

July 5, 2026 +Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

We are called to let our light shine as instruments of the Holy Spirit so all may know God's love.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, source of hope in every nation,

rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth. **Amen.**

Gracious One, where do we begin? You call us to do justice,

and we explain that justice is complicated.

You ask us to love mercy,

and we counter that a show of strength is necessary.

You invite us to walk humbly with you,

and we struggle to recognize you in our

neighbors, in the dispossessed, in the poor and hungry places of our own hearts.

We have failed to summon the courage and compassion required by your call.

We have treated hospitality as an option,

kinship as a choice, instead of as

the center of our life together.

We have claimed your name, yet rejected your way.

Forgive us, we pray.

Beloved, hear this good news: God's gift is love that liberates, hope that inspires,

grace that transforms. Each of us alone and all of us together are forgiven and set free. **Alleluia!**

Amen.

Opening Hymn "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

1. O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain: America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

2. O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life: America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and ev'ry gain divine.

3. O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears: America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw, confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law.

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.**

Prayer of the Day

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

First Reading – Romans 7:15-25a

The struggle within the self

Response: Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:8-14

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.

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.

Gospel – Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The yoke of discipleship

Before: The holy Gospel according to . . . **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After: The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day “In This Time of Great Reflection”

(lyrics insert at bottom of next page)

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the

power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the People

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Offering & Giving Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and fruitful vines, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving Christ’s love without limits. Amen.

Holy Communion

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

...

Therefore, we declare the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Lord’s Prayer

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

Communion Hymn “Lamb of God”

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Prayer after Communion

Compassionate God, **through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

Announcements

Affirmation of Christian Vocation in Civic Life and Blessing

May the Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, + one God, bless and equip us for living and serving, today and every day. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me. See, on the portals he’s waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. “Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home.” Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, “O sinner, come home!”
2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you for me? Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? “Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home.” Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, “O sinner, come home!”
3. Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me! Though we have

sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. Come home, Come home! You who are weary, come home.” Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, “ O sinner, come home!”

Dismissal

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all. **Thanks be to God.**

In This Time of Great Re

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2026

1. In this time of great re - flec - tion on
 2. Here is what holds us to - geth - er: Mer -
 3. We re - call our na - tion's sto - ry. Keep
 4. Will we work for ra - cial jus - tice? Will
 5. In this time, O God, re - store us to

We re - mem - ber, as a na - tion, times w
 We're to seek to care for neigh - bors in
 In our quest for wealth and glo - ry, we h
 What is now the pub - lic wit - ness that y
 where all peo - ple here a - mong us know y

“We shall be,” a prea - cher told us, “as
 If we fail to help the nee - dy and
 Through en - slave - ment, through dis - place - ment, we h
 As we ce - le - brate our coun - try, help
 May we seek to be that ci - ty, not w

not to praise us but to warn us: We've
 we will sim - ply be a by - word as th
 We've been vio - lent. We've stayed si - lent. So o
 All of us must share the boun - ty and th
 May we love and serve you hum - bly, in o