

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L) Lord in your Mercy. C) *Hear our Prayer.*

HOLY COMMUNION

- ✝ Words of Institution
- ✝ The Lord’s Prayer
- ✝ Distribution of the Sacrament
- ✝ Communion Blessing

*Benton - Sending Prayer for “Elizabeth Dahl”*

*Prayer of Good Courage*  
O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” ELW #656

- 1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.
- 2 Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
- 3 We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear, and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
- 4 From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

THE SENDING L) Go in peace. Serve the Lord and others! C) *Thanks be to God!*

POSTLUDE



“Prayer – the Strongest Wireless Connection!”



“Benton and Willow Creek Lutheran Churches”  
June 1st, 2025  
Vicar Kendra Kappler and Pastor Renae Boehmer  
Accompanists: Lisa Rave, Willow Creek and Kari Vosburg, Benton

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**  
Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another. *(silence for reflection)*  
  
Loving God, ***we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious. Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.***

Christ is Risen! The stone is rolled away, the tomb found empty. Mary calls out, “I have seen the Lord!” We have seen Christ, too, in every helping hand, in every heartfelt gift, in every choice to restore life in this world. We are called to this new life, a life of forgiveness and reconciliation. You are forgiven; know that God loves you and desires great joy for your life. Walk forward on this journey of faith in confidence and hope. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN “The Church’s One Foundation” (v-1,3,5) ELW #654

- 1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord; she is his new creation by water and the word. From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed, yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?" And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
- 5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won. Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace, that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Dear God, *we thank you for the gift of prayer. It is a precious way for us to connect with you, to express our gratitude, to ask for your guidance, and to share our joys and burdens. Help us to value this time of communion with you and one another. Open our hearts and minds to the power and presence of your Holy Spirit as we pray. In Jesus' name, we ask, Amen.*

FIRST LESSON      PSALM 97

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!  
<sup>2</sup>*Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.*  
<sup>3</sup>Fire goes before him, and consumes his adversaries on every side.  
<sup>4</sup>*His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.*  
<sup>5</sup>The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the LORD of all the earth.  
<sup>6</sup>*The heavens proclaim his righteousness; and all the peoples behold his glory.*  
<sup>7</sup>All worshipers of images are put to shame, those who make their boast in worthless idols; all gods bow down before him.  
<sup>8</sup>*Zion hears and is glad, and the towns of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O God.*  
<sup>9</sup>For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.  
<sup>10</sup>*The LORD loves those who hate evil; he guards the lives of his faithful; he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.*  
<sup>11</sup>Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.  
<sup>12</sup>*Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!*  
L) Word of God, Word of Life.                      *All) Thanks be to God.*

SECOND READING      Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

<sup>12</sup>“See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”  
<sup>14</sup>Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.  
<sup>16</sup>“It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”  
<sup>17</sup>The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let everyone who hears say, “Come.” And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.  
<sup>20</sup>The one who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!  
<sup>21</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.  
L) Word of God, Word of Life                      *All) Thanks be to God.*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Jesus Loves Me!”

ELW #595

*(song to be sung as children come forward)*

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

ELW #512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.  
When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.  
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,  
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL LESSON      John 17:20-26

[Jesus prayed:] <sup>20</sup>“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup>that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup>Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.  
<sup>25</sup>“Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup>I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”  
L) Word of God, Word of Life.                      *All) Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

“Praying Together”

Pastor Renae Boehmer

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Christ, Whose Glory Fill the Skies”

ELW #553

- 1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true and only light,  
Sun of righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.
- 2 Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see,  
till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
- 3 Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

APOSTLES’ CREED

ELW page 105

SHARING THE PEACE

L) The peace of Christ be with you all.    *C) And also with you.*

OFFERING AND SONG

“Come to the Table”

ELW #481

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.  
All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed.  
Come at the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail-scarred hand.  
Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.