



THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 12, 2026 | 8:00 AND 10:30 AM
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

These summer months take us through the heart of the Gospel according to St. Matthew (selections from chapters 11–16), and in these texts we learn more about the heart of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our compassionate Savior invites us to “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28 ESV). What is the kind of life and rest Jesus invites us to experience with Him as He reigns as our Savior King? *This is Part 7 of a year-long series, “A Year in Matthew.”*

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 586 *“Preach You the Word”*

BAPTISM OF KOHYN JACK FRERKING (10:30 am)

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 103:15–19; antiphon: v. 8*

P The LORD is merciful and gracious,

C **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P As for man, his days are like grass;

C **he flourishes like a flower of the field;**

P for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,

C **and its place knows it no more.**

P But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,

C **and his righteousness to children’s children,**

P to those who keep his covenant

C **and remember to do his commandments.**

P The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,

C **and his kingdom rules over all.**

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 The LORD is merciful and gracious,

C **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

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 Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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 *1 Chronicles 16:23–24*

C Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!



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

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 55:10–13*

The word of the Lord will not return to Him empty of any results; instead, God's word is productive, accomplishing His divine purpose.

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”



P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 8:12–17*

We have received the Spirit of God, making us God’s children, heirs of what He has promised.

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have

received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

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 *Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23*

Jesus tells the parable (story) of the sower to illustrate how the word of the kingdom of God works in the lives of people.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered

away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear. ...

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root

in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the

word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

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

SERMON HYMN 577 *“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”*

SERMON *The Heart of the Gospel: “Let Them Hear”*

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

INSTALLATION OF LEADERS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

The 8:00 am service concludes with the Lord's Prayer, Benediction, and Closing Hymn 921, “On What Has Now Been Sown.”



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

The 10:30 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 652 “*Father, We Thank Thee*”

HYMN 901 “*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*”

HYMN 584 “*Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing*”



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 921 “*On What Has Now Been Sown*”

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God!

This week’s takeaway: Let them hear! The seed of God’s Word is to be sown generously and received deeply into our hearts through active, faithful listening. As we sow, we trust God will bring forth an abundant harvest in His perfect timing.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Liturgist*

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*

Lane Brackman, Chris Nienhiser, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*

Liam Clayton, Monty Montrey, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*

Stan & Kathryn Oetting, *Greeters (8:00 am)*

Ann Wolters, *Greeters (10:30 am)*

Tim Bauer, Mark Heins, Russ Kruse, *Elders on Duty*

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: Wilmer Ziegelbein, Arleen Feine, Trisha Boland, Annette Kirchhoff, Karol Meyer, Konner McKnight, Sarah McDaniel, Royce Herndon, Virgil Gramenz, Hudson Kloos, Nicole Maxwell, Lisa Arnett, Joyce Kroll, Rev. Dr. Les Mitkos

Ongoing: Rollie Beerman, Susan Reeves, Donald Dedeke, Richard Cordes, Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan, Diane Stumpenhous, Ken Wodrich, Les Bruns, Wilmer Bredehoeft, Melba Poese, Paul Brackman, Baby Felix, Gene Virus, Harry Rehkop, Jon Spells, Roger Kammeyer, Ledrue Brandt, Alyssa Pfannkuch, Alice Hildebrand, Donnie Fiene, Rev. Perry Copus, Darla Wolters, Vickie Greene, Amy Gerdts, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Lari Huntze, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball

Nation and World: the people of Turkmenistan

Partners in Mission: St. John Lutheran Church; Lohman, MO and Rev. Brian Whittle; Mission of Christ Network

Birthdays: (7/12) Beth Maggert, Lily Petty; (7/13) Bradley Meineka, Linda Meineka, Ann Wolters; (7/14) Sophia Frank, Colleen Gerdts, Christopher Nienhiser, Mary Nierman, Gail Tieman; (7/15) Linda Anderson, Julie Bickle, Joshua Brown, Barb Eckhoff, Truman Eckhoff, Carolyn Flandermeyer, Thomas Kirchhoff, Mary Moss; (7/16) Titus Drefs, Abigayle Hartwig, Marta Pitsch, Rustin Strobel, Jake Tagtmeyer, Dennis Tieman, Chloe Wells; (7/17) Isla Kurth; (7/18) Craig Poese

Anniversaries: (7/12) Steve & Christy Frerking; (7/14) Nathan & Ann Beissenherz; (7/15) Dobrivoj & Chloe Andrejic; (7/16) Walter & Judy Loeber; (7/17) Carl & Julie Bonar, Jacob & Emma Brandt, Mark & Melissa Grass, Brad & Judy Roepe; (7/18) Larry & Carolyn Graham, Josh & Ashlea Heimsoth, Ben & Katelyn Stuenkel

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

If you are serious about getting better at something or improving, there is no easy way. This ranges from developing better study habits all the way to work-related goals, and I daresay it also includes our spiritual life. You have to be willing to give something of yourself and invest some time and energy. I'm not promoting works righteousness, but what I am saying is that it is to our advantage to make a commitment. This past week, I have seen a few examples of people pursuing their goals investing time and energy into something they feel is important. They are committed and moving forward. What about our spiritual life? Is it not somewhat comparable? Can we expect our faith to grow stronger and mature if we just sit back and say, "Ok, God. Take it from here. I'll be back to visit with you in a few months." It is most certainly true that the Holy Spirit works faith in our hearts, and I never underestimate that power, but we who are Christians need to know what God's Word says by being in the Word. It's easy to make excuses about why we don't have time to pursue that relationship with our Savior. It's easy to make excuses for why we can't make time to worship with a body of believers. It's easy to say, "But that just takes more time and energy than what I have." You know what? It DOES take time and energy, and it takes being intentional. Christ has certainly won salvation for us on the cross; that is truth. It is because of this truth and faith in our Savior that we as Christians want to continue to pursue being strengthened in God's Word, cultivating that relationship, and then letting it overflow to those around us. "May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light." Colossians 1:11 & 12

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Isaiah 44:6-8; Romans 8:18-27; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 892, 585, 789, 820, 804, 923



"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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