



THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 20, 2025, 2025 | 8:00 AND 10:30 AM
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

More than sunlight streams through the windows of our sanctuary. The images in the stained-glass give us a picture of God's grace for us in Jesus. Throughout this series, we will review the symbols in our stained-glass windows and see in them the Good News of God's love and our salvation.

P Pastor **C** Congregation/All

✠ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.



Led by the Holy Spirit, we gather for worship.
We are prepared for worship through Confession and Absolution.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 691 *"Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing"*

BAPTISMS (10:30 am)

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS *Psalm 124:8; 32:5*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT | Entrance *Psalm 119:57–60, 64; antiphon: v. 105*

- P** Your word is a lamp to my feet
C and a light to my path.
P The LORD is my portion;
C I promise to keep your words.
P I entreat your favor with all my heart;
C be gracious to me according to your promise.
P When I think on my ways,
C I turn my feet to your testimonies;
P I hasten and do not delay
C to keep your commandments.
P The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;
C teach me your statutes.

GLORIA PATRI | Glory to the Father *For text and tune, see page 186.*

- C** (sung) Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

KYRIE | Lord, Have Mercy *Mark 10:47*

For text and tune, see page 186.

- C** (sung) Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS | Glory to God in the Highest *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

For text and tune, see pages 187–189.

- P** (sung) Glory be to God on high:
C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav’nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

For text and tune, see page 189.

P (sung) The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

VERSE OF THE MONTH *Philippians 3:13b–14*

C One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.



We hear God's Word read and proclaimed,
and we respond with our prayers and praise, tithes and offerings.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 18:1–14*

The LORD promises Abraham and Sarah will have a son despite their old age. When Sarah laughs at this news, the LORD asks Abraham, "Is anything too hard for the LORD?"

¹ The LORD appeared to [Abraham] by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, ⁵while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." ⁷And

Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." ¹⁰The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh

and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed

time I will return to you about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Colossians 1:21–29*

Saint Paul explains his ministry, how he suffers all in order to make known among the Gentiles the mystery of Christ.

²¹You, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

²⁴Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the

church, ²⁵of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE *For text with music, see page 190.*

C (sung) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 15:1–8*

Jesus says He is the vine, and tells His followers they are fruit-bearing branches.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear

fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the

branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and

withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED *See the inside back cover of the hymnal (8:00 am).*

SERMON HYMN “*Christ Is with Me*” (vocalist: v. 1; see insert.)

SERMON *Windows into God’s Grace: “The Vine”*

OFFERTORY *Psalm 51:10–12; for text and tune, see page 192.*

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

Music during the offering:

VOLUNTARY “*O Blessed Spring*” (vv. 1, 2, 5; see hymn 595.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The 10:30 am service concludes with the Lord's Prayer, Benediction, and Closing Hymn 919, "Abide, O Dearest Jesus."



We receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation
as we share the Sacrament of the Altar.

The 8:00 am service continues with the Preface on page 194 in the hymnal.

We believe that in the Lord's Supper our Lord gives to us His true body and blood with the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of our sins. We recognize the charge that St. Paul offers in 1 Corinthians 11:27–28 that those who come to receive the Lord's Supper ought to examine themselves so that they do not eat and drink in an unworthy manner. Therefore, out of concern for those who have not been instructed in the faith or who hold to a different confession, we ask that only members of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations receive the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more about what our congregation teaches, to inquire about becoming a member or have questions about our practice, please speak to one of the pastors. Adults and children who have not yet been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith are invited to come forward and receive a spoken blessing at the altar rail.

For those who have problems consuming alcohol, you are invited to receive diluted wine from the purple glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups. For those who have dietary restrictions, gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Music during distribution:

HYMN 474 "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"

HYMN 611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

HYMN 619 "Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior"



Even as this time of worship ends, we go out of the church into the worship
of our everyday lives, ready to be God's witnesses and do His will.

The service concludes with the Nunc Dimittis, Thanksgiving, Salutation and Bendicamus, and Benediction on pages 199–202.

CLOSING HYMN 919 "Abide, O Dearest Jesus"

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

This week's takeaway: Jesus is the vine. We are the branches. Branches connected to the vine bear fruit, it's just what branches do. Today Jesus very clearly shows us our identity, our purpose, and our whole life. We are His branches meant to abide deeply in His gifts of life and that life-giving connection will bear His Spirit's fruit. As much as this can be Law, it is very much a Gospel invitation. "Abide in me, and I in you." Jesus' abundant life is freely given! Abide in Him and He will bear fruit in you.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Liturgist*

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*

Myka Sullivan, *Soloist (8:00 am)*

Claire Martens, Evelyn Pottschmidt, *Vocalists (10:30 am)*

Jacob Beerman, Anthony Brandt, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*

Zoey Eckhoff, Amaya Shafer, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*

Eddie & Linda Kammeyer, *Greeters (8:00 am)*

Joe & Janice Blackburn, *Greeters (10:30 am)*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please contact the church office to keep our prayer list up-to-date.

Our pastor "on call" number in case of emergency is (660) 580-5483.

New: Betty Dedeke, Gary Inman, Joseph Haase, Rose Oetting, Robert Pottschmidt, Barbie Cowherd, Diane Heimsoth, James Hemme, Baby Felix, Rev. Dr. Les Mitkos, Gene Virus, Susan Reeves, Les Bruns

Ongoing: Harry Rehkop, Nolan Kirby, Jon Spells, Hudson Kloos, Joe Connell, Ron Cordes, Beth Maggert, Roger Kammeyer, Ledrue Brandt, Alyssa Pfannkuch, Alice Hildebrand, Donnie Fiene, Rev. Perry Copus, Marilyn Clayton, Darla Wolters, Vickie Greene, Amy Gerds, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Dannie Griffit, Lari Huntze, Johnny Cowherd, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball
Nation and World: the people of Nicaragua

Partners in Mission: Trinity Lutheran Church; Boonville, MO and Rev. Dr. Peter Kurowske; Mission of Christ Network

Birthdays: (7/20) Kelly Frerking, Nathan McCaslin, Phyllis Mieser, David Rehmsmeyer; (7/21) Kayla Clouse, Matthew Drefs, Susan Jaster, Faith Moore, Kaleb Virus; (7/22) Erin Beerman, August Drefs, Todd Martens; (7/23) Karen Bauer, Sarah (Jeff) Heins, Norma Iserman, Jennifer McCaslin, Eric Ritzma; (7/24) Arleen Fiene, Brayden Frerking, Curtis Meyer; (7/25) Rhonda Denk, Brenda Frerking, Jameson Oetting, Rose Carlton-Wood; (7/26) Lee Harrington, Robin Kerksiek, Darlene Meyer, Logan Muehler, Jeffrey Schlueter
Anniversaries: (7/20) Larry & Grace Grass; (7/21) Randy & Sandra Hinck, William & Angela Ivie, Brad & Sarah Meineka; (7/22) Roger & Vickie Kirchhoff; (7/23) Mark & Susan Oetting; (7/24) Harland & Phyllis Mieser

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

I have been up in a twin-engine, six-passenger plane a few times with a former student of mine. For me, it was quite an exhilarating ride, but I have never flown in an aircraft of this size when it was foggy. I recently witnessed a video as my former student landed his plane safely down the middle of an airstrip in very dense fog. His father took the video, as he was a passenger on the plane. I remember my former student and his dad talking about types of landings such as these. They said that it is very easy to become disoriented and want to default to what you “feel” is up or down, but you can’t always trust what your feelings are telling you because sometimes they are wrong. So true. My former student relies heavily upon his instrument panel and the readings that it gives him to navigate his plane safely and performs safety checks on equipment regularly. Left to his own devices, his sight, and feelings of what seems correct, he could be led astray and the landing could most certainly be fatal. Applying this to our life as a Christian, our feelings and faith collide with one another at different points in our lives. What we feel can most certainly lead us astray and not give us “true” readings. Our instrument panel is God’s Word. That is what gives us guidance as to which way is up. That is our “true” instrument panel. There will be turbulence, there will be inclement weather, there will be dense fog as we travel through this life; we know that. So let’s keep ourselves tuned into our Heavenly Father and His Word, going there often for guidance and strength, flying forward with confidence knowing that He is right beside us daily. “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK’S WORSHIP

Jeremiah 17:7–14; Hebrews 10:19–25; Mark 7:14–23

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 915, 563, 431, 606, 560, 704

“Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity.”

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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