

# Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 13 and 14, 2025



Neighbors in Need



198 Westridge Avenue, Burlington, Wisconsin  
262-763-8229 | [stjohnsburlington.org](http://stjohnsburlington.org)  
Pastor Kirk Lahmann | Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

## **Welcome to Worship**

Thank you for joining us for worship today! We are honored that you are with us. We pray that the Word of God you hear will strengthen your faith and increase your love for the Lord! Please fill out a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in an offering plate, located near the sanctuary doors, as you leave worship. If you are a guest, know that we are thankful you have joined us and hope that you will join us again soon.

## **Prepare for Worship**

To prepare for worship, read through the service focus and the Scripture readings. Ponder the words of the Psalm of the Day. Spend time in prayer, using the prayers on the inside cover of the hymnal or on pages 255-258. For those intending to receive the Lord's Supper, read through the "Christian Questions" on pages 295-296. Consider reading through portions of the Small Catechism on pages 286-293.

## **Today's Focus for Worship – Neighbors in Need**

We tend to think of distraction and focus as opposites. If someone is focused, they are not easily distracted by random events and encounters. Apart from Christ, that type of focus spells disaster for our neighbor. We may dismiss the needs of our neighbors, thinking, "If I spend time helping him, that will distract me from other things that need my attention." Jesus teaches us that he has set us free to live a life of such distraction. We are free to give our neighbors our undivided attention, even if that seems senseless.

## **Serving at Worship**

Presiding Minister: Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

Preacher: Pastor Kirk Lahmann

Accompanist: Vicki Jensen

## **Acknowledgments**

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# The Service

## *Setting Eight (German melodies)*



### Opening Hymn

Take My Life and Let It Be | 695  
*Please stand to sing the final stanza.*

### Invocation

*Matthew 18:20; 28:19-20*

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### Confession and Absolution

*1 John 1:8-9*

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

*Matthew 15:22; 17:15; Mark 10:47*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Glory Be to God *Gloria in Excelsis*

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

*Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN*



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,  
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!  
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;  
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,



we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

# The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**



## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

Ruth 1:1-19

<sup>1</sup>In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. <sup>2</sup>The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

<sup>3</sup>Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup>both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

<sup>6</sup>When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. <sup>7</sup>With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

<sup>8</sup>Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. <sup>9</sup>May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.”

Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud <sup>10</sup>and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.”

<sup>11</sup>But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? <sup>12</sup>Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— <sup>13</sup>would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD’s hand has turned against me!”

<sup>14</sup>At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>15</sup>“Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.”

<sup>16</sup>But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup>Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” <sup>18</sup>When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

<sup>19</sup>So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm of the Day**

To You, O LORD, I Lift My Soul | 25-A

## Second Reading

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

<sup>1</sup>It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

<sup>13</sup>You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup>For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup>If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

<sup>16</sup>So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

<sup>19</sup>The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup>idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup>and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

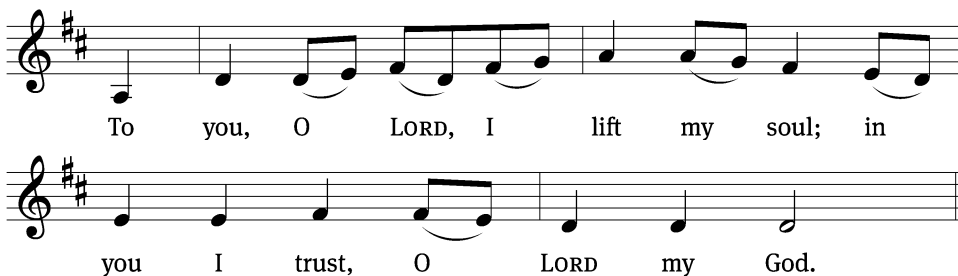
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Psalms 25:1



<sup>25</sup>On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup>“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

<sup>27</sup>He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

<sup>28</sup>“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup>But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

<sup>30</sup>In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

<sup>36</sup>“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

<sup>37</sup>The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Hymn of the Day**

Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing | 595

**Sermon**

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Freedom From and Freedom For

*Stand*



**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

*Be seated*

*Show me your ways, Lord  
Teach me your paths*

## Prayer of the Church

*Psalm 25:4, 6*

Almighty Father, you have called us to freedom and to service. Fill us with your love that we may freely serve those around us.

**Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love. Show us your ways and teach us your paths.**

You have given us your law to lead us to live in love. Teach and move us to help and befriend our neighbors in every bodily need.

**Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love. Show us your ways and teach us your paths.**

You have called us to follow your example of love. Move us to declare your love with our lips and show it in our lives.

**Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love. Show us your ways and teach us your paths.**

Bless, support and help all who serve those in emergencies, police, fire and ambulance crews, doctors, nurses and other caregivers. Through their work, relieve anxiety and pain and bring comfort and healing to the hurting.

**Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love. Show us your ways and teach us your paths.**

Look with mercy on those who are new to the Christian faith. Let them grow in knowledge of your Word. Lead all Christians, new and old, to walk by the Spirit.

**Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love. Show us your ways and teach us your paths.**

Your Son taught about a good Samaritan who helped a man, bandaged his wounds and provided for his needs. Hear our prayers for the wounded, the sick, and all who wait for relief and recovery. Provide for them by opening our hearts and hands to help.

**Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love. Show us your ways and teach us your paths.**

Blessed Lord, you have commanded us to love one another. Just as we have received your undeserved blessings, may we love everyone in you and for you. Give us a spirit of compassion and mercy that the blessings you have given us may flow through us to our neighbors to serve them in their needs; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Offering

2 Corinthians 9:7

*Offerings given in thanks to the Lord are brought to the Lord's altar. We ask all worshipers to fill out a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in the offering plates at the sanctuary doors following the service.*

## The Sacrament

*Stand*



## Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136:1

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy *Sanctus*

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

*Tune: ELLACOMBE*



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,  
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."  
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:  
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.  
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Matthew 26:26*

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**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.**

**Words of Institution** *Verba*

*Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

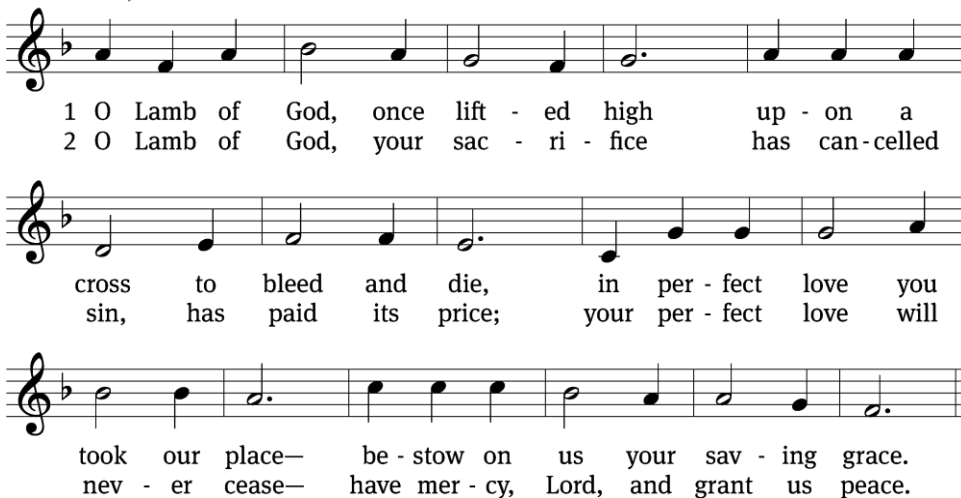
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**Amen.**

**O Lamb of God** *Agnus Dei*

*John 1:29*

*Tune: GOTTLÖB, ES GEHT NUNMEHR ZU ENDE*



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a  
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled

cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you  
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will

took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.  
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

*Be seated*

## **Holy Communion Distribution**

*St. John's Lutheran Church practices Close Communion. We ask that only members of St. John's, or members of a church in fellowship with St. John's, come forward for Communion. Our pastoral staff would be happy to set up a time to discuss this, and any teaching of Scripture, with you.*

## **Distribution Hymns**

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace | 768

Son of God, Eternal Savior | 729

For All the Faithful Women | 893:1, 7, 3, 4

*Stand*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to serve by serving us, even by laying down your life for us. Give us a humble and loving spirit to willingly serve our neighbors, doing your work by the power of your Spirit; you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing** *Aaronic Benediction*

*Numbers 6:24-26*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **Closing Hymn**

For the Fruits of His Creation | 506

