



WEEKLY WORSHIP

love all ● live spiritually ● rejoice in hope ● show hospitality

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Week of June 28, 2026
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Community Prayer

Ruler of the universe, you call us to radical loyalty beyond all earthly claim. Grant us strength to offer ourselves to you as people who have been raised from death to life through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: Let us sing of God’s steadfast love forever;

Many: With my mouth I will proclaim God’s faithfulness to all generations.

One: Let us declare that God’s steadfast love is established forever;

Many: God’s faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Romans 7:15-25a

Who Will Rescue Me?!

In Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 7, we see Paul "having a moment" that reminds me of the old cartoons where an angel is perched on one shoulder of a person, while a devil is perched on the other. And each one is trying to sway the person to follow *them*: the devil wants the person to do bad things and the angel wants the person to do good things, and the person is caught in-between. In verses 15-17, Paul says, "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me." And this circular line of thought continues on for a while. Paul sounds like someone who can't make heads or tails about something, and ultimately ends by saying "Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" We can all relate to Paul: I know what's right, but don't always do it; and I know what's wrong, but don't always avoid it. Help! But Paul concludes this section with a statement of hope: "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" He is the hope for all of us! Join us for worship Sunday--a chance to come into God's presence and praise him with glad adoration. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



Scripture Reading

Psalm 13

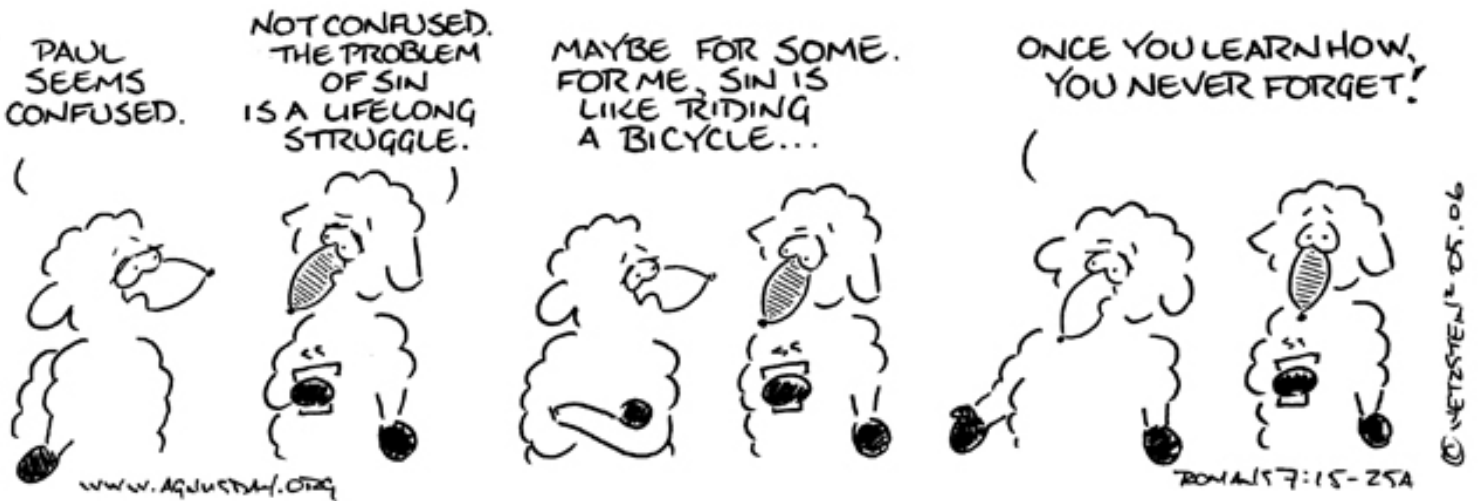
Romans 7:15-25a



“How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my

heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death, and my enemy will say, ‘I have prevailed’; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken. But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.”

“I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, 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. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”



Prayers & Praises

June 28, 2026



Song of the Week

In Our Church

Family:

- Donna Baker
- Cec Burkhart
- Joan Dietrich
- Monte Dietrick
- Polly Putney
- Bob Throop
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

Prayers for healing for Vince Ortega's sister, Linda De Los Santos, who has been diagnosed with liver cancer.

Prayers for Phyllis Thurber, who has been struggling with pneumonia for a while and was recently hospitalized for it and just had a stroke early Sunday morning. She is in the ICU. Prayers for healing and for her family.

Prayers for healing for Kristie Christianson's mom, Lucy Reuter-Masek, after a mild stroke.

Prayers for Monte Dietrick, for continued healing.

Prayers for Cec Burkhart for continued healing.

Prayers for Bob Throop for continued healing and strength.

Prayers for Roger Vocasek as he looks for a job.

Prayers for Jessica Stehlik-Vocasek for her health issues.

Prayers for Katelynn Long for continued healing and strength.

Friends:

- Ron Collamore, *prayers for his health.*

Our Timothy

- Rev. Bruce Frogge, *Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX*

In the Nebraska Region: Minden First Christian Church - Leaders

Our Global Ministries in: Laos

"Gracious and loving God, at this time, we remember the students from the Lao Evangelical Church who are currently engaged in theological training. We pray that they may complete their studies with joy and dedication, and that they may become faithful servants in your vineyard in Laos. Amen"

For more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners visit www.globalministries.org



Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.



JUNE

Call to Confession

One:

When we gather to praise our God, we know—whether we name it or not—that we are people who tend to choose our will over God’s. Seeking God’s power to transform us into new people in Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another, as we pray:

Prayer of Confession

Many:

It is never easy to confess our sins to you, Listening God. When we have a chance to speak up for the outsider, we too often join in sending them away into the wilderness of hopelessness. When we could shout good news to a needy world, our voices drop to a whisper. When we could abound in grace, we continue to wallow in wrongdoing. Forgive us, Lord, and have mercy on us. You lean over to listen to our words, and then to cast them into your sea of forgiveness. You show us the signs of hope, that we might point others to you. Help us remember, you save us when we cannot save ourselves.

Good News of God’s Grace

One:

Do not be afraid. God cherishes us. God treasures you. You are graced, you are forgiven, you are healed.

Many:

We will not keep this good news to ourselves. We will shout our hope from the rooftop of our hearts. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!
Amen.



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