

Sunday Worship Service – August 2, 2026
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
ELWB (red book) – Holy Communion – Setting 8 (p.184-192)

Welcome by the Pastor

Land Acknowledgement Statement & Welcome Statement

Introduction*

Night-time miracles occur in today's readings from Genesis and Matthew. In Matthew's feeding of the five thousand, it is evening, and the disciples are ready to rest. As Jacob prepares to meet his brother Esau, it is nightfall, and he and his family are ready to rest. In both cases, this rest is interrupted by miraculous encounters of divine power. Even in our darkest hours and times of great fatigue, God is with us, offering miraculous opportunities for blessing and ministry.

Prayer of Confession*

God who sees, knows, and touches us, we have many things in our lives that we are not proud of. Forgive our shortcomings, large and small. Reassure us that you are always present with us, that you always love us and want only the best for us. Forgive our fearful reluctance to open ourselves fully to an encounter with your holy presence. Wrestle with us, touch us, and awaken us to your love – a love that never lets us go. Meet us face to face, that we may forever be changed. Amen.

Words of Assurance*

Dawn comes, and we will see God face to face. We will behold the face of unconditional love. In this meeting, we will understand the depth of God's reassuring forgiveness. And in this understanding, we will be changed for good. May we also be changed knowing that our sins are forgiven in the name of the + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

#843 Gathering Hymn "*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*"

- 1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light; praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.**

- Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.
2. Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
3. Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

p. 184 **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Call to Worship*

Even when our faith falters, O God,

We will not let you go.

Even though we feel battered, O God,

We will not let you go.

Because we need your blessing, Holy One,

We will not let you go.

Struggle with us, wrestle with us, strive with us until the dawn, O God,

We will not let you go.

We need your blessing, O God, and we will not let you go.

p.185 **Canticle of Praise "Glory to God"**

Refrain:

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

1. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

**you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

Refrain:

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**3. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Final Refrain:

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

Prayer of the Day

O God of nighttime visits and daylight assurance, we come to this time of worship to wrestle with who we are, and who you call us to be. Search our hearts and know us thoroughly. We long to meet you face to face, even if the encounter leaves us forever changed. With open ears and ready hearts, touch us with your words and transform us with your presence. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 32:22-31

Jacob wrestled all night with God, and when God wanted to get away as dawn was breaking, Jacob would not let God go until God had blessed him. Jacob's name is changed to Israel to mark his new relationship with God as he enters the land. Jacob is astonished that he remains alive after seeing God face-to-face.

A reading from Genesis, chapter 32, beginning at the 22nd verse:

Jacob got up during the night, took his two wives, his two women servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed the Jabbok River's shallow water. He

took them and everything that belonged to him, and he helped them cross the river. But Jacob stayed apart by himself, and a man wrestled with him until dawn broke. When the man saw that he couldn't defeat Jacob, he grabbed Jacob's thigh and tore a muscle in Jacob's thigh as he wrestled with him. The man said, "Let me go because the dawn is breaking."

But Jacob said, "I won't let you go until you bless me."

He said to Jacob, "What's your name?" and he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name won't be Jacob any longer, but Israel, because you struggled with God and with men and won."

Jacob also asked and said, "Tell me your name."

But he said, "Why do you ask for my name?" and he blessed Jacob there. Jacob named the place Peniel, "because I've seen God face-to-face, and my life has been saved." The sun rose as Jacob passed Peniel, limping because of his thigh.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21¹

God, you are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

GOD you are good to all, and compassionate toward all your creatures.

You lift up those who are falling, and raise up those who are oppressed.

The eyes of all look to you in hope, and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand, and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

GOD, you are just in all your ways, and loving to all that you have created.

You are near to all who call upon you, and all who call upon you in truth.

You fulfill the desires of those who revere you;

you hear their cry, and save them.

You watch over all who love you, but you'll destroy all who are corrupt.

My mouth will speak your praise, GOD, and may all creation bless your holy name forever and ever.

¹ *The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*

p. 188 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:13-21

After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus heard about John, Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. When the crowds learned this, they followed Jesus on foot from the cities. When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion for them and healed those who were sick. That evening Jesus' disciples came and said to him, "This is an isolated place and it's getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

But Jesus said to them, "There's no need to send them away. You give them something to eat."

They replied, "We have nothing here except five loaves of bread and two fish."

Jesus said, "Bring them here to me." Jesus ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them and broke the loaves apart and gave them to his disciples. Then the disciples gave them to the crowds. Everyone ate until they were full, and they filled twelve baskets with the leftovers. About five thousand men plus women and children had eaten.

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

Sermon: *Wrestling for a Blessing*

#712 Hymn of the Day “*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*”

1. Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy’s perfect deed;
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to your purpose ev’ry gift which you impart.
2. Still your children wander homeless, still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.
3. As we worship, grant us vision, till your love’s revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.
4. Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, goodwill and comfort,
counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

Statement of Faith – New Creed²

We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

**We believe in God who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church, to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People³

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the
needs of the world.

² *Voices United: The Hymn and Worship Book of the United Church of Canada*, p.918, The United Church Publishing House, 1996.

³ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts/2026-6-28/0>

A brief silence.

Faithful God, establish your church to offer welcome and proclaim your peace. Nourish us so we can proclaim your hope to the world.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, bring life to places experiencing drought, deforestation, and pollution. Help us to cultivate and care for the natural world around us.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, bring an end to conflict and division. Sustain the work of prophets in our time, and work through world leaders to foster understanding, justice, and peace. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Provider God, give your children what they need physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Bless caregivers as they show God's hospitality through their generous service. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Living God, lead us from death to life. Inspire new ministries and endeavors, renew established ones, and strengthen our welcoming presence to our neighbors. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Loving God, **we offer our gifts to you, as well as our lives, so they might find their way to those who need your grace, your hope, your joy, and your peace in their lives. Amen.**

p.190 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 our thanks and praise.

It is a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,
to give thanks to you, who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life

And so with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.190 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer⁴

Holy God, our Bread of Life, our Table, and our Food,
You created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
And you fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
You sent Jesus to eat with outcasts and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup,
Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:

⁴ *With One Voice: Leaders Edition*, p.72.

Strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of Christ.
For all these gifts, we give our thanks and praise. Amen.

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.**

Communion Distribution

p.191 *Lamb of God*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.**

#479 Communion Hymn “We Come to the Hungry Feast”

- 1. We come to the hungry feast hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied the love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**
- 2. We come to the hungry feast hungry for a world released
from hungry folk of ev’ry kind, the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**
- 3. We come to the hungry feast hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill, the hunger will stay with us still.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**

Communion Blessing

Prayer after communion⁵

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

Announcements

Benediction*

Go forth, knowing that God has heard us
And will give us the strength to follow God's call.
Go forth to touch the lives of others,
As our lives have been touched by God.
Go and be the face of God
To a world that so desperately needs the loving and affirming face of God.
And may you recognize God's presence with you in your wrestling matches.
Amen

#674 Sending Hymn "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

1. **Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound! (repeat refrain)**
2. **Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound! (repeat refrain)**
3. **Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share. God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound! (repeat refrain)**

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve God through word and deed.
Thanks be to God!

⁵ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts/2026-6-28/0>