



JULY 27, 2025



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Today's worship reflects on the often-overlooked figure of the innkeeper in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37), a symbol of those who embody quiet compassion and hospitality—entrusted with healing work that continues after others have moved on. Paired with the opening of Paul's Letter to the Colossians (1:1–14), which speaks of lives that "bear fruit in every good work" and give "thanks to the Father," we are invited to consider how we take part in God's mission through partnership, endurance, and joyful service. Our musical selections trace this spiritual arc—from the quiet gratitude of the Prelude to songs that call us into worship, shared mission, and faithful response. In music and word, we are reminded that discipleship is not a solo act—it is a shared journey of mercy and light.

PRELUDE

Bagatelle No. 25 in A minor "Für Elise" WoO 59

by Ludwig van Beethoven
Anna Keiserman, Solo Piano

This well-known miniature by Beethoven is delicate and deeply personal. Its understated charm sets a reflective tone for worship, inviting us to consider the beauty of simple, sincere offerings. In today's context, "Für Elise" echoes Paul's gratitude in Colossians for the faithful—those who, like the innkeeper, may serve quietly yet play a vital role in God's work. The piece reminds us that thankfulness can be expressed not only in grand gestures but in quiet attentiveness and steadfast presence.

THE GATHERING

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

Come Now Is The Time To Worship

Words & Music by Brian Doerksen

This contemporary worship song is a compelling call to respond to God's invitation—not later, but now. It reflects both the urgency and the joy of discipleship: urgency, because the work of mercy and justice is never idle, and joy, because coming before God is not a burden but a gift. Just as the Samaritan acted decisively and invited the innkeeper to join in compassionate service, and as Paul urges the Colossians to live lives that bear fruit and grow in wisdom, this song reminds us that every moment of worship is also a moment of response—stepping forward to live as disciples with open hearts and willing hands.

Chorus

Verse 1

One day every tongue
Will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now

Chorus

Verse 2

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives
Willingly our knees will bow
With all our heart soul mind and strength
We gladly choose You now

Chorus / Ending

Chorus

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come

Ending

Come ... come
just as you are
come ... come

ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

A: We are gathered together in the name of God the Creator, God the Son, and ✠ God the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

A: The Bible is full of invitations, but do we realize that we have been invited as well?

Whether it was an invitation from the divine, or someone who had their life changed by a divine invitation, these invitations changed lives. We haven't always been as open to invitations as we should. We have been reluctant to step out in faith. We have become accustomed to our routines and addicted to predictability. We confess for those times when we didn't say "yes" to an invitation that would change our lives and then the world around us.

Silence For Reflection

A: Together we confess,

C: God, please forgive me for not always saying "yes" when you have called. I struggle to break routines and I love predictability. Please don't give up on me. Continue to call me even though I struggle to be open to a new path. Remind me that stepping-out is a way to build my faith. Please, call me again.

A: May we never stop looking up to these stories where they dropped everything and followed Jesus. But we also have countless stories where a divine invitation wasn't followed. As much as we admire those who stepped out in faith, may we also remember that God never gave up on those who struggled to say "yes." In those moments we are reminded of God's patience and grace. We receive those gifts now. Regardless of how old we are, we are God's children and our sins are forgiven!

C: Amen.

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together,

C: Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE PEACE

We receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. You may greet one another and say "peace be with you" or similar words.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

THE WORD

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

Verse 1:

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

Refrain

And I'm so happy, so very happy;
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart!
Oh I'm so happy, so very happy.
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

A READING FROM

COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to

share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Savior Of The Nations Come

Voice

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's son, in - car - nate Word!

To the Ho - ly Trin - i - ty, praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly!

THE GOSPEL READING

LUKE 10:25-37

(CONGREGATION STANDING)

L: The Holy Gospel of St. Luke, beginning in the tenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

PREACHING OF THE GOOD NEWS

This hymn lifts up the truth that discipleship is not a solitary path but a shared vocation. Its very structure—a communal “we” from the first line—emphasizes the collective call to ministry. Through its poetry, it affirms that all believers are united in purpose, each playing a part in God’s healing and reconciling work. This mirrors the moment in the Gospel when the Samaritan entrusts the innkeeper with the ongoing care of the wounded man—an act that recognizes the power and necessity of involving others. Likewise, Paul’s words in Colossians highlight a faith community that is bearing fruit together, growing in love and spiritual understanding. Set to a 19th-century Finnish folk melody that is both warm and resilient, the hymn becomes a musical embodiment of the Church’s call to partnership in Christ’s mission.



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God’s name.
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - f’rent; our pur - pose is the same:
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God’s re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers with God’s sur - pris - ing grace,
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ’s love.
 so ev - ’ry folk and na - tion may feel God’s warm em - brace.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

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 into hell. 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 THE PEOPLE

A: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

Each petition shall conclude with:

A: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

The Prayers conclude:

A: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

THE MEAL

THE OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

You've Got a Friend in Me

from Walt Disney's 'Toy Story' by Randy Newman

Hee Won Jeon, Solo Cello

Originally composed by Randy Newman for Pixar's "Toy Story", this charming and familiar song celebrates steadfast friendship and presence—the kind of quiet loyalty that stands the test of time. In the context of worship, it becomes a whimsical yet poignant reflection of the relationship between the Samaritan and the innkeeper: a trust extended and received, a commitment to walk with another through difficulty. This kind of presence mirrors Paul's thanksgiving in Colossians for the enduring faith and love of the church, and it speaks to the kind of neighborliness Jesus lifts up in Luke 10. As we offer our gifts today, this music reminds us that showing up, standing by, and sharing what we have are themselves holy acts of love.

THE OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart



new a right spir - it with - in me.

Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your

Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray,

C: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts!

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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, forever and ever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

We practice "Open Communion," acknowledging that Jesus welcomes all persons, sinners and saints alike, to the table. All means ALL. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the Sacrament in a continuous line, exiting by the side aisles.

Communion is by intinction. *We offer a chalice of wine and a chalice of white grape juice in which you may dip the bread. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask for them at the altar, if needed. The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen.*

Infants who are not yet ready to receive food will receive a blessing. Parents who have questions about the practice of open communion may instruct their children to receive just a blessing.

Communion can be served to those who are not physically able to join us for worship. Please speak with an usher if you know of someone who would desire communion from Sunday's table brought to them.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Le Cygne (The Swan) No.13

from 'Le carnaval des animaux' (Carnival of the Animals)
by Camille Saint-Saëns
Hee Won Jeon, Solo Cello

This elegant and lyrical work for cello and piano flows with gentle grace, its long melodic lines gliding over a rippling accompaniment. The music itself embodies a place of stillness and renewal, inviting the listener into a space of quiet beauty and inner peace. During communion, it becomes a sonic expression of the healing and restoration offered through Christ—a moment to rest, receive, and be made whole. Just as the innkeeper provided a place of shelter and recovery in the parable, and as Paul gives thanks in Colossians for the strength and endurance given to the faithful, "The Swan" musically mirrors the quiet, transformative power of grace at work just beneath the surface.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace until life everlasting.

C: Amen.



THE SENDING

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✝ , and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

The Church of Christ in Every Age

by William Knapp, Words by Fred Pratt Green

As we are sent forth, this hymn affirms the Church's ongoing role in God's healing mission. Just as the innkeeper continued the work begun by the Samaritan, and the Colossians were urged to "live lives worthy of the Lord," we too are called to bear fruit in every season—rooted in love, strengthened in hope, and ready to serve our neighbor.



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSED AND SENT TO SERVE

A: This little light of mine...

C: I'm gonna let it shine!

A: Just as we have been invited, God now sends us out to share this invitation with the entire world. It may be challenging at times, and it may cause disruption, but everyone desires to be a part of something that makes a difference. This is the invitation that God sends us out with. May we share this invitation with all of God's people. We do this until...

C: Everyone knows that God loves them!

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

If you are worshipping with us at 9:00 am we kindly ask that you leave your bulletin on the back table on your way out for those that are worshipping at 11:00 am if you did not make notes. We wish to be good stewards of our environment and resources.

*** Our services are live-streamed and recorded for later viewing. We also utilize images from our services and activities on our website. If you do not want images of you or your family on our website, please inform us via an email to communications@epiphanysuwanee.org.*



EPIPHANY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am & 11:00 am (in-person and online)

Ministers: The People of God

Pastor: Chris Hermansen

Minister of Youth: Kris Perkola

Director of Worship and Music: Michael Parker

Worship Production: Steve Belfield

Worship Accompanist: Anna Keiserman, Ph. D.

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Bagatelle No. 25 in A minor "Für Elise" WoO 59

Editor: Michael Töpel (b. 1958)
Publisher Info. Ludwig van Beethoven: Leichte Klavierstücke und Tänze, No.11
Kassel: Bärenreiter, 1996. Plate BA 6560.
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Come, Now is the Time To Worship

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I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

By George W. Cooke
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Savior Of The Nations Come

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We All Are One In Mission

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Le Cygne (The Swan) No.13

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The Church of Christ in Every Age

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Author: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
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