



On a Neighbor in Need

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 13, 2025



"Winning souls for Christ. Coaching Christians for life."

4651 Kernan Blvd S, Jacksonville, FL 32224 • (904) 642-8900

A Place to Call Home: Victory Lutheran

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus. We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" (Psalm 122:1). May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

Please sign the Connection Card inside the worship folder and return it in the basket on the worship table. Members, please update your contact info if there is a change.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Changing tables are available in both restrooms.

A **Quiet Room** for children who need a moment to get settled with a parent or guardian is located on the right before entering the sanctuary.

Visit our website: www.victorylutheran.org or find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!



Worship Series Focus: **UNDIVIDED ATTENTION**

We live in a world where a thousand things are competing for our attention. There is the real danger that we focus on the frivolous and ignore the indispensable. As a result, we often talk about the importance of being "free from distraction." But the stakes are higher than that. We need to be freed from distraction. We need the spiritual power to give our undivided attention to that which truly makes a difference, not only here and now, but also in eternity. A life focused on all the right things is only possible because of a Savior who is always focused on us. On the Day of Pentecost, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to give his followers power and focus. Still today, through his Word, Jesus grants those gifts to his disciples.

We have come to the second half of the Church Year. In the first half, we focused on the life of Christ. In this second half, we turn our attention to all the teachings of Christ. May we give them our undivided attention.

Today's Worship: On a Neighbor 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. If someone is focused, every decision about how to spend time and resources is calculated. Apart from Christ that type of focus spells disaster for our neighbor. We may dismiss the needs of our neighbor thinking, "If I spend time helping him, that will distract me from other things that need my attention." This week, Jesus teaches us that he has set us free to live a life of such distraction. No matter the neighbor and no matter his need, we are free to give him our undivided attention, even if that seems senseless. Christ has set us free to bear any cost and go any distance to serve a neighbor as Christ himself would serve them.

Divine Service I

Our Path for Worship

Minister: My soul finds rest in God alone;

Congregation: My salvation comes from him.

Psalm 62



He alone is my rock and my salvation;

He is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

We worship today in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

CW731 | *Oh, How Good It Is*

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

My salvation and my honor depend on God;

He is my mighty rock, my refuge.

Trust in him at all times, O people;

Pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

All: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, hear the word of Christ through his called servant: All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

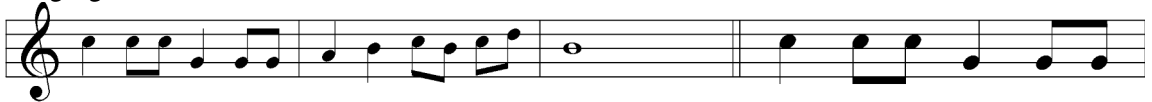
Amen. Thanks be to God for his amazing grace.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glory to God

Gloria in Excelsis

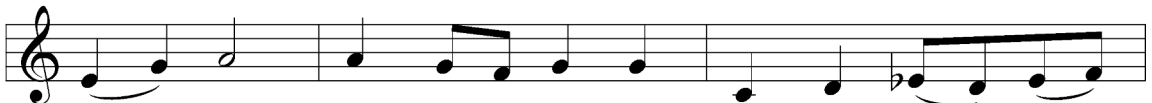
Congregation



Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -

ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

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.

First Reading

Ruth 1:1–19A

Ruth cared for her mother-in-law, even though it meant leaving her people and her way of life behind

¹In 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. ²The 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.

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

⁶When 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. ⁷With 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.

⁸Then 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. ⁹May 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 ¹⁰and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people."

¹¹But 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? ¹²Return 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—¹³would 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!"

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

¹⁵"Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."

¹⁶But 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. ¹⁷Where 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.” ¹⁸When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

¹⁹So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 25 | To You, O LORD, I Lift My Soul

Second Reading

Galatians 5:1,13–25

Those who have been set free from the law by Christ naturally bear fruit that benefits their neighbor

¹It 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.

¹³You, 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. ¹⁴For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

¹⁶So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For 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. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and 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.

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Sentences

Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart
and wait for the LORD.

Gospel Reading

Luke 10:25–37

In a well-known parable, Jesus teaches us how one loves their neighbor

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

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

²⁷He 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.’**

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

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

³⁰In 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. ³¹A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³²So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴He 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. ³⁵The 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.’

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

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

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Children's Message

All children are invited to join Pastor at the front of the sanctuary for a message based on today's sermon, specifically designed for them! If it would help the children would feel more comfortable, an adult is welcome to come up with them.

Children's Church

Children ages 3-5 can be dismissed to the kitchen classroom for Children's Church. Children will return from Children's Church to the sanctuary after the conclusion of the sermon.



Hymn of the Day

CW767 | Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Kolander

“Living a Fruit-Filled Life”

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Create in Me a Pure Heart

Congregation

Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your



Thank Offering

Guests: This is the moment in our worship when members and friends of Victory Lutheran respond to God's good news with gifts to support his saving work in Jacksonville, St. Johns County, and beyond. If you are our guest today, you are welcome to participate in this offering, but don't feel forced to! You can also give an online thank offering by using the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.



Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder and drop it in the basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.

Offertory

Still Waters | **Leanna Crawford**



Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Brief intercessory prayers may be added

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

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.

Blessing

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.

Closing Hymn

CW506 | *For the Fruits of His Creation*



Serving in Worship

Pastor

Accompanist

Vocalist

Rev. Jonathan Kolander

Ms. Jeanine Heller

Mrs. Jenny Kolander

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.



MY WORSHIP NOTES



For children to use during worship.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

What is the name of the church season or special day today? _____

What is the color of the church today? Circle one:

Blue White Purple Red Green

The Sermon Text Was: _____

This is in the: ☐ Old Testament ☐ New Testament



What was the sermon about? _____



My favorite song today was:



Did we have a Sacrament today?



Baptism?

☐ Yes
☐ No



Communion?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Draw a picture of something you heard or saw today:

What did you learn about God today?

Upcoming Service Themes



| | |
|---------|--|
| July 20 | On the One Thing Needful |
| July 27 | On the Privilege and Purpose of Prayer |
| Aug. 3 | On Useful Resources |
| Aug. 10 | On Heavenly Treasure |

For reflection based on today's Scripture readings...

- 1st: Review the cause for heartache in this Reading. What makes Ruth's decision to go stand out to us (multiple answers)? How is God's mercy reflected even in heartache? Read Psalm 119:1–16.
- 2nd: How does Paul set the tone for what is said in chapter 5? If you love God, you will... (finish the thought). Your answer to that one is important because...? Which fruit do you know for sure you need to improve on? See 1 Peter 1:1–11.
- 3rd: How can one avoid the pit of self-righteousness while also avoiding the pit of thinking they cannot do anything right? See James 2.



Sunday Service Times

8:00am Worship

9:15am Bible Class and Sunday School

10:30am Worship with Livestream

Contact Information

Brad Smith, Office Manager — (904) 642-8900
office@victorylutheran.org

Jonathan Kolander, Pastor — (414) 510-0971
pastork@victorylutheran.org

Katie Seelman, Preschool Director — (904) 955-1926
director@victorylutheran.org

Jarrett Mielke, Staff Minister — (941) 735-6962
jmielke@victorylutheran.org

Victory is a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

