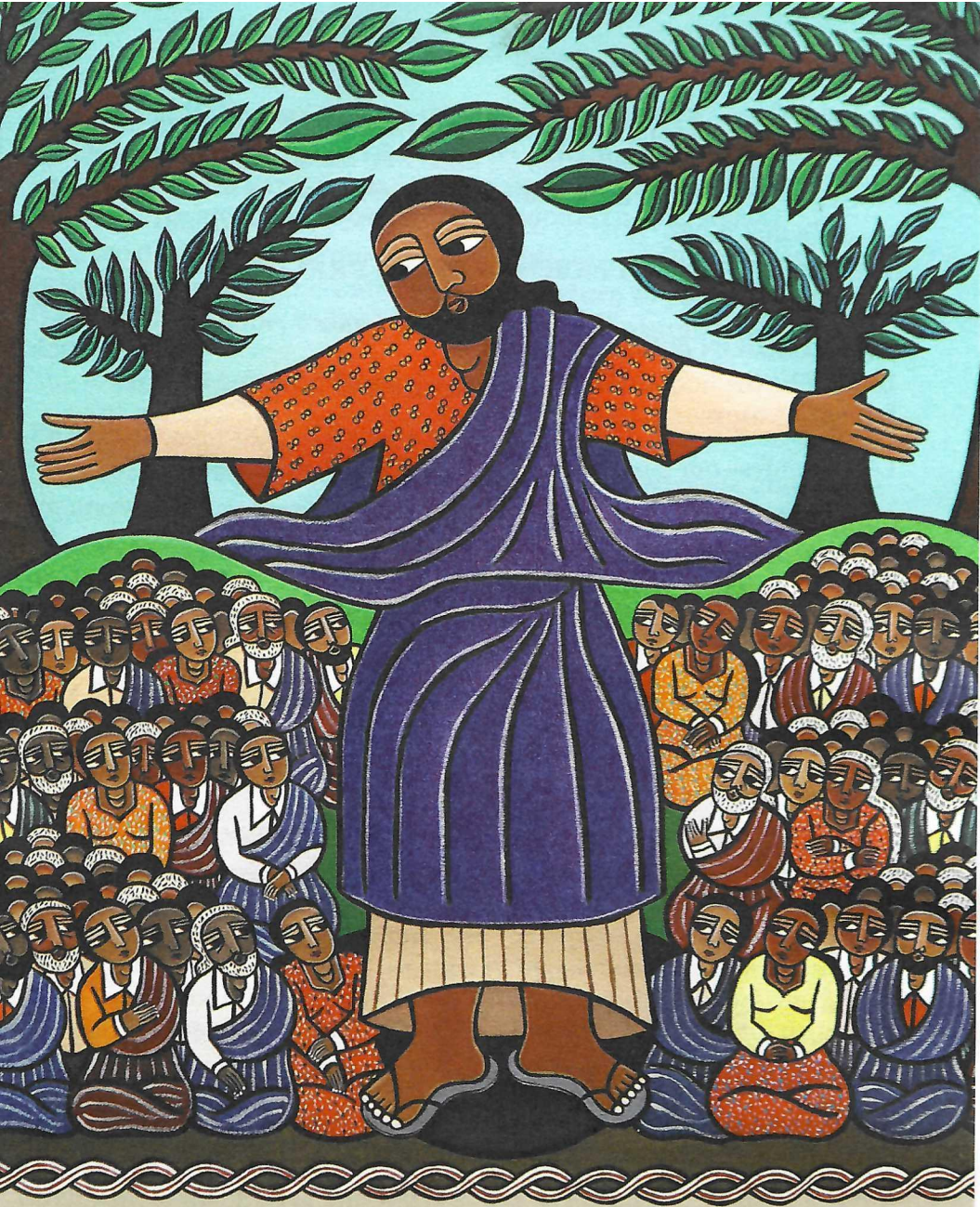




I will give you rest

MATTHEW 11:28

FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

6th Sunday After Pentecost ✠ July 5, 2026

*Indicates for the congregation to stand if you are able.

Congregation responses are printed in **bold print**.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS and PRELUDE

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Let us confess our sin to God.

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." Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

*HYMN "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" P. 10

*PRAYER OF THE DAY (Spoken)

Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

*HYMN OF PRAISE "Praise to the Father" (Sung)
Praise to the Father for his loving kindness, Tenderly caring for his erring children; Praise him, all angels; praise him in the heaven; Praise to the Father!

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.

The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who 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! The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

***GOSPEL:** Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. ***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."

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

CHILDREN'S AND CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE, Pastor Barry Spatz.

HYMN "Creator Spirit" P. 28

PRAYERS** God of Grace, ***hear our prayer.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** (Sung)
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** (Spoken)

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.*** Lift your hearts. ***We lift them to the Lord.*** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

***PREFACE**

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY" (Spoken)

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.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***LORD'S PRAYER** (Spoken)

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

Follow the instructions of the Ushers.

***COMMUNION PRAYER**

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

***BLESSING**

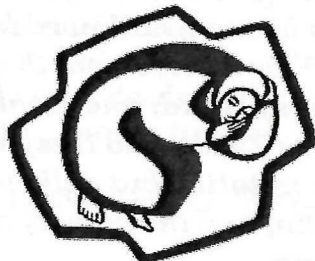
***CLOSING HYMN** "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" P. 51

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

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I will give you rest, Matthew 11:28

Website: [HTTPS://www.thefriedenslutheran.com](https://www.thefriedenslutheran.com)

Church e-mail: friedenslutheran4@gmail.com

Designated Pastor: Pastor Lee A. Diefenderfer, 1295 Red Dale Road,
Orwigsburg, PA 17961, 610-858-4136

Council President: Ed Tietsworth, (570) 292-1061

Calendar

Today – Pastor Barry Spatz, with Holy Communion.

July 12 – Lisa Maurer.

Announcements

July 7 – HVACF Mtg., 6:30 PM.

July 8 – Council Mtg., 6:00 PM.

August 15 – Rick Kline Softball Tournament – Team Feisty, Hegins Park.

August 23 – Church Picnic, Sunday School Room.

August 25 – Worship & Music Mtg., 5:30 PM.

Prayer Corner

Rick Herring; David Merwine; Terry Schwartz; Saralinn Grantz; Linda, Lee & Jared Kiefer; Dan & Mary Carol; Tracy Geist; Caitlyn Steppy; Chris Friendt; Lisa Sterner; Betty Lenker; Lori Heim; Butch Koppenhaver. Prayers for the Family and Friends of Karen Herring; Tommy Bressler; Randy Mayer; Eric Schalles.

Today's Leaders - Service, Pastor Barry Spatz Lay Assistant, Julie Klinger Lector, Damaris Merwine Counters, Janet & Ron Radel Head Usher, Mike Deiter Ushers, Larry Klinger, AJ Kline, Ann Miller.

Flowers – No Sponsors

Bulletin – No Sponsors.

Special Prayers – Please pray for Lucas Schwartz, Hope, Beau & April Bruso while they are on a mission trip to Kentucky. We pray for physical and spiritual protection as well as granting them the opportunity to serve with humility and love.

Thank You – We are thankful to the Worship & Music Committee for the candy bars for the fathers on Father's Day.

Volunteers 7/12/2026 – Service, Lisa Maurer Lector, Ann Miller Counters, Christy Leiter & Melody Schwartz Head Usher, Mike Deiter Ushers, Michael Allvord, Scott Allvord, Rick Herring.

Attendance: 30 (6/28/26) Offering:

June 7, 2026 – Current	\$1,358.00
Other	\$100.00
Total	\$1,458.00

Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,362.87

Invited

Jesus offers a comforting invitation, “Come to me,” amid a reflection on the mystery of God’s wisdom and the failure by some to recognize it. Instead of making the search for wisdom into a game of hide-and-seek, Jesus sheds any presumption that God’s wisdom belongs only to the elite or adventurous. He declares that the gift of wisdom is accessible and available not just for the smart or those who have earned it in some way; it is for the willing, the burdened, and the heavy-laden. Do not worry about going to find secret knowledge. No need to try harder to figure it out. Just receive his invitation to come.

But in our culture, with so much energy and attention devoted to what we can earn, how do we hear this simple invitation from Jesus? When we find that the wise and intelligent are no closer to obtaining this gift from God, does that give us pause? Is all the effort to find the hidden things Jesus is speaking about part of the burden he asks us to lay down? How can we experience the rest Jesus gives?

The expression “come to Jesus” has varied usage in the broader culture, but our gatherings for the Lord’s supper reveal something about Jesus’ invitation and God’s gifts. When we receive the sacrament, we acknowledge a gift given—one that we need. When we come forward, we may not fully understand exactly how receiving those elements is “coming to Jesus,” but the space is made. We can accept Jesus’ invitation without knowing its full implications. And while the invitation is personal, it also helps us recognize that the community is united in a common response.