



THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 | 8:00 AND 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 566 *"By Grace I'm Saved"*

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 116:12–13, 15–16; antiphon: v. 17*

- P** I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
C and call on the name of the LORD.
P What shall I render to the LORD
C for all his benefits to me?
P I will lift up the cup of salvation
C and call on the name of the LORD.
P Precious in the sight of the LORD
C is the death of his saints.
P O LORD, I am your servant;
C I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

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** Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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 *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 *Isaiah 55:6–9*

According to God's unfathomable thoughts and grace-filled ways of acting, He calls sinners to repentance that He may have compassion on them.

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my

thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30*

Saint Paul explains how his imprisonment has created opportunities for him to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Paul's courageous witness bolstered the confidence of others to “speak the word [of God] without fear.”

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. ...

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor

for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. ²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether

I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE *For text with music, see page 190.*

C (sung) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 20:1–16*

Jesus tells the parable (story) of the workers in the vineyard.

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’

He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them,

‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?

¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I

give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?” ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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

SERMON HYMN 555 “*Salvation unto Us Has Come*” (vv. 1–2, 6–7)

SERMON *Glimpses of God’s Kingdom: “Not What We Deserve”*

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.

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 575, “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less.”*



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 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 744 “Amazing Grace”

HYMN 567 “Not What These Hands Have Done”

HYMN 627 “Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior”



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 Bendicamus, and Benediction on pages 199–202.

CLOSING HYMN 575 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God!

This week's takeaway: What do you deserve? On what grounds? Are your answers completely honest? If your view is too rosy, maybe go read Romans 6:3. As much as our culture rants about "fairness" and "justice," I do not think we understand what we truly deserve; if we did, we would not ask for either. Blessedly, in Christ, we are not given what we deserve. Instead, we are given the gift of Christ's eternal life.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Liturgist*

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*

Olivia Harrington, Madelyn Oswald, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*

Monty Montrey, Chris Nienhiser, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*

Gerald & Wendy Dittmer, *Greeters (8:00 am)*

Mary Beth Self, *Greeter (10:30 am)*

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 Schwiebert, Chet Fiene, Mark Oetting, Gloria Driver, Brenda Frerking, Mark Tolias, Rebecca Camp, Wilmer Ziegelbein, Arleen Fiene, Annette Kirchhoff, Sarah McDaniel, Royce Herndon, Hudson Kloos, Lisa Arnett, Joyce Kroll, Rev. Dr. Les Mitkos

Ongoing: Kevin Crawford, Nicole Maxwell, Ann Wolters, Susan Reeves, Donald Dedeke, Richard Cordes, Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan, Diane Stumpenhous, 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 Gerds, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Lari Huntze, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball

Deaths: Mildred Meador, mother of Tammy Schlueter; Sandy Alvey

Nation and World: the people Vatican City; those affected by earthquakes, wild-fires, and flooding

Partners in Mission: Mt Calvary Lutheran Church; Excelsior Springs, MO; Lutheran Bible Translators

Birthdays: (9/20) Hudson Estes, Jacob Heimsoth, Sandra Henke; (9/21) Jacob Hunter, Myrna Olson, Millie Rose, Ashley Strecker, Clinton Stuenkel, Tom Zapp; (9/22) Pamela Bruns, Andrew Frerking, Jeanie Peterson, Kaylee Petty; (9/23) Ethan

McKeage, Annika Pottschmidt; (9/24) Gary Beissenherz, Katie Drefs, Micah Gerdts, Vicki 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

Anniversaries: (9/20) Phillip & Rachel Lange; (9/21) Mark & Britlin Patschke; (9/23) Corey & Brittany Meineka; (9/24) Adam & Rebecca Inman, Larry & Alice Schnakenberg; (9/25) Chris & Janna Hess

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32; Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18; Matthew 21:23–32

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 704, 531, 821, 534, 651



"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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