



THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 26, 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 651 *“I Love Your Kingdom, Lord”*

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 105:2–6; antiphon: v. 1*

- P** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
C **make known his deeds among the peoples!**
P Sing to him, sing praises to him;
C **tell of all his wondrous works!**
P Glory in his holy name;
C **let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**
P Seek the LORD and his strength;
C **seek his presence continually!**
P Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
C **his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,**
P O offspring of Abraham, his servant,
C **children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**
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 Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
C **make known his deeds among the peoples!**

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 Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that,
receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded;

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 *Deuteronomy 7:6–9*

In His grace and love, God chose Israel to be His holy people and treasured possession. Nothing they could do or offer could win them that favored status.

⁶“You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is

keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 8:28–39*

Saint Paul asks, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” Nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus.

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he

called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

³³Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep

to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 13:44–52*

In a series of short parables (stories), Jesus helps His hearers understand the value and fulfillment of the kingdom of heaven.

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat

down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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

SERMON HYMN 743 *“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”*

SERMON *The Heart of the Gospel: “Priceless”*

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

*The 8:00 am service concludes with the Lord’s Prayer, Benediction,
and Closing Hymn 730, “What Is the World to Me.”*



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 732 *“All Depends on Our Possessing”*

HYMN 818 *“In Thee Is Gladness”*

HYMN 636 *“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”*



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 730 *“What Is the World to Me”*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

This week's takeaway: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like..." In interpreting Kingdom parables it is essential to remember what the Kingdom of Heaven is, namely, the righteous rule and reign of Christ's love in our lives and world. So, the active agent in that Kingdom is God! Therefore, if we follow Jesus' logic throughout Kingdom teachings, the man who sells everything for a field with buried treasure or a pearl of great worth is....Jesus. And that priceless treasure? You. You and His whole Church are bought and secured by Christ's life given for yours.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Liturgist & Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*

Laini Rankin, *Pianist*

Lydia Smith, Nathan Smith, *Trumpet*

Caroline Jeppesen, *French Horn*

Elaina Martens, Elena Strecker, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*

Henry Mills, Truman Eckhoff, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*

Deb Robinson, *Greeter (8:00 am)*

Tim & Karen Bauer, *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: Ann Wolters, Wilmer Ziegelbein, Arleen Fiene, Trisha Boland, Annette Kirchhoff, Karol Meyer, Konner McKnight, Sarah McDaniel, Royce Herndon, Hudson Kloos, Nicole Maxwell, Lisa Arnett, Joyce Kroll, Rev. Dr. Les Mitkos

Ongoing: Susan Reeves, Donald Dedeke, Richard Cordes, Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan, Diane Stumpenhause, 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 Gerds, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Lari Huntze, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball

Nation and World: the people of Uganda

Partners in Mission: St. John Lutheran Church; Westphalia, MO and Rev. Ryan Groh, Mission of Christ Network

Birthdays: (7/26) Lee Harrington, Robin Kerksiek, Darlene Meyer, Logan Muehler, Jeffrey Schlueter; (7/27) Tim Arnett, Ava Denton, Jesse Flandermeyer, Nathan Gerds, Debra Kirchhoff, Noah Rankin, Charles Snider; (7/28) Melanie Dittmer, Karrah Rehkop, Krista Rehkop; (7/29) Thomas Bennett, Lyle Freund, Jeri Hall, Christopher Hess, Connie Tebbenkamp; (7/30) Robin Graves, Mark Heins, Sarah Kirchhoff, Madelyn Oswald, Victoria Pottschmidt, Breawna Woods; (7/31) Olivia Harrington, Judy Krause, Matthew Rankin; (8/1) Melondy Bushman, Lauren Fiene, Alyssa Kurth

Anniversaries: (7/27) Darl & Geri Fuhrman, Ronald & Karen Heins; (7/28) Tim & Lisa Arnett, Stephen & Tina Bredehoeft; (8/31) Joseph & Lori Connell, Chad & Katie Krahenbuhl; (8/1) Miles & Cathryn Hamilton, Wess & Christine Murray, Kenneth & Linda Wodrich

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

You don't become stronger by being comfortable. That was my takeaway this past week, echoed through a variety of things I listened to and experienced. I was listening to a podcast about exercise - how you are actually breaking down muscle fibers so they can rebuild stronger. Then another podcast, more brain focused, again reiterated the same idea: muscles that are not challenged stay where they are. No real growth occurs. Challenging ourselves often makes us uncomfortable. Maybe the challenge is even outside of our control, but we still find ourselves pushed into discomfort. Whether you are confronted with a challenge or striving to reach a new goal, remember that you are not alone. Look for that support. Support comes in many forms, but the Word of God stands the test of time. Seek your Savior often. Connect with Him. Keep clinging and praying. Your Savior will see you through, and He will use your situation to His glory - because that is exactly what He does. I am in the middle of reading some of the prophetic books of the bible right now. Talk about uncomfortable! Those guys had it rough, but God was with each and every one of them as they proclaimed Him to the people. Your God is with you...always. "This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life" Psalm 119:50.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Isaiah 55:1-5; Romans 9:1-13; Matthew 14:13-21

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 809, 559, 633, 641, 625, 918



"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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