

SERMON

“Mindful of Us”

Vicar Kendra Kappler

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Be Thou My Vision” v-1,2,4

ELW#793

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r, raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

APOSTLES' CREED

page 105 ELW

SHARING THE PEACE**OFFERING/OFFERING SONG**

“Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say, “I am rich,” because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say, “I am rich,” because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**HOLY COMMUNION – around the altar**

“Josephine Arens, Chaylee Gilpin, Cooper Klein”

- ✚ Words of Institution
- ✚ The Lord's Prayer
- ✚ Distribution of the Sacrament
- ✚ Communion Blessing/Benediction

CLOSING HYMN:

“Spirit of Gentleness” v-1&4

WOV #684

Refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

- 1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep, then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing:
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.” *Refrain*
- 4 You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes. From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams; our women see visions, our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise. *Refrain*

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

POSTLUDE**Holy Trinity Sunday****Willow Creek and Benton Lutheran Churches**

May 31st, 2026

Vicar Kendra Kappler, Pastor Renae Boehmer

Accompanist: Paul Mesner, Willow Creek, Kari Vosburg, Benton

PRELUDE**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS****CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (*Silence for Reflection*)

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthens you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!”

ELW #413

- 1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and merciful God, ***you are the Creator of all that is, and yet you are mindful of your people in every time and place. By the power of your Spirit, uphold us in our weakness, forgive our sin, and guide us in faith, that we may live as your baptized people in the world; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen***

FIRST READING Genesis 1:1-2: 4a

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷ So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹ God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Word of God, Word of Life. ***Thanks be to God!***

SECOND READING Psalm 8

¹ O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

2 you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

4 what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you would care for them?

⁵ Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

6 You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:

⁷ all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

8 the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

⁹ O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Word of God, Word of Life. ***Thanks be to God!***

CHILDREN'S SONG/MESSAGE "Jesus Loves The Little Children"

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, They are precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world.

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 READING Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." L) Word of God, Word of Life. ***All) Thanks be to God.***