



THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 | 8:00 AND 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 782 *"Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings"* (choir: v. 2)

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 119:137–140, 142; antiphon: v. 144*

- P** Your testimonies are righteous forever;
C give me understanding that I may live.
P Righteous are you, O LORD,
C and right are your just decrees.
P You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness
C and in all faithfulness.
P My zeal consumes me,
C because my foes forget your words.
P Your promise is well tried,
C and your servant loves it.
P Your righteousness is righteous forever,
C and your law is true.
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 Your testimonies are righteous forever;
C give me understanding that I may live.

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 Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You
we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things

profitable to our salvation; 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 *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.

ANTHEM *"Let Us Give Our Thanks Together" by Douglas Nolan (10:30 am)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Amos 8:4–7*

The prophet Amos warns God's people: do not misuse your wealth and neglect the poor and needy, for God will not ignore this injustice.

⁴Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, ⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and

deal deceitfully with false balances, ⁶that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Timothy 2:1–15*

Saint Paul encourages prayers for all people. The second half of the reading goes on to explain how men and women relate to one another as they love and serve the Lord.

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the

knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; ⁹likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. ¹¹Let a woman learn

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

quietly with all submissiveness. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

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 16:1–15*

Jesus tells the parable (story) of the shrewd manager who quickly renegotiates his business affairs in order to provide for himself when he loses his job.

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus] also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ²And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ ³And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He said, ‘A hundred measures

of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’

⁷Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’

⁸The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹If then you have not been

faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?

¹²And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

and money.”

¹⁴The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

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

SERMON HYMN 781 *“We Give Thee But Thine Own”*

SERMON *Faith-FULL: “Stewards”*

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

Music during the offering (8:00 am):

ANTHEM *“Let Us Give Our Thanks Together” by Douglas Nolan*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

The 10:30 am service concludes with the Lord's Prayer, Benediction, and Closing Hymn 786, “Lord of All Good.”





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 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:

HYMN 842 “Son of God, Eternal Savior”

HYMN 785 “We Praise You, O God”

HYMN 788 “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness”



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 786 “Lord of All Good”

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God!

This week's takeaway: The Parable of the Dishonest Manager is a hard nut to crack. What is Jesus saying here? Is He commending this guy for cheating his master? As we slowly wade through Jesus' words, a shocking two-part stewardship message rises to the surface: 1) Everything you have is a gift from God and 2) Everything you do relates to eternal life. As much as this does sound a warning to the hearer, for followers of Jesus, this is an encouragement and a promise.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Liturgist*

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*; Jacob Beerman, *Drum*

Benjamin Kuecker, Bryce Strobel, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*

Tytus Lark, Max Harrington, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*

Susan Flandermeyer, *Greeter (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: Diane Stumpenhous, Evelyn Kincaid, Bobbie Poese, 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

Death: Frances Brown, mother of Greg Brown

Celebration: Kyle Rainey and Hali Deatherage who will be united in marriage on September 27

Nation and World: the people of Paraguay

Partners in Mission: St. John Lutheran Church; Mexico, MO and Rev. Donaldo Sonntag; Lutheran Bible Translators

Birthdays: (9/21) Jacob Hunter, Myrna Olson, Millie Rose, Clinton Stunkel, Tom Zapp; (9/22) Pamela Bruns, Andrew Frerking, Jeanie Peterson, Kaylee Petty; (9/23) Ethan McKeage, Annika Pottschmidt; (9/24) Gary Beissenherz, Katherine Drefs,

Micah Gerdt, Vickie Hemme, Steven Oetting, Chris Virus; (9/25) Stephen Bredehoeft, Candy Poese, Lincoln Renno; (9/26) Robert Engle, Grace Grass, Reece Inman, Mark Krause, Caleb Rodewald, Cindy Tolias; (9/27) Greg Brown
Anniversaries: (9/21) Mark & Britlin Patschke; (9/23) Corey & Brittany Meineka; (9/24) Adam & Rebecca Inman, Larry & Alice Schnakenberg; (9/25) Christopher & Janna Hess

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

“I give up. I just don’t see how this is going to work, and I can’t press forward any longer.” Have you been there? I have. It’s usually when I’m tired or haven’t taken the time to read words of truth. I’m feeling overwhelmed by the daily demands that life places upon me and then something unexpected comes crashing down. Times like these are when I know that I have to take a step back and look at things a little differently. Have I prayed about it? What really are my priorities? What can I focus on to bring some clarity to this picture? Praying for guidance is SO important because some things are definitely worth pushing through even if they are trying you to the limits. What we don’t realize when we are in the middle of the mess is that there are blessings awaiting us on the other side. We don’t always recognize that when our life is turning upside down, nor are we always ready to listen to what God has to say. I think back to Joshua when God told him to march around Jericho for six days and on the seventh day march around it seven times with the priests blowing horns and the army shouting and the walls will fall (Joshua 6). What kind of a battle plan was that? Jericho was no “push over” city. It was fortified. What kinds of thoughts do you think were going through the Israelites heads on day six when apparently not a single brick or stone had fallen from this great wall of Jericho? Now think back to your life. How many times have you missed the blessing because you have stopped too soon? God most certainly did give Jericho over to the Israelites just as He said He would in Joshua 6:2b, “And the Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor.” Advice for the week...Keep walking by faith. *“So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.” Hebrews 10:35-36 (NIV)*

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK’S WORSHIP

Amos 6:1–7; 1 Timothy 6:6–19; Luke 16:19–31
Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 908, 708, 585,
725 (*My First Hymnal* 122), 732, 728

“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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