

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Mary, Mother of Our Lord Sunday & Church Picnic Day
Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons 2026 and FOLK Hymnal



INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

Mary's role is not limited to giving birth to Jesus and mothering him in his childhood. In John's gospel, she is among the women standing near the cross; in Acts, she is among the disciples awaiting the gift of the Spirit. Through all that happened she continued to see how God was at work through her son, keeping the ancient promises to her ancestors, brushing aside the rich and powerful, and focusing on those as poor and powerless as Mary herself.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

GATHERING

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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: FOLK # 4 “Pass It On”

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in choosing the virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the poor, the lowly, and the despised. Grant us grace to receive your word in humility, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated as the children come forward.

Children’s Time

THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 61:7-11

The prophet proclaims a hopeful message: God loves justice and will make an everlasting covenant with Israel and her descendants. In response, the prophet sings a joyful song, like Mary many generations later, about God’s mercy and salvation.

- ⁷ Because their shame was double
and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot,
therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion;
everlasting joy shall be theirs.
- ⁸ For I, the Lord, love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
- ⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
- ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;
my whole being shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.



Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 34:1-9 (Read Responsively)

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord. (Ps. 34:3)

- ¹ I will bless the Lord at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.
² **I will glory in the Lord;**
let the lowly hear and rejoice.
³ Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
let us exalt God's name together.
⁴ **I sought the Lord, who answered me**
and delivered me from all my terrors.
⁵ Look upon the Lord and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.
⁶ **I called in my affliction, and the Lord heard me**
and saved me from all my troubles.
⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear the Lord
and delivers them.
⁸ **Taste and see that the Lord is good;**
happy are they who take refuge in God!
⁹ Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord,
for those who fear the Lord lack nothing.



Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

In the promise of the Incarnation, Jesus Christ embodies God's mother-father heart, in love claiming people as adopted children.

⁴ When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation: FOLK # 60 "Allelu" Refrain, Verse 1, Refrain.

Gospel: Luke 1:46-55

The Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Mary's song, the Magnificat, serves as a thematic anthem for God's work in the world and therefore for the ministry of her son, Jesus. In Mary's praise we hear of a saving God who remembers the humble, scatters the proud, lifts up the lowly, and fulfills all things.

- ⁴⁶ Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name;
⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
 and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things
 and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”



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

Please be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Steven Kuhl

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day: FOLK # 12 “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

The 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

Pastor: United with the great cloud of witnesses throughout the ages, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Guide your church in the path of obedience to your word. Strengthen the ministry of all who respond to your call to service in this and every generation. Empower us to bear Christ's presence into the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Watch over the earth and teach us to live in harmony with all creation. Rebuild environments damaged by disaster or neglect. Nurture and sustain gardens, fields, and orchards. Bring forth abundant harvests in due season. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Cultivate peace among nations and turn us away from warfare and violence. Cast down all forms of injustice, and lift up the ways of compassion and peace. Protect those who have left their homes in search of safety for their families. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Look with favor upon those in need. Raise up those who are weak. Fill the hungry with good things. Bless mothers and all who care for children. Comfort the grieving and heal the sick especially those we name aloud or in our hearts. (*A brief silence*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire the work of hymnwriters, poets, and musicians. Fill us with hope and a sense of wonder as we ponder the mysteries of your word. Open our hearts to rejoice in you and proclaim your greatness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With thanksgiving, we remember Mary and all those who have gone before us in the faith. Inspire us by their witness and bring us, together with them, into your eternal kingdom to dwell with you forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor: In the company of your saints, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal mercy and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.



The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words. The assembly is seated.

OFFERING – Collection of our offerings.

Background Music only, during Offering FOLK # 68 “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray, together.

Loving God,

we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.**

THE MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE – for the Season of Pentecost

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
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 all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS: FOLK # 75 “Blessed Be the Name” Verses 1 & 2.

The Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.



Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast! Come.

Please be seated and wait to come forward for Holy Communion after the singing of The Lamb of God song.

LAMB OF GOD: FOLK # 34 “Kum Bah Yah” Verses 1 and 4.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: FOLK # 118 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

*After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands. The presiding minister may say a table blessing; the assembly responds **Amen.***

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray, together.

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
Amen.

Altar flowers in
celebration of
Margaret Duris'
birthday!



SENDING HYMN: FOLK # 24 “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

THE DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Today's Lay Leaders

Lector: Katie Schmidt
Ushers: John and Kathy Imp
Communion Assistant: Sandy Ringwall
Altar Guild: Deanna Posig
Altar Guild for Wednesday Evenings: Joann Voegeli and Joyce Weinert
Music & Worship Coordinator: Barb Regent

Adoration Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America
3840 West Edgerton Avenue
Greenfield, WI 53221
Phone: 414.281.0414

Web site: www.adorationlc.com

e-mail: adorationlutheran@gmail.com

Pastor Steve Kuhl, Interim Pastor

Crystal A. Roider, Office Manager