



The
Lord

upholds
all who fall
and
lifts up
all who are
bowed down.

PSALM 145:14, NIV

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 5, 2026

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Gracious and holy God, we come into this space carrying many things—our thoughts, our worries, our hopes, and our weariness. We do not need to hide any of it from you. So we offer it now, just as we are. Silence within us what is loud, and awaken within us what is true. As Jesus has said “Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” So we come—not to prove ourselves, but to be held by your grace. Slow our breath, steady our minds, and open our hearts to your presence among us. May we lay down what we cannot carry, and receive what only you can give: peace, mercy, and rest for our souls. In this hour of worship, make us attentive to your voice, and ready to follow your way of love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is gentle and humble in heart. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES *(Psalm 118:24)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: This is the day that the Lord has made.

ALL: *Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

WELCOME *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRELUDE

Just As I Am
Stan Brunner

arr. Gordon Young

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Rejoice greatly, O people of God! See your King comes to you, humble and riding on a donkey, proclaiming peace to the nations and hope to the ends of the earth.
(Zechariah 9)

ALL: *We come to worship the One who brings peace—not through power, but through humility, mercy, and steadfast love.*

One: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and God’s compassion is over all creation.

ALL: *We come to praise the God who lifts up the lowly, who satisfies the desire of every living thing.*

One: Jesus says: “Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” For God has hidden these things not from the wise and proud, but has revealed them to the humble.

ALL: *We come as we are—tired, searching, and in need of grace. We come to learn Christ’s way of rest and freedom.*

One: So come—receive what is gentle and true, lay down what is heavy, and take up the life Christ offers.

ALL: *We come to worship the One who is gentle and humble in heart, and in whom we find rest for our souls. Let us worship God!*

*HYMN: 337 *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*

AMERICA

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Gracious and merciful God, You come to us in humility and peace, yet we resist your way and cling to our own. We confess that we have been quick to judge and slow to love. We have carried burdens you never asked us to bear, and we have placed heavy burdens on others. We have not lived as children of your kingdom. We have trusted in wisdom that is not yours and sought rest in things that cannot sustain us.

Forgive us, O God. Return us to your compassion. Teach us the way of Christ, who is gentle and humble in heart. Lead us into your rest and renew us by your grace. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Hear the good news of the gospel: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God is good to all, and God's compassion is over all creation. (Psalm 145)
In Jesus Christ, God has come near to the weary and the burdened, not to condemn, but to save. Christ himself says: "I will give you rest."

ALL: *Thanks be to God!*

One: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, we are restored, and we are made new.

ALL: *Alleluia! Amen.*

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: (*Hymn: 581*)

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: *And, also, with you.*

THE WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Garden
Samuel Green, soloist

arr. Kenon D. Renfrow

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Anna Poole

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Courtney Bowen

***HYMN: 415** *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

RESTORATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PSALTER READING

Psalm 145:8-14 (p.581)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:16-19; 25-30 (p.11-12)

James Harris

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Weight We Were Never Meant to Carry

James Harris

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION of FAITH** (*The Apostles' Creed*)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

OFFERING

Rev. Courtney Bowen

OFFERTORY

Voluntary on "St. Crispin"

George Blake

Stan Brunner

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Dedicatory Prayer

Rev. Courtney Bowen

SENDING

***HYMN: 338** *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

MATERNA

***CHARGE and BENECTION**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

POSTLUDE

All Creatures of Our God and King

arr. Joshua Evanovich

Stan Brunner