

**June 14, 2026 Service of the Word
Christ Lutheran Church, Regina, SK**

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment of Reflection

Call to Worship

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

Gathering Hymn ELW 774 What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

1. **What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness,
what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain

**Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

2. **Oh, how sweet to walk
in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path
grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain

**Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**3. What have I to dread,
what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace
with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain

**Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Confession and Forgiveness¹

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

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

¹ *Sundays and Seasons* © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.
Amen.

Ritual of Inclusion²

Let us pray:

God, when you called each of us into being, you delighted in your works. You gifted us with differences that illuminate the breadth of beauty, wisdom, and practices of love in your creation. In whatever ways we still struggle to accept and celebrate our own unique offerings, free us from narrow thinking that confines, constrains, or condemns your good work in us.

Triune God, your divinity transcends distinctions of gender identity and sexual orientation, and through the generations you widen our awareness of human diversity. We gather here before you in our various expressions of identity and orientation, all of us one in Christ Jesus. Bring our society to peacefulness concerning a wider understanding of gender diversity and sexual orientation.

² Ritual of Inclusion incorporates prayers from:

✦ *Enfleshed: Worship Service and Communion Liturgy for Affirming PIE Day.* © 2020 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence.

✦ *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. "Prayers, Thanksgivings, and Laments." In All Creation Sings: Evangelical Lutheran Worship Supplement.* Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2020. 46-55.

We ask that with your creative Spirit you cultivate new relationships, mend old wounds, and nurture communities of respect, for the sake of the one who embraces all persons in love, Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

As we light the rainbow candles as a sign of our desire to include all people in our community of faith, we sing our song of inclusion “Christ, Our Peace.” *Rainbow candles are lit.*

Song of Inclusion “Christ, Our Peace” #1037 (All Creation Sings)
Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that divide us;
Christ, our peace, come, make us one body in you. (*sing 2 times*)

Let us pray:

Loving God, You created us in your image, in all of our differences and diversity. Inspire us to see Christ within each of your beloved children. Break down the walls that divide us – racism, transphobia, ableism, and other forms of discrimination – that we may live out your command to love you with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Children’s Time

Prayer of the Day³

Let us pray: God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

³ *Sundays and Seasons* © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

Scripture Readings⁴ *congregation can be seated*

Genesis 18:1-15

¹ The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰ Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?" ¹³ The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴ Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵ But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "Yes, you did laugh."

Here ends the reading

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

⁴ Scripture Readings are NRSVue translation from *Sundays and Seasons* © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

Romans 5:1-8

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Here ends the reading

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Gospel Acclamation – Voice of Creation⁵

Voice of creation, open our ears to hear your word. Source of salvation, open our hearts to hold your love. Soul's inspiration, open our minds to know your grace. Three in relation, transform our lives with your embrace. (*repeat*)

Gospel Matthew 9:35-10:8

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁵ Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a

⁵ Hendricksen, Dennis. *Voice of Creation*. Regina, SK: Aurora Productions, 2013.

shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

10:¹ Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ⁸ Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹ Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

¹⁶ “I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the gentiles. ¹⁹ When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you at that time, ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Sibling will betray sibling to death and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to

death, ²² and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in this town, flee to the next, for truly I tell you, you will not have finished going through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ELW 574 Here I Am Lord

1. **“I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?”**

Refrain:

- Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you
calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**
2. **“I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people’s pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?”**

Refrain:

Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you
calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

3. "I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?"

Refrain:

Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you
calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Apostle's Creed

We confess our faith together, using the words of the Apostles' 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, 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 Intercession⁶

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world. Each petition will end with “God of grace,” and the congregation can respond, “hear our prayer.”

A brief silence.

God of freedom, you ransomed Israel from slavery to be a holy people. As we observe Juneteenth this coming week, free us also to be a people who proclaim your liberating love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, you call all the earth to make a joyful noise to you. Let us join the chorus of the natural world in proclaiming your glory. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, you sent Jesus as peace for all of humankind. Bring an end to war and conflict, bring hope to places devastated by destruction, and sustain those who advocate for peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, you pour hope and love into our hearts in times of shame and doubt. Protect those experiencing housing insecurity. Uplift anyone struggling with hopelessness, illness, or other worries. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all, you call your children to serve in a plentiful harvest. Give us the wisdom to know how best to serve our local community and our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of faith, we give thanks for all the saints who earnestly seek you. Guide us as we seek to follow those who have led your church. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

⁶ 3 Prayers of Intercession from *Intercessions for Years A, B, and C* © 2009 Ian Black, published by SPCK, London, UK 7

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always

And also with you

Offering/Offering Prayer⁷ *KG will place offering on altar*

Loving God,

we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,

through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn ELW 543 Go, My Children with my Blessing

**1. Go, my children, with my blessing,
never alone.**

**Waking, sleeping, I am with you,
you are my own.**

In my love's baptismal river

I have made you mine forever.

**Go, my children, with my blessing,
you are my own.**

⁷ *Sundays and Seasons* © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

2. **Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.**

3. **Go, my children, fed and nourished,
closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished,
joyful and free.**

Blessing⁸

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

Dismissal

Go in peace, inspired by Christ to love and serve!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Musician

⁸ *Sundays and Seasons* © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN