

Fathers

*Lord, bless the fathers in this room today.
The tired ones, the trying ones,
the ones who got it wrong this week
and aren't sure how to say it.*

*Bless the new dad, barely sleeping,
learning how to hold something so small.*

*Bless the old dad, gray and quiet,
who prayed for us before we could call.*

*Bless the stepfathers who chose us.
Bless the fathers raising kids alone.
Bless every man who's loved a little child
and called that child his own.*

*You are a Father too, Lord.
You know what this love costs.
Thank you for the fathers you gave us.
And hold the ones we've lost.
Amen.*

For those whose fathers have passed

*This is the day we honor fathers —
and you're honoring yours in your heart.
The grief that's with you in this pew
is love that couldn't part.*

*Missing someone on a day like this
is its own kind of prayer.
It says: "That man mattered."
It says: "He was really there."*

*Carry his memory gently today.
Let it sit beside you here.
And know that the same God who loved him
is holding you. Right here.*



**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton WI
9:00 AM
June 21, 2026
Third Sunday after Pentecost
Inviting People to Journey with Christ's
Family In Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

**Indicates people should stand as they are able.
Welcome and Announcements*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Hymn

"You Are Holy"

ELW#525

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity ☩, one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world.

Blessing

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
Amen.

Hymn “Give to Our God Immortal Praise” ELW#848

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

Those Serving Today

Ministers: All God’s People; Synod Authorized Minister: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Kirstin Arndt; Altar: Barb Bever & Karla Richie: Communion Server; Barb Bever

Our Prayers

Linda, Jeremy Munson, Gordy O’Rourke, Kristy Gwin Solovey, Marilyn O’Rourke, Larry Arndt, Nick Evans, Collin Niedfeldt, Mark Drews, Carol Lydon Fronk, Brian, Ben Bender, Jeff Bruce, Darlene Diekrager, Jack Arndt, Diane Hornburger, Mike Escutia, Daniel Paulson, Marie Jacobson, Rick Brandau, Lenora Martin, Jenny Simpson Erickson, Linda Martin, Andy Martin, John Arzt

will dwell with them according to your will, that they will grow in the knowledge of you and know they are dearly loved by you. We pray for your protection from deception by the evil one and his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning your direction for them. We also pray for all children throughout the world that you will keep them in your loving care. In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God’s hands.

A reading from Jeremiah 20:7-13

- ⁷ O Lord, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.
- ⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
I must shout, “Violence and destruction!”
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
- ⁹ If I say, “I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,”

then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

¹⁰ For I hear many whispering:
“Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!”
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.
“Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him
and take our revenge on him.”

¹¹ But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.

¹² O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous;
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³ Sing to the Lord;
praise the Lord!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer after Offering

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Words of Institution

LORD’S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near.

Come, share in the feast!

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ’s table.

Distribution

Prayer after Communion

was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 INTERCESSION** (God of grace, (hear our prayer.)

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Offering Hymn

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18

⁷ Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,
and shame has covered my face.
⁸ **I have become a stranger to my own kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.**
⁹ Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.
¹⁰ **I humbled myself with fasting,
but that was turned to my reproach.**
¹⁶ **Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind;
in your great compassion, turn to me.**
¹⁷ Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.
¹⁸ **Draw near to me and redeem me;
because of my enemies deliver me.**

SECOND READING

In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.

A reading from Romans 6:1b-11

^{1b} Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.
⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will

certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin.⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin.⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God.¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

ELW p. 205

GOSPEL READING

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

The holy gospel according Matthew 10:24-39

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:]²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master;²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known.²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall

to the ground apart from your Father.³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted.³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven,³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me,³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Karen Sparling

Synod Authorized Minister

Hymn

”His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

Insert

***APOSTLE’S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**