

7th Sunday after Pentecost — July 12, 2026

Prelude

My Country T'is of Thee

arr. Bradley Sowash

Tune: *Thesaurus Musicus*, London, 1744 in Public Domain

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Welcome & Announcements

Children's Sermon

Opening Hymn

Before You, Lord We Bow

ELW 893

Text in Public Domain by Francis Scott Key, 1779-1843, alt.

Music in Public Domain by John Darwall, 1731-1789

Apostolic Greeting

WOV Pg. 28

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

P: And also with you

Gloria

WOV Pg. 29

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth. 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. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth. 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. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth, and peace to God's people on earth.

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you

P: And also with you

L: You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

P: Amen

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹. Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **P: Thanks be to God!**



Psalm 145: 8-14 *chanted responsively*

⁸ The Lord is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.

⁹ **Lord, you are ¹ good to all,
and your compassion is over ¹ all your works.**

¹⁰ All your works shall praise ¹ you, O Lord,
and your faithful ¹ ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory ¹ of your kingdom
and speak ¹ of your power,**

¹² that all people may know ¹ of your power
and the glorious splendor ¹ of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through ¹ out all ages.
You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in ¹ all your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all ¹ those who fall
and lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down.

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ 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. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Holy wisdom, holy word.

P: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation

WOV Pg. 31

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

L: Holy Gospel according to Matthew in the 11th Chapter.

P: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ 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.” ... ²⁵ 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; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” This is the Gospel of the Lord.

P: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Text by Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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Music: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985

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Baptism of Matilda Evanoski**Please refer to Page 227****ELW (red book)****Prayers**

L: Let us pray that the easy, light yoke of Jesus may replace our weary, heavy burdens.

AM: For healing for all, in mind, body, or spirit.

People: Hear our prayer.

L: Christ has borne the fruit of our salvation. May we now bear loving fruit for our neighbors' sake.

AM: For the Church, especially those now receiving baptism into the fellowship of grace, including our new sister in Christ, Tilly Evanoski, that we may be fertile ground for the powerful and gentle word of God. Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

AM: For the secular world, especially those who wield power to do good or to do harm, that the transforming word of God's Law and Gospel may guide them to do good. Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

AM: For the world in all its complexity and wonder, that we may treat it as a precious gift from our Creator. Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

AM: For the healing mercy of God that covers our sins and offenses, Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

AM: For any other needs you lift now in speech or silence.....Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

L: And for all other needs, Lord, we trust your gracious will, Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

L: And Gracious God, help us remember the words that have shaped our nation and its ideals, and help us to embody them, and strive to make them true for all who inhabit this land,

AM: We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,

People: that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,

AM: that among these are Life,

P: Liberty,

AM: and the Pursuit of Happiness---

P: That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, ...

AM: laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness. ...

P: And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

L: Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation,

P: conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

L: The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

P: It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

L: It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion

P: —that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—

L: and that government of the people,

P: by the people,

L: for the people,

P: shall not perish from the earth

AM: We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union,

P: establish Justice,

AM: insure domestic Tranquility,

P: provide for the common defense,

AM: promote the general Welfare,

P: and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity,

AM: do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America

L: We humbly ask this in Christ's name, Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer. Amen.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C And also with you.**

Please share a sign of God's peace.

The offering is received

Anthem***Let There Be Peace on Earth***

Words and Music: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

Arr: Keith Christopher

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me. Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God as our father, we are family. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now; with every step I take, may this be my solemn vow: to take each moment, live each moment, live with peace, uh, let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me. And let it begin with me.

Offertory Hymn**WOV Pg. 35**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer**Great Thanksgiving – WOV Pg. 36-40****L: The Lord be with you.****P: And also with you.****L: Lift up your hearts.****P: We lift them to the Lord.****L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***The Proper Preface*

L: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The Great Thanksgiving**LORD'S PRAYER**

**All: 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**

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.

Communion is distributed.

Communion Music

***Battle Hymn of the Republic
America, the Beautiful***

**arr. Samuel A. Ward
arr. Christina Shehi**

Tunes: Battle Hymn, American, 19th c.; Materna, Samuel A. Ward, 1848-1903, both in Public Domain
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Post Communion Prayer

Benediction

WOV Pg. 41

L: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

People: Amen

Closing Hymns

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

ELW 890

Text in Public Domain by Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910
Music: North American, 19th cent. In Public Domain

Faith of Our Fathers

ELW 812

Text in Public Domain by Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.
Music in Public Domain by Henri F. Hemy, 1818-1888; James G. Walton, 1821-1905, refrain

Dismissal

WOV Pg. 41

AM: Assisting Minister: Go now in peace, to love and serve the Lord and your neighbors.

P: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

God of Our Fathers

arr. James Mansfield

Tune: "National Hymn" by George W. Warren in Public Domain
Setting: c. 1984 by Lorenz Publishing Co. in the July 1984 issue of "The Organist"
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Thank you for coming. May God's peace be yours today.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

The following is a listing of those who need your prayers. Our hope is that you will take this listing home with you and in your daily prayers remember those listed below. If you would like to add or subtract for this list, please write name(s) on the Prayer of Concerns form in the Narthex located on the stand-up desk to the right of the exit doors or email the office. Thank you!

Joe Abbott	Kari Machowski	Justin Wade & Family	Our Nursing Home Members
Casaundra Abeling	Charlotte Madia	Eveyln Walters	
Roberta Alteri	Audrey Marquard	Sue Watkins	Dee Gammon
Ben, Sheryl & Nic Ahrens	Abigail Marine	James Weber	Midge Rosenbeck
Michelle Ahrens	Eric Marine	Kim Weissman	Mae Fay
Coni Aparo	Richard Marine	Diane Wright	Francine Aherns
Charlie Blakeslee	Janis Martin	Bruce Yauney	Betty Hilton
Kathy Ann Campbell	Gil & Marilyn Martin	Clayton Young	Walter Joray
Angelo & Nicole Capasso	Michael Meyers	Clarence & Priscilla	
Vinni Carey	Brigitte Mueller	Ed	
Our Military Friends			
Carol Cianciolo	Bob Murphy	Jen O.	Lord Jesus, Savior of the World
Emma Cortina	Barbara Nalette	Jaiden	and King of Peace, watch over
Emily Decker	Karen Ness	Steve	our sons and daughters in the
Irene Douglas	Tom O'Brien	Lou W.	service of their Country. Protect
Judy Elliott	Karen Pagano	Todd	them from the physical and
			moral dangers. Keep them
Diane Engle	Maria Payne	Robert K.	close to you and help them live
Jan Eucalitto	Melissa Pilbin	Terry	the commandments. Lord, Jesus
Weston Faith	Lisa & Dennis Polzun	Hagbard	give them courage to serve
Amy Falls	Ed & Susan Regner	Peanut	their country with honor and
Bruce & Liz Falls	Baerbel Roehl	Diane L.	dignity. Be with them when they
			are in danger; strengthen them

Rosemarie Foth	Patricia & Richard Sawitzke	Holly L.	when they face hardship. Above All Lord, grant that when their
Steven Fosbrook	Vincent Scarrozzo	Lincoln & Sarah	service is finished that they may
Bob Frantz	Jean Schlapfer	Michelle	return to us, sound in mind, body
Christine & Fran Gaffney	Sarah Seelye	Marci	and soul. Amen.
Danise Hall	Paul Smith	Kyle W.	Tyler Quinn
Renate Higgins	Sigrid Smitley		Eric Beuis
Kathleen Hilton	Lori Sola	Ethan & his Marine Unit	Major Zachary Fulton Brandan Holbrook
Shannon Hilton	Deb & Jon Sterling	Jonathan E & his Army Unit	Jonathan Connell Tom Gregg, Fr.
Shaelynn Holmgren	Tom Sterling Sr.	Stefan Nikola J.	Eric Bremer
Bob Hauser	Ruth Ann Stone	Janet	Peter Hutchinson
Rusty Judd	Patricia Switzer		
Brian Kiernan	Diane Tanner		Dominic Boscarino
Marge Kiernan	Gloria Thibault		Noah Braatz
Marilyn Killingbeck	Nancy Underwood		Christian Braatz
John Lewis	The Videtto Family		Aiden Avenia
David Little	Lucille Videtto		Ben Speaker
Rebecca Little	Carol Vrlik		Noah Roy

Around the Church

Christmas Eve survey please fill it out if you have not already.

Those interested in becoming official members please fill out a form found on the table in the narthex.

Around the Church

Event	Date	Time
Women's & Men's Breakfast	7/15	8:30 am
Worship & Music Comm. (Zoom mtg)	7/16	6:00 pm
IT Committee (Zoom mtg)	7/16	7:30 pm
Craft Fair	7/18	10am-1pm
New Member Class (upper classroom on right)	7/18	10am-12n
St. Paul's Hilltop Christian ELC OPEN House	7/18	10am-1pm
Toastmasters	7/22	7:00 pm
Geraldine Seitz Funeral	7/25	1:00 pm
VBS	8/3-7	9am-12n

Tuesdays

New Tai Chi class 10-11:30am \$12

Bible Study

Tuesday via Zoom 6:00 pm
In person Bible Study Wednesdays
10:00 am

Wednesdays

Members Tai Chi 11:00 am
Quilting Group 1:00 pm

Minimalist bulletin

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Sermon
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Benediction
Closing Hymn
Dismissal
Postlude

The Rev. Dr. G. Scott Cady

Music Director Marcia Newcome

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837 Charles St., Torrington

Open House

Saturday, July 18

10:00 A.M-1:00 P.M.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

Farmer's Market / Craft Fair

HAVE A TOUR

director@Hilltopchristianelc.com

FMI call (860)482-3727



Summertime Craft Fair!

July 18, 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
837 Charles St. Torrington
10 am to 1 pm

Running in conjunction with the
Torrington Farmers Market

All handmade items presented
by local artisans and crafters

JUNKYARD REDEMPTION – VBS 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is pleased to welcome you to "Junkyard Redemption: God's Master Plan to Remake Our Broken World." Our week of fun and learning will take place **August 3rd – 7th** from **9am – 12pm** at the church, **837 Charles Street, Torrington**. Children, ages 4 (by September 1st) through 6th grade are invited to register their attendance. We will have stories, music, crafts, games, snacks, puppets, and skits led by our mascots, Madison, Grandpa Rusty, Roadside Reggie, and Miss Sarge, the self-proclaimed guard cat of the Junkyard!

Themes for the week include: When sin broke God's perfect world, God promised to fix it; God deserves our trust because He always keeps His promises; God sets us free from sin to serve Him; Jesus paid the redemption price we could never afford; and finally, God wants us to live with a sure hope of a perfect future.

In keeping with the junkyard theme, we are looking to borrow some old (well-used) tools, bikes/trikes/scooters, old street/traffic signs, and such. These will be returned to you following VBS. A list of recyclables will be forthcoming that will help us with craft projects; if you are able to contribute, it would be appreciated.

We are also seeking teen and adult volunteers to help make our week a success.

Should you have any questions or need a registration form (to be completed and returned as soon as possible), don't hesitate to call the church office at 860-482-3555, press 2, and leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible. Registration forms can also be found in the envelope on the outside of the office door. We look forward to welcoming you and your child(ren) to Vacation Bible School

You're sure to have fun in our Junkyard!!
ST. PAUL'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

