



THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 | 10:30 AM
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

God is faithful. It is one of His attributes. Unlike humanity, He is completely and perfectly faithful. As God's children, we are called to live lives of faithfulness, just as He has been faithful to us. This deep-rooted trust in God's provision and redemption calls us to find fullness in Christ and empty ourselves into His discipleship.

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 707 *"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"*

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS *Psalm 124:8; 130:3–4*

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 119:28–32; antiphon: v. 27*

- P** Make me understand the way of your precepts,
C **and I will meditate on your wondrous works.**
P My soul melts away for sorrow;
C **strengthen me according to your word!**
P Put false ways far from me
C **and graciously teach me your law!**
P I have chosen the way of faithfulness;
C **I set your just decrees before me.**
P I cling to your testimonies, O LORD;
C **let me not be put to shame!**
P I will run in the way of your commandments
C **when you enlarge my heart!**
C **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 Make me understand the way of your precepts,
C **and I will meditate on your wondrous works.**

KYRIE | Lord, Have Mercy *Mark 10:47; for text with tune, see page 204.*

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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS | Glory to God in the Highest *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*
For text with tune, see page 204.

- C** (sung) To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high—

For You alone are holy, You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us
all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who

lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

VERSE OF THE MONTH *Isaiah 49:13*

C Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.



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

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 30:15–20*

The Lord tells His people to choose life by obeying His commandments.

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today,

that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Philemon 1–21*

Rather than ordering Philemon to let his runaway slave Onesimus go free, Saint Paul appeals to him on the basis of the Gospel.

¹Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker
²and Apphia our sister and Archippus
our fellow soldier, and the church in
your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our

Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, ⁶and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the

full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. ⁷For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

⁸Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—

¹⁰I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹(Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹²I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that

your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will. ¹⁵For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.

¹⁸If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self.

²⁰Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE *John 20:31; for text with music, see page 205.*

C (sung) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**These things are written that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 14:25–35*

Jesus tells His followers of the cost of discipleship. Those who follow Him must give up all other allegiances.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁵Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not bear

his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to

mock him, ³⁰saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?

³²And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and

asks for terms of peace. ³³So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

³⁴“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?

³⁵It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED *See the inside back cover of the hymnal.*

SERMON HYMN 688 “‘Come, Follow Me,’ the Savior Spake”

SERMON *Faith-FULL: “Disciples”*

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

Music during the offering:

ANTHEM “Make a Joyful Noise” by Kenneth T. Kosche
(Students of St. Paul’s Lutheran School)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.



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

The service continues with the Preface on page 208 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; please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest.

For those who require it, diluted wine is found in the purple glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups; gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Music during distribution:

VOLUNTARY “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” setting by Arthur Fliege

HYMN 851 “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

HYMN 783 “Take My Life and Let It Be”

HYMN 427 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

HYMN 828 “We Are Called to Stand Together”



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, Post-Communion Collect, and Benediction on pages 211–212.

CLOSING HYMN 685 “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God!

This week’s takeaway: What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? Jesus says in Luke 14 that He must be the priority, the focus, and the goal of life! But wait ... He also says we have to hate our families? What is Jesus getting at

here? Discipleship. Jesus is more important than comfort, success, family, and our very lives. Without Jesus in that primary position, all those things we are tempted to cling to will be lost to us in the end. So, He tells all who would follow Him to count the cost, to choose who we will serve, to throw down all idols, cast off all hindrances, to give up everything ... and in Jesus, be given far more than we could ever hope for or desire.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Liturgist*

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*

Rachel Martens, *SPLS Choir Director*

Annabelle Walsh, *Violin*

Jacob Matisko, Evan Rankin, *Acolytes*

Tim & Karen Bauer, *Greeters*

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: Bobbie Poesse, Lisa Arnett, Wilmer Ziegelbein, Ricky Flandermeyer, Ron Roepe, Joyce Kroll, Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan, Barbie Cowherd, Diane Heimsoth, James Hemme, Baby Felix, Rev. Dr. Les Mitkos, Gene Virus, Susan Reeves, Les Bruns
Ongoing: Robert Pottschmidt, 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, Darla Wolters, Vickie Greene, Amy Gerds, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Dannie Griffit, Lari Huntze, Johnny Cowherd, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball

Celebration: Roger & Barb Bushman, 65th wedding anniversary

Nation and World: the people of Panama

Partners in Mission: Immanuel Lutheran Church; Jamestown, MO and Rev. Dr. Peter Kurowski; Lutheran Bible Translators

Birthdays: (9/7) Jennifer Clayton, Saylor Hentges, Bill Ivie, Konner McKnight, Helen Rehkop, Leslie Spells; (9/8) Lauryn Bonar, Beth Hoppman, Peter Willams; (9/9) Randy Langewisch, Marjorie Storck, Robert Tebbenkamp; (9/10) Janice Kirchhoff, Sharon Riesterer, Larry Schnakenberg; (9/11) Emma Cooper, Walter Finley; (9/12) Joyce Beerman, Jonathan Haase, Tina Oetting, Karsyn Steinkuhler; (9/13) Brett Brackman, Raymond Nold, Christina St. John

Anniversaries: (9/7) Dennis & Sandra Oetting; (9/8) Donnie & Joan Hemme; (9/10) Roger & Barbara Bushman; (9/13) Ron & Kim Roepe

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

I have seen a common theme in a few of my devotions this week. One talked about doors to opportunity and the other talked about how God can use our trials to enable us to walk alongside others. The common thread that I see between the two are faith and persistence to continue forward, and my dear friends, that motivation and desire to continue forward can only come through the strength that Christ can give. Opportunity can be just around the corner, but most often this comes with great challenges, challenges that call for faith and persistence. Paul knew this. He writes about the challenges he faced in his missionary journeys, but also the great opportunities that the Lord provided. Because of going through these challenges, doors were opened. Sometimes we are in the middle of something that looks totally insurmountable questioning how in the world we will make it through. The “doors” analogy especially resonates with me because I vividly remember a point in my life when I was begging God to shut the doors to paths that I did not need to travel down and open the doors to the ways in which He would have me go because I had no clue as to which way was up. God can use our mess to proclaim His message, and He can open doors to opportunities that we would have missed had we not gone through the challenges. What are you struggling with today? Seek your Savior and ask for His guidance and strength to persevere. God is preparing you and equipping you. Opportunities very rarely come without challenges. Lean heavily upon His Word. *“But you, Lord, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me.”* Psalm 22:19

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK’S WORSHIP

Ezekiel 34:11–24; 1 Timothy 1:5–17; Luke 15:1–10

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 711, 740 (*My First Hymnal* 123), 641, 609, 625, 710



“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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