

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 9-10, 2025

"Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education."

"Persevere With Thanksgiving"



"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

Music of Preparation,
Welcome, Announcements, Greeting

Our Ministry: We are a people of God who are: ***"Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education."***

Welcome! Life is often hard, for many reasons. So we gather to be fed and strengthened by Jesus, our Good Shepherd; to be assured of his presence and goodness. Welcome to worship.

Devotions & Publications Available are found in the main entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

..... WORSHIP NOTES

Note About Attendance Cards...Remember that the only way we may know you are worshipping with us is by seeing your name on an attendance card. These cards may be completed as you enter for worship and will be collected after the offering. Use one card for each family that is gathered. **Please list the name of each person in worship.** (Parents, please take responsibility for signing in your children) There is a "Member" side as well as a "Guest" side. Please fill out the appropriate side and pass them to the center aisle during the gathering of the offerings. The cards are gathered after the offering has been collected.

To Our Visitors...Our church and school have a few nooks and crannies, so don't be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available in the main entryway.

For All Who Worship...If you are arriving after the service has started, please allow our ushers to assist you with seating. We ask that you avoid entering during the confession, prayers, or Bible readings as these are quiet and meditative moments.

For Parents with Small Children...We love and want children in our services as a part of God's family, to spend time with Jesus, and to learn how to worship. We want you and your children to experience our Lord's love and to have a great opportunity to worship the Lord along with all who are gathered here to praise our Savior's name.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

(The music for the liturgy may be found on page 203 in the Hymnal)

Notes for Worship: As you prepare for worship this day, we invite you to turn to the prayer section of the Hymnal (page 305). In addition to prayers for before and after worship, there are prayers for all aspects of the Christian Life (some of the prayers are also located on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

Before worship prayer - Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. AMEN.

We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!

Opening Hymn: "God of Grace and God of Glory"

LSB, hymn #850

God of grace and God of glory, On Your people pour Your pow'r;
Crown Your ancient Church's story; Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Cure Your children's warring madness; Bend our pride to Your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, Serving You whom we adore,
Serving You whom we adore.

INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b*
P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C: **who made heaven and earth.** *Psalms 124:8*
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 and call upon Him in prayer and praise 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. Let us humble ourselves before our Good and gracious God.

(Moment of silent reflection)

- P: 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. *Luke 18:13*
C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
P: Let us pray . . . Almighty God,
C: **Merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**
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.** *John 20:19-23*

KYRIE ~ Lord Have Mercy (Sung)

Mark 10:47

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory To God In The Highest (Sung) *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

**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.**

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty and merciful God, You promised great blessings to the faith-filled people who have gone before us. Grant that we confidently trust that we have joined them to receive the gracious inheritance because of Your Son's fulfilling all Your promises in His death and resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

(Please be Seated)

THE READING OF THE WORD

Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 11:1-16

(Faith of God's People!)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found,

because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Stand (*as you are able*)

Alleluia and Verse

John 20:31

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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 12:22-40

(Always Be Ready)

[Jesus] said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 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! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be Seated)

Sermon Hymn: "I'm But a Stranger Here"

LSB, hymn #748

I'm but a stranger here, Heav'n is my home;
 Earth is a desert drear, Heav'n is my home.
 Danger and sorrow stand Round me on ev'ry hand;
 Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home.

What though the tempest rage, Heav'n is my home;
 Short is my pilgrimage, Heav'n is my home;
 And time's wild wintry blast Soon shall be overpast;
 I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.

Therefore I murmur not, Heav'n is my home;
 Whate'er my earthly lot, Heav'n is my home;
 And I shall surely stand There at my Lord's right hand;
 Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home.

Sermon: "Faith Gives Us Focus"

Hebrews 11:1-16

Stand (as you are able)

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

(Please be Seated)

Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards

Stand (as you are able)

OFFERTORY - Create In Me

LSB, Divine Service 3, pg 192-193

C: **(Sung) 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

P: Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus, for His church, and for all people according to their needs. . . . Almighty God, Your Son, our Great Shepherd Jesus, bids us to forsake fear by drawing ever closer to You. Banish from us the fear of an uncertain future. Let us know that the future rests securely in Your hands and You will never forsake us. Banish our fear! Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God of the cross, the powers of darkness prowl constantly about us, beckoning us to follow. Give courage to us that we might resist! Especially protect and empower our young people and all who serve them, that they may fearlessly follow Jesus. Banish their fear! . Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, we pray for the leaders of our nation, our state, and for our local elected officials, that they strive for a just society and tend to the most vulnerable people among us. We also pray for the leaders of nations throughout the world, that they, too, seek peace and goodness for all of the people under their authority. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Protecting God of life, hear our prayers for those who struggle with illness. Surround them with Your love, a love that casts out fear. We pray that you be with those hospitalized this past week (*Especially, . . .*). Also be with those who continue treatment and healing at home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). O Lord, Send messengers of mercy to heal them and give to them a fearless heart as they await the wholeness that can come only from You. Banish their fear!. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For students who are preparing to go to college, either for the first time or as returning students, that Your Holy Spirit guide them into all truth as they learn and mature. Bless their families during this time of separation and calm all of their fears. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . .)

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

C: Hear Our Prayer.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught us to pray:

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.
Matthew 6:9-13

BLESSING

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:1

P: The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

Closing Hymn: “Preserve Your Word, O Savior”

LSB, hymn #658

Preserve Your Word, O Savior, To us this latter day,
And let Your kingdom flourish; Enlarge Your Church, we pray.
O keep our faith from failing; Keep hope’s bright star aglow.
Let nothing from truth turn us While living here below.

Preserve, O Lord, Your honor, The bold blasphemer smite;
Convince, convert, enlighten The souls in error’s night.
Reveal Your will, dear Savior, To all who dwell below,
Great light of all the living, That all Your name may know.

Preserve, O Lord, Your Zion, Bought dearly with Your blood;
Protect what You have chosen Against the hellish flood.
Be always our defender When dangers gather round;
When all the earth is crumbling, Safe may Your Church be found.

Preserve Your Word and preaching, The truth that makes us whole,
The mirror of Your glory, The pow'r that saves the soul.
Oh, may this living water, This dew of heav'nly grace,
Sustain us while here living Until we see Your face.

Preserve in wave and tempest Your storm-tossed little flock;
Assailed by wind and weather, May it endure each shock.
Stand at the helm, our pilot, And set the course aright;
Then we will reach the harbor In Your eternal light.

See You In Worship Next Week!

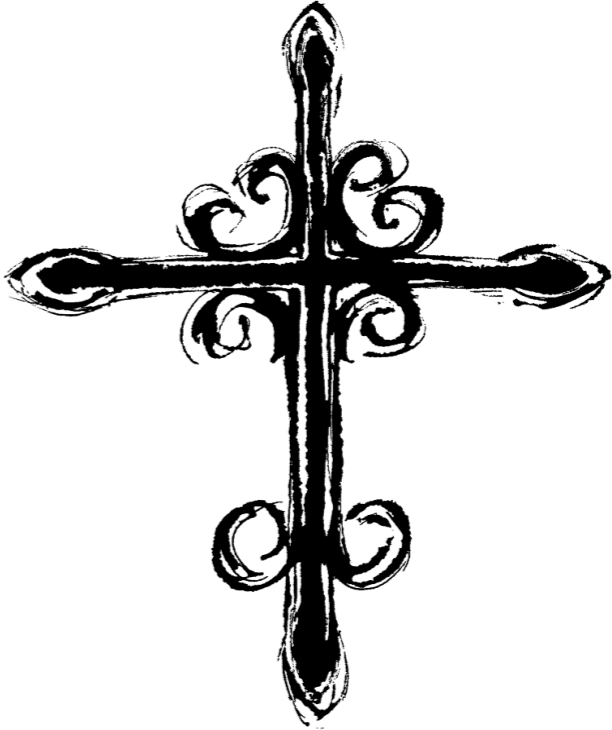
After worship prayer

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

There will be Prayer Ministry Member(s) in each service that will be wearing a prayer ministry tag around their neck. Please look for them if you are wanting prayer for yourself, someone else or prayer for a concern or situation you may have.

Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after Sunday services.

Altar Flowers Altar flowers this weekend are given in loving memory of my husband, Mike, by Pat Hatch; also in loving memory of our father, George Lueth, by Jerry & June Hoekstra, Jim & Jenny Mossman and Rod & Alexis Lueth.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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