



THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 16, 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 653 *“In Christ There Is No East or West” (soloist: v. 1)*

BAPTISM OF COOPER LEE WARD (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 28:1–2, 6–7; antiphon: v. 8*

P The LORD is the strength of his people;

C he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

P To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me,

C lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.

P Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help,

C when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.

P Blessed be the LORD!

C For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

P The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;

C my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

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 the strength of his people;

C he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

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 Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; 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 *Colossians 2:6–7*

C As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.



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

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 56:1, 6–8*

The salvation God offers and the righteousness God delivers is for all people.

¹Thus says the LORD: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. ...

⁶“And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—⁷these I will

bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” ⁸The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32*

In his discussion of the relationship between Jews and Gentiles, Saint Paul illustrates that salvation is offered to both on the same basis: the mercy of God.

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ...

¹³Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them.

¹⁵For if their rejection means the

reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? ...

²⁸As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

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 15:21–28*

Jesus' somewhat startling conversation with a Canaanite woman leads to her profound confession of faith in God's goodness and a miraculous outcome—the healing of her daughter.

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us."

²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the

³⁰Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience,

³¹so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³²For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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

SERMON HYMN 571

“God Loved the World So That He Gave”

(soloist: v.3, 10:30am)

SERMON

The Heart of the Gospel: “Belonging”



GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

Music during the offering:

VOLUNTARY *“Beach Spring” setting by Allan Mahnke (8:00 am)*

VOLUNTARY *“Hyfrydol” setting by Allan Mahnke (10:30 am)*

INSTALLATION & RECOGNITION OF FACULTY & STAFF (8:00 am)

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 848, “Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service.”



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 770 *“What a Friend We Have In Jesus”*

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

HYMN 795 *“Voices Raise to You We Offer”*



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 848 *“Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service”*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

This week's takeaway: We all come to God just like the Canaanite woman—with empty hands and zero privilege. Our Savior welcomes every helpless sinner to a lavish feast of forgiveness, grace, mercy, and love. You belong with God not on account of your own religious pedigree or spiritual performance, but because Jesus's mercy has made a permanent place for you.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Liturgist*

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*

Titus Drefs, *Recorder*

Claire Martens, Rachel Martens, *Trumpet*

Elaina Rankin, *Voice and Flute*

Amelia Shafer and Olivia Strobel, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*

Liam Clayton, Elena Strecker, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*

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

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

John Beerman, Jeff Bingham, Chris Gerds, Andy Jones, *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: Kevin Crawford, Mark Oetting, Gloria Driver, Debbie Woodall, Brenda Frerking, Mark Tolias, Ruth Rodewald, Rebecca Camp, Sandy Alvey, Ann Wolters, Wilmer Ziegelbein, Arleen Fiene, Trisha Boland, Annette Kirchhoff, 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 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 Gerds, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Lari Huntze, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball

Nation and World: the people of the United Kingdom; those affected by earthquakes, wildfires, and flooding

Partners in Mission: Messiah Lutheran Church; Independence, MO, LCMS Missouri District

Birthdays: (8/16) Wyatt Finley, Peyton Moore; (8/17) John Beerman, Emma Brandt, Rose Harper, Jace Heins, Joshua Mourey, Susan Oetting; (8/18) Ross Fiene, Annette Kirchhoff, Ethan Kueck, Samantha Meyer, Roger Woodrich; (8/19) Nathan Beissenherz, Drake Fiene, Wade Heimsoth, Jon Spells; (8/20) Gary Bredehoeft, Callie Dawson, Carley Fahrmeier, Josiah Gerds, Rylan Hon, Rusty McGinnis, Mary Roepe, Linda Wodrich; (8/21) Paul Frerking, Brooke Lange, Evan Lyons, Shilah Marens; (8/22) Brenda Brackman, Connie Brackman, Troy Schuette, Gene Virus, Sharon Woodrich

Anniversaries: (8/18) Mark & Cindy Tolias; (8/20) Ray & Kathy Schuknecht; (8/22) Paul & Rosalie Pennington

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

Rooted in Christ. You will hear these words often because this is the theme for our 2026-2027 school year. When I think of being rooted, several words come to mind: nourishment, stability, and gratitude. These are exactly the ideas that show up in Colossians 2:6-7. “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith**, just as you were taught, **abounding in thanksgiving**.” The roots are the source. They grow underneath, in the hidden spaces. Sometimes we give more attention to the outward appearance than attending to our roots. That might work for a while, but it sets us up for failure in the long run because the result can never be anything more than performance and good behavior. God has something much greater in mind for us than surface appearance. God desires a real relationship with us - with you! What if we shifted our focus to that connection instead? Roots get tended in the quiet, intentional places, and when we spend time nourishing our roots, the people around us benefit. Healthy roots help prevent weeds, and they also enhance the soil. The social climate today sows seeds of division, entitlement, and complaint. Being rooted in God’s Word produces unity, humility, and gratitude. Where can you intentionally build space into your day to connect with Jesus? Tend to your roots!

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK’S WORSHIP

Isaiah 51:1–6; Romans 11:33 – 12:8; Matthew 16:13–20

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 909, 645, 587, 647, 761, 644



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

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

401 S. MAIN STREET, CONCORDIA, MO 64020

CHURCH OFFICE: (660) 463-2291 | SCHOOL OFFICE: (660) 463-7654
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