



THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 4, 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 940 *"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" (v. 2: choir, 8:00 am)*

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 118:22–24; antiphon: v. 1*

P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

C for his steadfast love endures forever!

P The stone that the builders rejected

C has become the cornerstone.

P This is the LORD's doing;

C it is marvelous in our eyes.

P This is the day that the LORD has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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** Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; 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 *James 3:17–18*

- C** The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



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

ANTHEM *“Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal” arr. by Alice Parker (8:00 am)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 5:1–7*

Using the imagery of a vineyard that only seems to grow rotten grapes, the Lord tells how He will judge the children of Israel who only seem to produce rotten intentions and actions.

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes,

why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briers and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

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

EPISTLE *Philippians 3:4b–14*

Although Saint Paul could boast about his Jewish upbringing and exceptional religious piety, he says he would count everything he has done or achieved as rubbish in order to know Jesus Christ as his Savior and receive Jesus' perfect righteousness that comes through faith alone.

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which

[P] This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

C (sung) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 21:33–46*

Jesus tells the parable (story) of the tenants. This story foreshadows how the unbelieving religious leaders would oppose Jesus, reject His claims to be God's Son, and kill Him.

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

³³[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants,

and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned

another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never

read in the Scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes"?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.

⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

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 645 "Built on the Rock"

SERMON

*Glimpses of God's Kingdom:
"Built on the Stumbling Stone"*

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.

M A T T H E W 21:37



GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register in each pew.

Music during the offering (8:00 am):

ANTHEM

*“There is a Fountain” arr. by David Ledgerwood
Esther Bodenstab, Pianist*

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 “Serve the
Lord with Gladness” (see page 7 in the bulletin).*

The LWML uses Mite Boxes as an in-home reminder to pray for and support mission projects around the world with coins and dollars. Mites are collected and distributed to national and state projects selected at biennial conventions. Saint Paul Lutheran High School and Concordia Music Conservatory have been past recipients of LWML Missouri District grants.

Large Mite boxes are in the narthex today. Your donation placed in the Mite Box this morning will support LWML mission projects.



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:

ANTHEM “God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” arr. C. Mockelbust (Handbells)

HYMN 544 “O Love, How Deep” (You may remain seated for v. 7)

HYMN 647 “Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head”

HYMN 909 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” (You may remain seated for v. 4)

HYMN 912 “Christ Is Our Cornerstone” (You may remain seated for v. 3)



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 “Serve the Lord with Gladness”

Tune: ST. GERTRUDE (“Onward, Christian Soldiers”)

Text: Prof. Ernest Lewerenz

1 “Serve the Lord with gladness!”

It is He alone

Who redeemed us sinners,

Guides us as His own

To enjoy the blessings

Of His love and grace,

Will at last in glory

Meet us face to face.

Onward, then, for Jesus!

Let this be our aim:

“Serve the Lord with gladness!”

Glorify His name.

2 “Serve the Lord with gladness!”

He gave us command

To proclaim His Gospel

Now in every land

So that fellow sinners

May, like us, be blest.

Leading them to Jesus,

We can serve Him best.

Onward, then, for Jesus!

Let this be our aim:

“Serve the Lord with gladness!”

Glorify His name!

3 “Serve the Lord with gladness!”

There’s no greater joy

Than to serve the Master,

Work in His employ.

As we build His kingdom

Angels, too, rejoice

Over every sinner

Brought to hear His voice.

Onward, then, for Jesus!

Let this be our aim:

“Serve the Lord with gladness!”

Glorify His name!

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

This week's takeaway: The Church should never become a stumbling block that drives people away from Christ; instead, our prayer is that people would encounter Jesus and His astonishing grace and mercy. Jesus, the rejected stone who became the cornerstone, is the foundation of our forgiveness, salvation, and eternal hope.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Liturgist*

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*

Dr. Jerrode Marsh, *SPLHS Singing Saints Director*

Esther Bodensab, Myka Sullivan, *Flute*

Claire Martens, *Trumpet*

Kahlan Haase, *Clarinet*

Rhonda Beerman, Kathy Frerking, *Readers (8:00 am)*

Tina Bredehoeft, Susan Foster, *Readers (10:30 am)*

Amelia Shafer, Elena Strecker, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*

Olivia Strobel, Lillie Todd, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*

LWML Members, *Greeters (8:00 am)*

LWML Members, *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: Natalie Young, Christopher Hess, Daniel Schwiegert, 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, 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 Gerdt, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Lari Huntze, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball

Death: Donald Dedeke

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

Partners in Mission: Holy Cross Lutheran Church; Farley, MO and Rev. Dr. Craig Meissner; Lutheran Women in Mission

Birthdays: (10/4) Cordell Grey, Sandra Hinck, Ralph Meineka, Kevin Meineka, Kevin Roepe, Ronald Roepe, Connie Sale; (10/5) Skylar Brown, Barbara Kuecker; (10/6) Gary Maggert, Jack Williams; (10/7) Debra Brackman, Leesha Heins, Payton Kanoy; (10/8) Ann Beissenherz, JoAn Jacobsen; (10/9) Jared Beerman, Jeff Bingham, Alice Dittmer, Sheree Heimsoth, Austyn Hentges, Gabrielle Kueck, Cheryl Petersen; (10/10) Jeffrey Heins, Catherine Krahenbuhl, Morgan Starbuck, Matt Sullivan

Anniversaries: (10/6) James & Joan Parks; (10/7) Mathew & Melissa Heath; (10/9) Rusty & Patrice McGinnis, David & Kim Strobel, Ethan & Alicia Kueck

Today we celebrate LWML Sunday. St. Paul's has two women's groups that are members of the national Lutheran Women in Mission organization. Ladies Aid #1 meets on the first Tuesday of the month and Ladies Aid 1912 meets on the Second Tuesday of the month. Both groups have Bible studies, do local service projects, collect Mites for Mission, and support St. Paul's Church and School. *All women are encouraged and welcome to join one of the groups.*

Take a look at the LWML Missouri District Mission Grants for 2026–2028:

Mission Goal - \$341,200

1. Orphan Grain Train – Food and Goods for Those in Need	\$13,000
2. Redeeming Life St. Louis Maternity Home	\$20,000
3. Heit's Point Lutheran Ministries Summer Camp Mattresses	\$15,200
4. The Nest: Infant and Toddler Childcare	\$20,000
5. A Shared Ministry to Cancer Patients	\$20,000
6. Worker Wellness for Chaplain Wives/Families	\$5,000
7. Rural & Small-Town Ministry in Missouri	\$15,000
8. Kitchen Remodel – UCM Lutheran Student Center	\$7,000
9. Mid-Missouri Lutheran Hospital Ministry	\$15,000
10. HOPE for Suicide-AIP – Work of Hope/Lutherans for Life	\$16,500
11. Concordia's Kitchen: Bread of Life for those in Need	\$12,000
12. Sharing our Savior, One Meal at a Time	\$7,500
LWML GRANTS (25%)	\$85,000
CHURCH WORKER STUDY GRANTS	\$85,000
RETREATS/WORKSHOPS/YOUTH WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES	\$5,000



Narthex Project: Construction Manager at Risk Selected

The Campus Team has completed its selection process for a Construction Manager at Risk (CMaR) for our Phase 1A Narthex Addition. After approximately six weeks of reviewing proposals, conducting interviews, and evaluating the qualifications of several highly capable firms, the Campus Team recommends that Pearce Construction be selected to serve as the CMaR for the project.

How We Got Here

Working with SFS Architecture, the Campus Team followed a competitive process:

- August 11 | SFS Architecture issued a Request for Proposal (RFP).
- August 26 | Representatives from nine construction companies participated in an exploratory walkthrough of the church and project site.
- August 28 | Nine firms submitted RFPs.
- Early September | After reviewing the proposals, the Campus Team selected three finalists.
- September 15 & 17 | The three finalists participated in interviews and answered questions about their teams, construction approach, and experience.
- September 19 | The Campus Team met for a final evaluation and selected Pearce Construction as its first choice. This recommendation was sent to the Church Council for review and approval, which was given on September 21.

Why Pearce?

All three finalists demonstrated that they are capable and experienced construction firms. Pearce ultimately stood out because of its people, experience, project approach, and overall fit with St. Paul's. Pearce has extensive experience in church construction, as well as with historical structures. The Campus Team was particularly impressed with Pearce's superintendent who will be assigned to our project. Because the superintendent will be the primary Pearce representative physically present on site each day, his experience, communication style, and ability to work effectively with St. Paul's staff and Campus Team were important considerations. The team also noted the experience and qualifications of Pearce's other key personnel, including members with architectural backgrounds, which could provide additional advantages during construction.

Learn more about Pearce Construction at pearceconstruction.com.

What's Next?

The Church Council approved the Campus Team's recommendation that St. Paul move forward with Pearce Construction, subject to reaching mutually acceptable contractual terms. A schematic design review meeting among our Campus Team, SFS Architecture, Pearce Construction, Crockett Geoengineering, structural and mechanical engineers, and code consultants was held Tuesday, September 29.

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

Several summers ago, my daughter asked if she could plant a few seeds in between some bricks outside of our back door. In my mind, I was thinking they would probably not survive and that we should find a more suitable spot. Time passed. As time passed, it was quite obvious that the spot was very suitable indeed for pumpkins and gourds as the vines completely overtook the space where they were planted and continued to come back! Each day my daughter checked on the fruit that this vine produced, picked what was ready, and arranged an eye pleasing display on the landing outside of the door. It was then that I was reminded of this Bible verse, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” John 15:5. I took a good look at the vines towards the end of the season and observed that the true center of it was starting to wither. As I suspected, the runners stopped producing fruit, and then the frost made its final claim. Isn’t this how it is with our spiritual lives? When we become disconnected, we start to wither and stop producing fruit. If something is threatening that connection with the source, the plant suffers. Maybe there are outside forces that attack it (frost) and threaten its fruit producing capabilities. The point I am making is **STAY CONNECTED**. That connection requires maintenance. Nourish that connection with God and His Word and then bear fruit so that others may benefit from the love of Christ within you!

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK’S WORSHIP

Isaiah 25:6–9; Philippians 4:4–13; Matthew 22:1–14

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 514, 646, 636, 803, 631, 830



"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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