SAM Jewel Townsend, June 28- Megan Townsend

Organists: Marcia Guenther & Brad Lambrecht

Altar Care: Bev Arvidson

Usher: NEED VOLUNTEER

Acolyte: NEED VOLUNTEER

Lay Reader: Chris Carter

Communion Assistant: Chris Carter

Birthday Card Sender: Elaine Fyhrie

NEWS AND NOTES

Everything in the Sanctuary and entry will need to be moved out on Sunday, July 5th so the new flooring and carpet can be installed. ANY HELP IS APPRECIATED as the pews will need to be moved to the basement.

What a Mess! VBS at Esther will be held June 14th -18th starting each evening with supper at 5:30 pm with lessons, music, crafts, and worship from 6-8 pm. Also join us on Thursday June 18th at 5:30 pm for a potluck with a program starting at

6:30 pm. ALL ARE WELCOME! For more information contact the church office at secretary@estherlutheran.net. Be sure to invite friends, grandkids, cousins, and neighbors to join in the fun! **We could also use a few more volunteers to help with crafts and activities!**

Singles Share & Care Day will be Friday, June 19th. This will be a pontoon outing with Gene Ward through Let's Go Fishing. Rides will be offered at 10 am and 1:30 pm. We will meet for lunch at Interlachen Inn at 12:15 pm. There is limited seating on the pontoon so please RSVP as soon as possible. RSVP to Joyce Malmgren 320-815-4132 by June 16th with your name and phone number. All singles are welcome.

The Pork Chop Feed is Friday, July 17th 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm at Faith in Miliona. Sign-up is on the Narthex table for workers and for making pans of bars for the event. There are also flyers available - please take a few and hang up around the community when you are out and about.



Vanco online giving platform is a great way to set up a scheduled giving plan for even when you cannot make it to church. Scan the QR code, go online to estherlutheran.com, go to the tab “ways to support Esther Lutheran Church” and click on the link <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZP4R> or download the app Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement. Any questions please ask Mandy Arvidson.

We welcome you to join us for Worship by the Water on Sunday, July 12th at 10 am at the home of Rodney Peterson. Please be sure to bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on during worship. We invite you to stay for a potluck after worship for a time of food and fellowship. Also, bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Rodney’s address is 13335 County Road 42, Parkers Prairie, MN.

TURN HUNGER INTO HOPE WITH YOUR OWN TWO HANDS. Join us for a Feed My Starving Children MobilePack™ event to provide life changing meals where they’re needed most. We welcome volunteers of all abilities, ages 5 and up to help us pack 101,088 meals!

WHAT: FMSC MobilePack™ events offer volunteers a one-of-a-kind experience. You’ll hand-pack rice, soy, dried vegetables and a nutritionally complete blend of vitamins and minerals into bags which are then sealed, boxed, placed on pallets

and shipped to incredible partners who distribute the food to children who need it around the world.

DATE: June 28-29, 2026

LOCATION: Calvary Church | 605 Douglas St., Alexandria, MN

VOLUNTEER: It's fun to serve alongside people you know! Sign up with your family, coworkers, teammates, or friends. Volunteers of all abilities (ages 5 and up) are welcome, and you do not need to be connected to Calvary to participate. Shifts are 2 hours each.

DONATE: Your generosity makes a huge difference in the lives of thousands of children in need around the world! The total cost for this MobilePack™ event is \$30k. Thanks to a generous donor, the next \$7,500 donated will be matched.

Go to <https://give.fmssc.org/campaign/2606-200ea-alexandria-mn-calvary-church/c774158> to volunteer. Please contact Angie at Calvary at angie@calvaryalex.org or call 320-763-5178 with any questions.

Check out the Esther Calendar on our website to stay up to date on everything happening! Go to estherlutheran.com and click on “Esther Calendar.”

You belong here. We believe that each person has unique gifts, are created in God's image, and is a beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us each week to share in the community of faith at Esther - “Knowing Christ - making Christ known through faith, hope and love”. If you would like to become a member of Esther, please contact Mandy in the church office at 218-338-2171 or secretary@estherlutheran.net or Jewel Townsend at 320-760-2503 or jewellht17@gmail.com.

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