



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Holy Eucharist II

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
following Independence Day

July 5, 2026

10:00 am

Reading of the Declaration of Independence

Introit

My country, 'tis of thee

Hymnal, #717

Scriptures from the Feast of Independence Day

Deuteronomy 10:17-19

The Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Matthew 5:43-48

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."



Entry into Worship

✠ Opening Acclamation ✠

Blessed be God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Hymn of Praise

God, my King, thy might confessing

Hymnal, #414

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Children depart for Children's Chapel



The Lessons

Old Testament

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

The servant said to Laban, "I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and

her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

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

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.

Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;

for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come,

and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

New Testament

Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

The Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. David Gortner

The Nicene Creed

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,*

*God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.*

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*



The Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake
That our works may find favor in your sight.

We name now those in need of your healing power and comfort... *(people say names aloud)*...
Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble
That they may be delivered from their distress.

We remember now those who have died... *(people say names aloud)*...
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

Concluding Collect

Confession and Absolution of Sin

Most merciful God,

*we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.*

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

Children return from Children's Chapel

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

(Greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

Announcements

Offering

Offertory Hymn

Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion

Hymnal, #472



The Holy Eucharist

✠ The Great Thanksgiving ✠

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

S-124

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and
 earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

*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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

S-154

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical notation is a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three measures. The first measure contains the notes A4, B4, C5, and D5, with a slur over the first two notes. The second measure contains the notes E5, F5, G5, and A5, with a slur over the last two notes. The third measure contains the notes B5, C6, B5, and A5, with a slur over the first two notes. The notes are: A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), A5 (quarter), B5 (quarter), C6 (quarter), B5 (quarter), A5 (quarter).

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
 there - fore let us keep the feast.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Communion

People present may receive. People joining online receive inwardly, continuing to pray.

Communion Hymns

Just as I am, without one plea

Hymnal, #693

The King of love my shepherd is

Hymnal, #645 (vs. 1-2, 5-6)

Prayer after Communion

*Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image
 and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
 Now send us forth into the world as a people forgiven, healed, renewed;
 that we may proclaim your love to the world
 and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.*

Prayers for the Nation

Almighty God, giver of all good things: We thank you for the natural majesty
 and beauty of this land. They restore us, though we often destroy them.

Heal us.

We thank you for the great resources of this nation.

They make us rich, though we often exploit them.

Forgive us.

We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong.

They are models for us, though we often fall short of them.

Inspire us.

We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light. *Enlighten us.*

We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again. *Renew us.*

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices in one united chorus, will glorify your holy Name. *Amen.*

O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



Sending into the World

Hymn Love divine, all loves excelling Hymnal, #657

Blessing and Dismissal

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. *Thanks be to God.*

*The Liturgy is drawn from a combination of sources:
The Book of Common Prayer (Rite II); The Book of Occasional Services; Enriching Our Worship;
and adaptations to prayers made by the Rector of St. Luke's.*

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Serving Today

Readers	John Empsall, Jean Imperatrice
Chalice/Cruet	Melinda Hennig, Jean Imperatrice
Acolytes	Melinda Hennig, Wallace Van Houten
Ushers	Bill Landis, Rachel Karns
Altar Guild	Debbie Lane
Technology	Kate Dolan
Greeter	Cary Miller
Children's Chapel	Erica Waterman

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Dr. David Gortner	Rector
The Rev. Glenda Empsall	Deacon
DeDe Pederson	Parish Administrator
Erica Waterman	Lay Minister, Christian Formation
Eric Betz	Choir Director
Ty Peterson	Organist



Welcome to St. Luke's! We are so glad to have you join us in worship and fellowship. We are a reconciling, affirming and inclusive Christian community. We welcome all people in worship, love and service just as God created them.



God is with you. You are loved. You are welcome here, as we seek to follow Jesus on his way of Love. Join us as we seek to move deeper in faith, closer in bonds of love, and wider in our sharing, celebrating, and embodying of Jesus' overflowing, unconditional love in North Idaho.

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