



THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 27, 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 704 *"Renew Me, O Eternal Light"*

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 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6*

- P** The LORD lifts up the humble;
C he casts the wicked to the ground.
P Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
C for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.
P The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
C he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
P He heals the brokenhearted
C and binds up their wounds.
P He determines the number of the stars;
C he gives to all of them their names.
P Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
C his understanding is beyond measure.

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 Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same 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 *Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32*

In God's righteous justice, He will judge each person according to his or her ways. He calls everyone to repentance, for God takes no pleasure in the death of anyone.

¹The word of the LORD came to me:

²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’?”

³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. ...

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he

has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18*

We are to share the mind of Christ—humility and service—doing everything without grumbling or complaining as we shine as joy-filled lights in this world.

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ...

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blame-

less and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

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 21:23–32*

After the religious leaders challenge Jesus' authority, He tells a parable (story) about two sons. Which son did what his father asked?

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?”

And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’” ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁸“What do you think? A man had two

sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to

them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

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 531 *"Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus"*

SERMON *Glimpses of God's Kingdom: "First in the Kingdom"*

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 8:00 am service concludes with the Lord's Prayer, Benediction, and Closing Hymn 651, "I Love Your Kingdom, Lord."



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 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 821 “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

HYMN 534 “Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor”



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 651 “I Love Your Kingdom, Lord”

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

This week's takeaway: Jesus' teaching today in His short parable of the two sons gets to the heart of the salvation Jesus brings and the will of His Father: the first in the Kingdom are those who repent and believe. Those who admit they are wrong are made right before our Father in Christ and welcomed into His Kingdom.

Portions of this service from *Lutheran Service Book*, copyright © 2006, Concordia Publishing House. Used with permission.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Church year icon on cover designed using resources from Flaticon.com; used with permission.

SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Liturgist*

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Preacher*

John Jacobsen, *Organist*

Ethan Boehmer, Lane Brackman, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*

Liam Clayton, Henry Mills, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*

Tim & Robin Kersiek, *Greeters (8:00 am)*

Kathy Schnakenberg, *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: Natalie Young, Christopher Hess, Daniel Schwiebert, Chet Fiene, Mark Oetting, Gloria Driver, Brenda Frerking, 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 Stumpfenhaus, 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

Death: Johnnie Meyer

Nation and World: the people Venezuela; those affected by earthquakes, wildfires, and flooding

Partners in Mission: St. John Lutheran Church; Farley, MO and Rev. Gregg Reiser; Lutheran Bible Translators

Birthdays: (9/27) Greg Brown; (9/28) Lisa Bell, Julie Fiene, Susan Flandermeyer, Esther Poppe, Michelle Tagtmeyer; (9/29) Cindy Ebers, August Luetjen, Patrick McKeage, Kory McKnight, Jael Poppe, Jacob Rodewald, Hayden Starbuck; (9/30) Charles Koonce; (10/1) Florence Evert, Lew Schnakenberg, Amelia Shafer, Owen

Wasson; (10/2) Dan Hoppmann, Britney Roepe; (10/3) Whitney Matisko, Kenneth Nierman, Shelly Rolf, Alice Strobel

Anniversaries: (9/28) Mark & Angel Oehlschlaeger; (9/29) Jon & Rita Petersen; (10/1) Everett & Alice Hinck, Rod & Jennifer McCaslin; (10/2) Jared & Erin Beerman, Clayton & Valerie Wiskur

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

“Consider the ravens; they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!” Luke 12:24. God provides in God-like fashion...always. Period. Never half-way, but always, completely, according to His will for us. Sometimes simply, sometimes miraculously. It may not always be what we desire, it may not always be delivered according to our timetable, it definitely may not look like what we thought it might or think it should, it may not even be what we have prayed for, but it is always enough and exactly what we need because God is God and we are not. This is a quote from my devotions this past week, “It is, in fact, the material insecurities of life that cause our lives to be spiritually established. One way or the other, we must all learn the difference between trusting in the gift and trusting in the Giver. The gift may last for a season, but the Giver is the only eternal love.” My challenge for you this week is to read the account of Elijah and God’s provision for this prophet beginning in 1 Kings 17. (Quote taken from *Streams in the Desert* by L.B. Cowman.)

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK’S WORSHIP

Isaiah 5:1–7; Philippians 3:4b–14; Matthew 21:33–46

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 940, 645, 544, 647, 912, 430, 909



“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
STPAULSCONCORDIA.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/STPAULSCONCORDIAMO