



THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 | 10:30 AM
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Classes have resumed, and students, families, faculty, and staff have settled into the routine of a new school year. In our worship during these early-autumn months, we focus on Jesus as teacher, explaining life in the Kingdom of God. *This is Part 8 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 915 *"Today Your Mercy Calls Us"*

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS *Psalm 124:8; 32:5*

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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 143:1–2; antiphon: v. 9*

P Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

C I have fled to you for refuge!

P Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

C In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

P Enter not into judgment with your servant,

C for no one living is righteous before you.

GLORIA PATRI | Glory to the Father *For text and tune, see page 186.*

C (sung) Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

KYRIE | Lord, Have Mercy *Mark 10:47*

For text and tune, see page 186.

C (sung) Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS | Glory to God in the Highest *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

For text and tune, see pages 187–189.

P (sung) Glory be to God on high:

C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

For text and tune, see page 189.

P (sung) The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and

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

C Amen.

VERSE OF THE MONTH *Ephesians 4:15*

C Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.



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

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 50:15–21*

Joseph forgives his brothers who long ago had betrayed him and sold him to traveling merchants (Genesis 37:12–36).

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke

to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 14:1–12*

Saint Paul tells the Christians in Rome not to quarrel over opinions. We do not live to please ourselves; we are the Lord's.

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass

judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in

C Thanks be to God.

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

C (sung) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

³²Then his master summoned him and

said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.’³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’³⁴ And in anger

his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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

SERMON HYMN 611 “*Chief of Sinners Though I Be*”

SERMON *Glimpses of God’s Kingdom: “Radical Forgiveness”*

OFFERTORY *Psalm 51:10–12; for text and tune, see page 192.*

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

Music during the offering:

ANTHEM “*Christ Is with Me*” by Gerald P. Coleman
(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 194 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 606 “I Lay My Sins on Jesus”

HYMN 610 “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

HYMN 622 “Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared”

HYMN 643 “Sent Forth by God's Blessing”



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, Thanksgiving, Salutation and
Benedicamus, and Benediction on pages 199–202.*

CLOSING HYMN 843 “‘Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive’”

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SENDING

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *Rob Gerlach, Organist (Saint Paul College, Class of 1976)*

This week's takeaway: "Dear Lord God, Father, do not call us into judgment, for in your presence no one is righteous. Please do not condemn us for being ungrateful for all of your unspeakable goodness—both spiritual and physical—and for our daily blunders and sins—which are more than we know or mark (Psalm 19:12). Furthermore, do not consider how good or bad we have been, but look upon us with your infinite compassion, bestowed upon us by Christ, your beloved Son. Forgive also all our enemies and all those who have harmed us or done us an injustice, even as we forgive them from the heart. For they do themselves irreparable harm when they vent their anger against us. We gain nothing by their ruin. Rather, we would rather see them blessed with us. Amen."

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This Week's Takeaway from Martin Luther, *A Simple Way to Pray* (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House 1983, 2017), 5.

SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Liturgist*

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*

Rachel Martens, *SPLS Choir Director*

Olivia Strobel, Makenna Lange, *Violin*

Eli Boehmer, Braylon Wiskur, *Acolytes*

Tim & Karen Bauer, *Greeters*

Jim Beerman, Jeff Martens, Pat McKeage, Darren Starbuck, *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: Sharon Woodrich, Christopher Hess, Daniel Schwiegert, Chet Fiene, Kevin Crawford, Mark Oetting, Gloria Driver, Debbie Woodall, Brenda Frerking, Mark Tolias, Ruth Rodewald, Rebecca Camp, Sandy Alvey, Ann Wolters, Wilmer Ziegelbein, Arleen Fiene, Annette Kirchhoff, 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, Les Bruns, Wilmer Bredehoeft, Melba Poese, Paul Brackman, Baby Felix, Gene Virus, Harry Rehkop, Jon Spells, Roger Kammeyer, Ledrue Brandt, Alyssa Pfannkuch, Alice Hildebrand, 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 Vanuatu; those affected by earthquakes, wildfires, and flooding

Partners in Mission: Ascension Lutheran Church; Raytown, MO; Lutheran Bible Translators

Birthdays: (9/13) Brett Brackman, Raymond Nold; (9/14) Kellen Fiene, Melissa Hartwig, Adam Inman, Harry Rehkop, III; (9/15) Kyle Fiene, Geri Fuhrman; (9/16) Nash Bowles, Terry Kammeyer, Sandra Schelp; (9/17) Kim Brandt, Memphis Heimsoth, Abbie Wasson; (9/18) Marissa Decker, Poppy Flandermeyer, Luwella Gray, Casey Meyer, Elijah Rankin, Derek Woodall; (9/19) Ron Heins, Alicia Maggert, Patty McGinnis, Matthew McKeage, Jon Petersen

Anniversaries: (9/15) Mark & Lynette Northen, Ashley & Shelly Rolf; (9/16) John & Tracy Bobzin, Gerald & Sherry Meyer; (9/18) Stephen & Donna Moyers; (9/19) Russell & Amanda Ferris

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Isaiah 55:6–9; Philippians 1:12–14; 19–30; Matthew 20:1–16

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 566, 555, 744 (*My First Hymnal* 100), 567, 627, 575



"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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