

**June 21, 2026 Service of the Word
Christ Lutheran Church, Regina, SK**

Welcome & Announcements

A moment of reflection

Land Acknowledgement & Call to Worship

Gathering Hymn: ELW 837 Many and Great, O God

- 1. Many and great, O God, are your works, maker of earth and sky.
Your hands have set
the heav'ns with stars;
your fingers spread the
mountains and plains.
Lo, at your word
the waters were formed;
deep seas obey your voice.**
- 2. Grant unto us communion with you,
O Star-abiding One.
Come unto us and dwell with us;
with you are found the gifts of life.
Bless us with life that has no end,
eternal life with you.**

Confession & Forgiveness¹

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

Amen.

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

Have mercy, O God.

¹ From ELCA. "Holy Communion Setting 12: Confession and Forgiveness." In *All Creation Sings: Evangelical Lutheran Worship Supplement*. Augsburg Fortress, 2020. 29-30.

**Against you, you alone,
we have sinned.
In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.
Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.
Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.
Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for us. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for us. As far as east is from west, so far God removes our sin from us, renewing our lives through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God whose mercy and love for us overflow.
Blessed be God forever.

Hymn of Praise: ELW 819 Come, All You People

- 1. Come, all you people,
come and praise the Most High;
come, all you people,
come and praise the Most High;
come, all you people,
come and praise the Most High;
come now and worship the Lord.**
- 2. Come, all you people,
come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people,
come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people,**

**come and praise the Savior;
come now and worship the Lord.**

3. **Come, all you people,
come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people,
come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people,
come and praise the Spirit;
come now and worship the Lord.**

Ritual of Inclusion²

Let us pray:

God, when you called each of us into being, you delighted in your works. You gifted us with differences that illuminate the breadth of beauty, wisdom, and practices of love in your creation. In whatever ways we still struggle to accept and celebrate our own unique offerings, free us from narrow thinking that confines, constrains, or condemns your good work in us.

Triune God, your divinity transcends distinctions of gender identity and sexual orientation, and through the generations you widen our awareness of human diversity. We gather here before you in our various expressions of identity and orientation, all of us one in Christ Jesus. Bring our society to peacefulness concerning a wider understanding of gender diversity and sexual orientation.

We ask that with your creative Spirit you cultivate new relationships, mend old wounds, and nurture communities of respect, for the sake of the one who embraces all persons in love, Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

² Ritual of Inclusion incorporates prayers from:

- *Enfleshed: Worship Service and Communion Liturgy for Affirming PIE Day.* © 2020 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence.
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. "Prayers, Thanksgivings, and Laments." In *All Creation Sings: Evangelical Lutheran Worship Supplement*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2020. 46-55.

As we light the rainbow candles as a sign of our desire to include all people in our community of faith, we sing our song of inclusion “*Christ, Our Peace.*”

Song of Inclusion “*Christ, Our Peace*” #1037 (All Creation Sings)

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that divide us;

Christ, our peace, come, make us one body in you. (*sing 2 times*)

Let us pray: Loving God,

You created us in your image, in all of our differences and diversity. Inspire us to see Christ within each of your beloved children. Break down the walls that divide us – racism, transphobia, ableism, and other forms of discrimination—that we may live out your command to love you with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of the Day³

Creator God,

from you every family in heaven and earth takes its name.

You have rooted and grounded us

in your covenant love,

and empowered us by your Spirit

to speak the truth in love,

and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness.

Mercifully grant that your people,

journeying together in partnership,

may be strengthened and guided

to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ,

who is our light and our life. Amen.

³ From Anglican Church of Canada. Propers for the National Indigenous Day of Prayer (June 21). <https://www.anglican.ca/resources/propers-national-indigenous-day-of-prayer-june-21/>

Genesis 21: 8-21

In this reading from Genesis,⁴ Sarah demands that Abraham send Hagar and her son, Ishmael, away. Abraham is distressed because he is Ishmael's father. Sarah wants to ensure that her son, Isaac, will be the one to inherit God's blessing. God, however, hears Hagar's cry and promises to also make of Ishmael a great nation.

A reading from Genesis, chapter 21, verses 8-21.⁵

⁸The boy grew and stopped nursing. On the day he stopped nursing, Abraham prepared a huge banquet. ⁹Sarah saw Hagar's son laughing, the one Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham. ¹⁰So she said to Abraham, "Send this servant away with her son! This servant's son won't share the inheritance with my son Isaac."

¹¹This upset Abraham terribly because the boy was his son. ¹²God said to Abraham, "Don't be upset about the boy and your servant. Do everything Sarah tells you to do because your descendants will be traced through Isaac. ¹³But I will make of your servant's son a great nation too, because he is also your descendant." ¹⁴Abraham got up early in the morning, took some bread and a flask of water, and gave it to Hagar. He put the boy in her shoulder sling and sent her away.

She left and wandered through the desert near Beer-sheba. ¹⁵Finally the water in the flask ran out, and she put the boy down under one of the desert shrubs. ¹⁶She walked away from him about as far as a bow shot and sat down, telling herself, I can't bear to see the boy die. She sat at a distance, cried out in grief, and wept.

¹⁷God heard the boy's cries, and God's messenger called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "Hagar! What's wrong? Don't be afraid. God has heard the boy's cries over there. ¹⁸Get up, pick up the boy, and take him by the hand because I will make of him a great nation." ¹⁹Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well. She went over, filled the water flask, and gave the boy a

⁴ Introduction to the Genesis reading is from *Sundays and Seasons* © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

⁵ Genesis reading in Common English Bible translation from biblegateway.com

drink. ²⁰ God remained with the boy; he grew up, lived in the desert, and became an expert archer. ²¹ He lived in the Paran desert, and his mother found him an Egyptian wife.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Psalm 86⁶

A prayer of Much Loved One (David).

¹ Grandfather, turn your ear to me and answer my prayer, for I am wounded and in much need.

² Keep your eye on me, for I have been faithful to you. Help your servant, my Creator, for I have put my trust in you.

³ Be kind and merciful to me, Grandfather. From sunrise to sunset, I call out to you.

⁴ Make the heart of your servant glad, Grandfather. I lift up my whole being before you.

⁵ For you, Honored One, are good to us and willing to forgive. Your faithful and true love overflows to all who call out to you.

⁶ Grandfather, hear my cry when I send my voice to you. Listen to me when I send up a prayer for help.

⁷ I will call out to you when trouble crosses my path, for I know you will answer me.

⁸ No one is like you, O Honored One, among the powerful spirit beings that other nations honor. No one can do the things you have done.

⁹ All the nations you have made will humble themselves before you. They will give the highest honor to your name, for it represents who you truly are.

¹⁰ You are truly great, one who does wonders, for you alone are the Great Spirit.

¹¹ Teach me your way, Grandfather, and I will walk your good road. Help me be true to you with my whole heart, giving honour to your name.

⁶ Reproduced from *First Nations Version Psalms and Proverbs: An Indigenous Bible Translation*. Copyright © 2025 by Rain Ministries, Inc. Used by permission of InterVarsity Press. All rights reserved worldwide. www.ivpress.com.

¹² O Giver of Breath, I will speak of your greatness with my entire being. My Creator, I will honor your name for all days to come.

¹³ Your love for me, which remains faithful and true, has no bounds. You have snatched my life from the lowest part of the Dark Underworld of Death.

¹⁴ O Great Spirit, arrogant people have taken a stand against me. A band of fierce warriors who have no respect for you seeks to take my life.

¹⁵ But you, O Honored One, are a kind and merciful Great Spirit. You are slow to anger and filled with a love that remains faithful and true.

¹⁶ Turn to me and show me your face of great kindness. Gift your servant with your strength and help me, for I am the son of the mother who served you.

¹⁷ Give me a sign of your goodwill toward me so that those who have no respect for me will be put to shame. All because you, Grandfather, have given me help and comfort.

Gospel Acclamation “The Living Word”⁷

**In the beginning was the Word,
the Living Word of God, the Light of Life Unending.**

**You shine in us on ancient starlight,
in our Book of Memories and Future Dreams.**

Sing we halle, hallelu! You are the Word of Life Eternal.

Holy Wisdom, found within! You speak to us and we remember:

**“I am the Book no one can close,
The Story of our time, before all time, together.**

I am the Voice that never falters, I, the Echo of Beyond.

I am the Way, the Truth, the Life.” The Living Word.

Matthew 10:24-39⁸

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the tenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷ Gospel Acclamation “The Living Word” from “Liturgy of the Beloved” © Johnston-Urey Music, All Rights Reserved. Used with Permission.

⁸ Reproduced from *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament*. Copyright © 2021 by Rain Ministries, Inc. Used by permission of InterVarsity Press. All rights reserved worldwide. www.ivpress.com.

²⁴“Followers are not greater than the one they follow. You who are my followers will be treated in the same bad ways they treat me. ²⁵So consider it an honor that you will be treated the same as your Wisdomkeeper. If they have called the chief of the council house Worthless Ruler (Beelzebul), how much worse will they speak of the members of his council?

²⁶“Do not fear their threats. For their evil ways will be found out. Even what they say and do in secret will be made clear for all to see.

²⁷“The things I have told you in secret at night, make them known when the sun rises! What I have whispered in your ears, stand on the rooftops and shout out loud for all to hear!

²⁸“Have no fear of your opponents, for they can only kill the body, but not your inner being. Instead, fear the one who can bring an end to your entire being in the Valley of Smoldering Fire.

²⁹“Two small winged ones could be traded for two poorly beaded earrings, but not one can fall to the ground unless your Father, the Creator, knows it. ³⁰–

³¹Are you not worth more to him than many small winged ones? He knows the number of hairs on your head, so do not fear the ones who stand against you.

³²“All who represent me before others I will represent before my Father from above. ³³But the ones who disown me will be disowned before my Father above.

³⁴“Do you look for me to bring peace to this troubled land? ³⁵The message I bring will pierce like the blade of a long knife. It will turn a son against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶In their own homes they will fight like enemies—all because of me.

³⁷“The ones who choose their father or mother, son or daughter, over me dishonor me. ³⁸The ones who fail to pick up their cross and walk the road with me do not know my worth. ³⁹The ones who care only for their own life will fail to find life, but the ones who will lay down their life for me will find true life.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message
Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW 725 When the Poor Ones

1. When the poor ones, who have nothing, still are giving;
When the thirsty pass the cup, water to share;
When the wounded offer others strength and healing;

Refrain

We see God, here by our side, walking our way;
We see God, here by our side, walking our way.

2. When compassion gives the suff'ring consolation;
When expecting brings to birth hope that was lost;
When we choose love, not the hatred all around us;

Refrain

We see God, here by our side, walking our way;
We see God, here by our side, walking our way.

3. When our spirits, like a chalice, brim with gladness;
When our voices, full and clear, sing out the truth;
When our longings, free from envy, seek the humble;

Refrain

We see God, here by our side, walking our way;
We see God, here by our side, walking our way.

4. When the goodness poured from heaven fills our dwellings;
When the nations work to change war into peace;
When the stranger is accepted as our neighbor;

Refrain

We see God, here by our side, walking our way;
We see God, here by our side, walking our way.

Apostles' Creed

We confess our faith together, using the words of the 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 Intercession⁹

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

A brief silence.

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, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

⁹ *Sundays and Seasons* © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

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, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for Pastor Dennis as he receives his doctoral degree. We thank you for the gifts that his studies have brought to our congregation. Bless Pastor Dennis and Beth in this celebration and keep them safe in their travels. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior, who taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

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.

Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering¹⁰

Offering plate is placed on the altar.

Loving God,

we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,

¹⁰ *Sundays and Seasons* © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing¹¹

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✝ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
Amen.

Sending Song ELW 538 The Lord Now Sends us Forth

**The Lord now sends us forth
with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth
a better place to live. *(repeat)***

**The angels are not sent
into our world of pain
to do what we were meant
to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me
and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray,
to do your will today. *(repeat)***

Commission & Dismissal

Go in peace, inspired by Christ to love and serve. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Joshua Hendricksen

¹¹ *Sundays and Seasons* © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN