

Williams Bay Lutheran Church Worship

July 26, 2026

Service of the Word & Holy Communion

9:30 AM



As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

Please silence your cell phone. Thank you.

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

ELW 533

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.**

Let us pray: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Installation of VBS Teachers and Helpers

WORD

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

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

Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136

- ¹²⁹ Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.
- ¹³⁰ **When your word is opened | it gives light;
it gives understanding | to the simple.**
- ¹³¹ I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.
- ¹³² **Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,
as you always do to those who | love your name.**
- ¹³³ Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.
- ¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those | who oppress me,
and I will keep | your commandments.**
- ¹³⁵ Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.
- ¹³⁶ **My eyes shed | streams of tears,
because people do not | keep your teaching.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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Gospel

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

Sermon

Pastor Tom

Silence for Reflection

Hymn of the Day

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

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 to the dead.

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 Intercession

Petitions conclude with: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

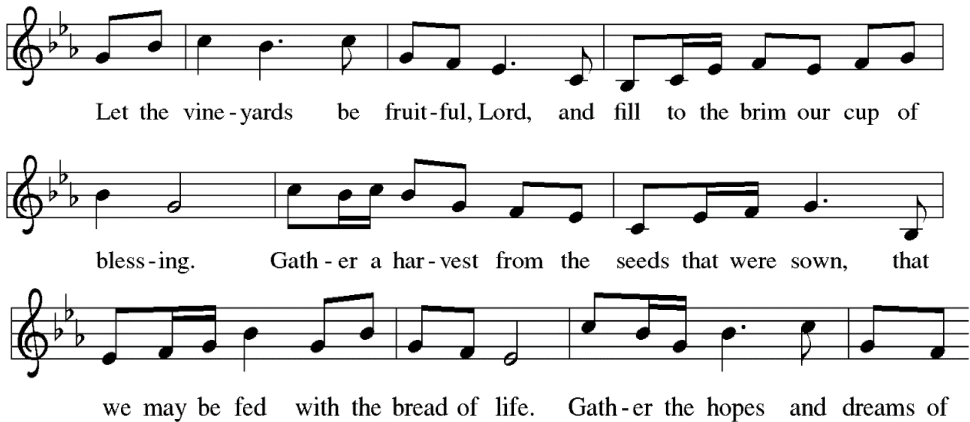
Offering

MEAL

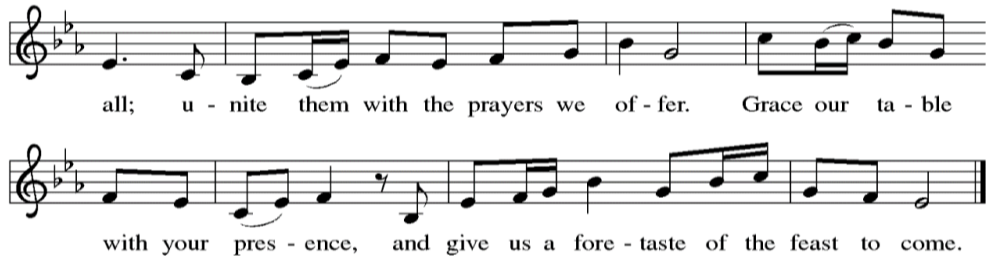
Offering Hymn

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

ELW 184



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



Offering Prayer

Words of Institution for Holy Communion

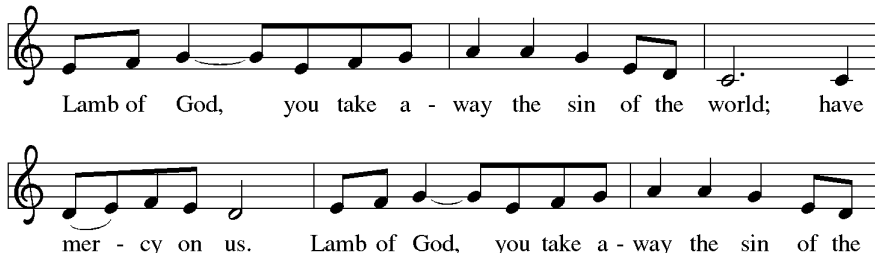
Lord's Prayer

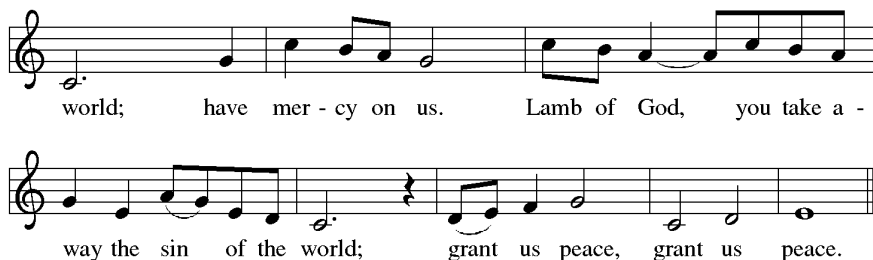
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

All are Welcome to receive the Lord's Meal at His table.

Hymns during Communion

"Lamb of God"





Take My Life, that I May Be

ELW 685



5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

Table Blessing

SENDING

Sending Prayer and Blessing

Sending Hymn

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

ELW 536

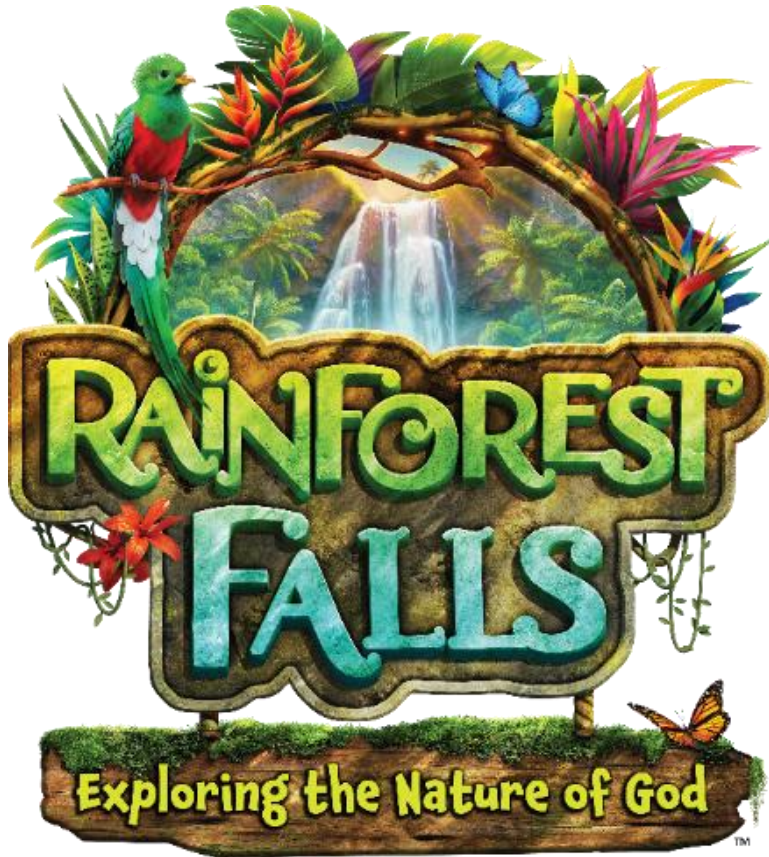
Dismissal

Thanks be to God!



Altar flowers: Today's flowers are provided by the Pfeil family in honor of this year's VBS volunteers and Jim and Kari's 29th wedding anniversary.

Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God: Register online: www.wblc.org
Williams Bay Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School, July 27 - July 30.



Grace Notes

July 26	Simplified Service, 8 AM Traditional Service, 9:30 AM
July 27	Office Closed
July 27-30	Vacation Bible School, 9:30 – 11:30 AM
July 29	Coffee Club, 9:30 AM

Picture Directory - We are making plans for a new pictorial church directory. We are in need of members to help Elise Corcoran on picture days. Please let Pastor Tom know if you are available to help. Please check your email for a letter with information.

Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic - This summer our Williams Bay Lutheran Church Outdoor Unity Worship Service will take place on Sunday, August 16 at 9:30 AM at the Anderson’s house (7230 S&D Townline Rd., Delavan). This will be a unity service with no 8:00 AM worship. A picnic lunch will follow the service - please bring a salad or dessert to share. Questions? Please contact Pastor Tom, or Wayne and Susan Anderson.

Worship Servers

Service		July 26	August 2
Usher	9:30 AM	Chad Beth	Chad Beth
Lector	8:00 AM	Dori Freundt	OPEN
	9:30 AM	Marilyn Carlson	Jen Galvin
Cantor	9:30 AM	Marilyn Carlson	OPEN
Communion Assistants	9:30 AM	OPEN	OPEN
		OPEN	OPEN
Refreshments		OPEN	OPEN
Altar Flowers		Pfeil Family	OPEN
Altar Guild		OPEN	OPEN
Offering Counters		Stu & Allen	Stu & Allen

Life Together as God’s People

Ministers	Williams Bay Lutheran Church Members
Pastor	Rev. Thomas Dowling
Council President	Allen Filloon
Council Vice President	Mike Reno
Treasurer	Bruce Hildner
9:30 Organist	Marianne Peterson
8:00 Pianist	Susan Gali, Chris Groth, and Aaron Johnson
Custodian	Mary Mock
Landscaping	Gunnar Olsen
Secretary	Sandra Johnson