

## Order of Worship for June 7, 2026

Prelude:

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

Opening Hymn: *"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"* - Hymn #575

**Confession and Absolution:** pg. 151

### Service of the Word

Entrance Psalm:

**P:** How great are Your works, O LORD!

**C:** **Your thoughts are very deep!**

**P:** The righteous flourish like the palm tree

**C:** **and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.**

**P:** They are planted in the house of the LORD;

**C:** **they flourish in the courts of our God.**

**P:** They still bear fruit in old age;

**C:** **they are ever full of sap and green,**

**P:** to declare that the LORD is upright;

**C:** **He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.**

**ALL:** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**P:** How great are Your works, O LORD!

**C:** **Your thoughts are very deep!**

**Kyrie:** (*Lord, Have Mercy*) pg. 152-3

**Hymn of Praise:** *"This is the Feast"* (p155)

**Salutation:** pg. 156

**Prayer of the Day:**

**P:** Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, instill in our hearts the love of Your name, impress on our minds the teachings of Your Word, and increase in our lives all that is holy and just; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen**

**Old Testament Lesson:** Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28

R: Fix these words of Mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth... See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse- the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Lesson:** Romans 3:21-28

R: But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice, because in His forbearance He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— He did it to demonstrate His justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia and Verse:** pg. 156**The Holy Gospel:** Matthew 7:15-29

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** (sung)

P: "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!' "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and

the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, because He taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.** (sung)

## Children's Message

**Sermon Hymn:** *"In Christ Alone"*-Norm (use screen)

**Sermon:** *"How Is Your House Built?"* - Matthew 7

How is your house built? My parents had a solidly built house made with mainly brick. But after living there 25 years, they found signs of termites. Fortunately, the pest company put our traps around their house. Though they had to be monitored year after year, the termites did no great harm to their house.

One thing we have had to face here at Memorial is how our building is built. The original building went up in 1940 which houses the student center and the gold rooms downstairs as well as the parsonage. It is still secure, but the fire company has told us that because of its wooden construction we need to keep all doors to it shut when not using it as a fire block because it is the easiest part of our building to start a fire. The 1957 structure which houses the main worship area and the fellowship hall downstairs and the most used part of our kitchen may have seemed more secure, but over 25 years ago we found out that it had to be restructured because concrete bits of the ceiling downstairs were falling down. We found out that our building was on such soft ground that they had to auger anchors used for securing lighthouses 70 deep into the ground. One hundred years ago the street to the west of us was not "Lynn Avenue," but aptly named "Swamp Road." We built an addition in 1990 for our offices, restrooms, and meeting rooms below the offices, but in the first installation we found out during heavy storms that the bathroom plumbing was connected to the sewer, not the sanitary. So, our toilets looked like Mt. Vesuvius. And when you think of all the times plumbers, electricians, HVAC workers, painters, roofers, carpet and floor layers have come to fix this place, just how well has it been built?

But Jesus wasn't really talking about buildings when He spoke the concluding words of the Sermon on the Mount. He used the comparison of the house built on the sand versus the house built on the rock, but the story is really about a life built on "me" and this world versus one built on Him.

So how are our lives built? How secure are we for the future? The big issue in this country now seems to be "affordability." Nearly half of people in American families cannot afford the true cost of living. Urban research finds 49 percent of people in American families don't have

the resources to cover essential expenses to live securely in their community. The cost of essential goods and services is rising faster than earnings. Since 2017, average earnings have grown about 43 percent nationwide. Over the same period, home sale prices have increased 81 percent and rent 54 percent. The lowest-cost Silver health plan on the Affordable Care Act Marketplace has risen 77 percent, and child care costs have grown dramatically. Rising everyday expenses, including energy and transportation, are adding new pressures on households. Residential electricity costs have increased faster than earnings across much of the country, leaving customers paying about \$40 more in December 2025 on average than they did in December 2017. Gas prices have also risen sharply, with the national average growing by \$1.00 per gallon since late February 2026. Affordability pressures are spreading beyond traditionally high-cost areas. So the emphasis is on having the funds to get beyond that and live securely. Are our lives being built then on Christ or what we have?

When I think of building, I picture the story of the “Three Little Pigs.” In it, three pigs each build a house. The first makes his house of straw, the second out of sticks, and the third out of bricks. When the Big Bad Wolf comes, he huffs and puffs and blows down the house of straw. He does this also with the house of sticks. But when he comes to the house built of bricks, no matter how he blows, the house stands secure. Finally, he decides to climb in through the chimney, but the pig has prepared underneath a pot of boiling water.

So what pig do you think you are? How well have we prepared our houses? On rock or sand?

Jesus directs us to what He means about “house building” when He talks about “hearing God’s Word and putting it into practice.” In the Old Testament the word for “hear” did not just mean “listening;” it meant responding. In the case of God’s Word “hearing” meant obedience. The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus giving us His insight into the Ten Commandments. In doing that He tells us that we are to “love our enemies” and “Be perfect, as Your Father in heaven is perfect.” Are we loving even our enemies? Are we perfect as God is? What kind of house are we building?

When Disney did their cartoon version of the “Three Little Pigs, the pig who built his house out of straw and the one who built his out of sticks, lost those homes. But the Big Bad Wolf does not eat them. Instead, they both escape to the house of the third pig whose house is built of bricks. Their houses are destroyed, but they are saved.

St. Paul talks about house building in 1 Corinthians 3:

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned

up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

So much of what we work hard for will not last. But our salvation does not depend on it. That depends completely on what Jesus has done for us. Hebrews 3:3 tells us, “Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself.” St. Paul says our bodies are the “temple of the Lord,” built by Jesus, not us. Our faith rests on what He did for us.

But what we do for Him, not because we have to, but because we want to as His people is lasting. Jesus put us on the rock of Himself so that what we do on that rock will remain, just as the house on the rock withstands the floods and wind. That motivates us to not sit on our faith, but to live it out. Think of how much more careful we are to do something if we want it to last.

Jesus illustrates this in His teaching on bearing fruit. Good fruit comes from good trees. How good we are bearing good fruit in our lives depends on us being good trees. And what makes trees good? It is the soil they are planted in, the moisture that gets to their roots, the sun that provides the energy for plants to make food to grow, that weather that avoids great extremes. We have been planted in the good soil and plenteous moisture, and sunshine of God’s grace to us in Christ Jesus. We are planted, not just to sit here, but to grow. We can be like that third pig whose house was built of brick who can provide shelter for the other two. We can use the firm foundation of Jesus to provide a base for us to reach out and help others drowning in the high waters of life because their houses have been built on sand.

**Installation of New Officers:**

**Sharing Our ministry:**

**Creed: Close of the Commandments** pg. 322

**Prayer of the Church:** (P: Lord, in Your mercy . . . C: **Hear our prayer**)

**Offering-Voluntary**

### **Service of the Sacrament**

**Preface:** pg. 160

P: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should in all times and in all places give thanks to You, almighty God, heavenly Father, for You have placed us on the firm foundation of Your Word, Your Son, Christ Jesus. Built on Him we are safe from all the storms of life which would try to separate us from You. Therefore with angels and all the armies of heaven we praise and make great Your holy name, evermore praising You and singing . . .

**Sanctus:** (“*Holy, Holy, Holy*”): pg. 161

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

P: Blessed are You Lord God, King of the universe for You sent Your Son Christ Jesus to die for us and raised Him from death so that we can rest securely on Him forever. Send us Your Holy Spirit so that we come to His supper trusting that He gives us His true body and blood for the forgiveness of all our sins. All this we pray as He taught us to pray . . .

**The Lord's Prayer:****The Words of our Lord:**

**Pax Domini** (*"Peace of the Lord"*) **and Agnus Dei** (*"Lamb of God"*) pg. 163

**Distribution:**

**Hymns:** *"How Firm a Foundation"* – **Hymn #728**

*"Your Table I Approach"* – **Hymn #628**

**Song After Communion:** *"Thank the Lord"* pg. 164

**Prayer After Communion:**

P: Lord God of all nations, You have revealed Your will to Your people and promised Your help to us all. Help us to hear and do what You command, that the darkness may be overcome by the power of Your light, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Benediction:** pg. 166

**Closing Hymn:** *"Christ Is Our Cornerstone"* - **Hymn #912**

**Postlude:**