

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, June 28, 2026

Introduction to the day

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9

Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).

PSALM: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)

SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:40-42

When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.

GOSPEL MESSAGE - From Welcome to Belonging

In just a few verses, the word welcome sets the tone in this week's gospel passage. There are transactional aspects when we welcome guests into our personal spaces, or when we are welcomed by others. We are aware of the power dynamics between host and guest, and the welcome that is given and received reflects our understanding of these roles. There are also different degrees of welcome. For example, it is one thing to experience a welcome of our physical presence, and quite a different matter when our perspectives and opinions are welcomed. The former relies on host-guest roles; the latter relies on a relationship being formed beyond culturally established roles.

It is no surprise that congregations pay attention to their welcome practices. Some even adopt and publicize welcome statements. Congregations usually consider how visitors or guests come into their space for a worship service they host. When deeper welcome practices are employed, we can grow in our understanding of how we give and receive. This provides an interesting opportunity to consider that welcoming is more than just hospitality. We can also consider how the worship event happens because we are gathered by the Holy Spirit, so God is our host and we are all guests in that space.

Moving worship beyond a typical guest-host transaction, the reward is experiencing our belonging together as people of God. Belonging means welcoming one another into shared space. Seeking a wide expression of belonging challenges power dynamics that might otherwise remain in place in more traditional guest-and-host situations. Belonging is a culture we in congregations can cultivate and a gift we can share.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Faithful God, establish your church to offer welcome and proclaim your peace. Nourish us so we can proclaim your hope to the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, bring life to places experiencing drought, deforestation, and pollution. Help us to cultivate and care for the natural world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, bring an end to conflict and division. Sustain the work of prophets in our time, and work through world leaders to foster understanding, justice, and peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Provider God, give your children what they need physically, emotionally, and spiritually. (We pray especially for Chris Burchat, Natasha Gagnon-Burchat, Shirley Glickman, Donna L. Hoffman, Glenda Panke, Marilyn Schneider, Carolyn Schroeder, Heather Schruder, Doug Sell, Roy Zadow, those in long term care facilities and senior residences. Bless caregivers as they show God's hospitality through their generous service. In this moment of silence, we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts, those who need your healing touch. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, lead us from death to life. Inspire new ministries and endeavors, renew established ones, and strengthen our welcoming presence to our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember the faithful departed of this community and of the wider church and world. We give thanks for saints of all times and places. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

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.**

BLESSING

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. **Amen.**

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Announcements:

Sunday June 28th - Pentecost 5

9:00 AM – Grace – Service of the Word

Grace – Helpers – Greeter: Maureen Springer

Reader: Victoria Neuman

10:30 AM – Bonnechere – Holy Communion

2:30 PM – **Grace Cemetery Service** – begins at the cemetery and continues at the church at 3:00 PM.

Reception in the Fellowship Hall following worship

Monday, June 29th

9: 00 AM to 3:00 PM - Grace Quilters

Tuesday, June 30th

10:00 AM – Bible Study

Wednesday, July 1

Church Office Closed

Saturday, July 4th

Graveside Service – Trinity (Zadow Road)

1:00 PM – Randy Schroeder

Sunday July 5th - Pentecost 6

9:00 AM – Grace – Holy Communion

Grace – Helpers – Greeter: June Barsalo

Reader: Donna Freitag

Communion Assistants: Carl and Rachel Dittburner

2:30 PM – **Cemetery Service** at St. John's, Sebastopol. They will have their annual Cemetery Service, As always, there will be familiar hymns, food for the soul. Following worship we will be visiting both cemeteries.

Copies of Eternity for Today are here. They are on the table in the narthex.

Copies of the July / August GAB are ready. They are on the table in the narthex.