



A Welcoming Christ-Centered Community
11223 – 51 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T6H 0L5
Ph: 780-434-4012
Email: church@holyspiritlutheran.ca
Website: www.holyspiritlutheran.ca
Facebook: Holy Spirit Lutheran Church



August 16, 2026 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Service of the Word & Faith Story Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Liz Bell
Assisting Minister: Belynda Kelleher
Ministers: Every member
Ushers: Bart P & Harry W

Council President: Karen Oko
Musician: Jared Samborski
Video/Live Stream: Anton Chell
Worship Host: Kathy Kwasnitza

Welcome

Call to Worship – “For Everyone Born”

Children’s Time

First Reading Deuteronomy 6:4-7

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

Psalm 67 Read responsively

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God’s face shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ The earth has brought forth its increase;

God, our own God, has blessed us.

⁷ May God give us blessing,

and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading 2 Timothy 1:3-10

³ I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. ⁸ Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Gospel Verse - Now the Feast and Celebration Liturgy

Gospel Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Faith Story: Suzi P & Jerome B

Song of the Day *‘God we Gather as Your People* (ACS 1038) vs 1,3,4

New Creed

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Prayers of Intercession

*In our prayers: Gertie B, Carl C, Susan K, Dorothea K, Cody M,
Brendan S, Pr. Erin T, Shirley E, Faye P, Pr. Rod A, Carola U,
Darlene & Randy F, Anna E, Pathma D, Brenda K, and those
we hold dear in our hearts.*

Peace

Offertory “*Come to Me, All You Who are Weary*” Liturgy of the Beloved

Offering Prayer

Lord’s Prayer – Reconciling Works

**Our Mother and Father, our beloved parent,
in whom we move and breathe and have our being,
the hallowing of your name shines forth
in the diversity of your children.
May your peace and love, justice and equality,
inclusion and belonging reign here on earth as in heaven.
Along with ourselves, grant that God’s beloveds who have been
marginalized might have their daily needs met—that they might
find gainful employment without discrimination;
that they might have access to medical care without fear;
that they might have their rights and lives protected,
and that they might find a loving community to belong to
and call their own. Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short
and failed so many of your children. Forgive us of the times we
turned away, or did not care; For the times we laughed or judged
unique expressions of your image; for the times we have misspoken,
asked too much, or failed to hear as we forgive those who might
have failed us. Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent in
the face of injustice. But instead give us courage to stand up and
stand with your beloved children. For your love and justice is to be
made manifest now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

Community Life

Sending Song *'Spirit, Open My Heart'* (ACS 1043) ref, vs 2, ref

Dismissal

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