

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27-28, 2025

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

"Persevere With Thanksgiving"



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! Come as you are — weary or joyful, hopeful or unsure. Here, in God's house, we are met with grace. May worship today draw us closer to the heart of Jesus and the peace of God's presence.

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.

Pre-Service Music: “Come We That Love the Lord” and “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good”
Ruth Fabbro, Violin

We’re So Glad God Brought You Here Today!

Opening Hymn: “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good”

LSB, hymn #819 (tune555)

Sing praise to God, the highest good,
The author of creation,
The God of love who understood
Our need for His salvation.
With healing balm our souls He fills
And ev’ry faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!

What God’s almighty pow’r has made,
In mercy He is keeping.
By morning glow or evening shade
His eye is never sleeping.
Within the kingdom of His might
All things are just and good and right:
To God all praise and glory!

We sought the Lord in our distress;
O God, in mercy hear us.
Our Savior saw our helplessness
And came with peace to cheer us.
For this we thank and praise the Lord,
Who is by one and all adored:
To God all praise and glory!

He never shall forsake His flock,
His chosen generation;
He is their refuge and their rock,
Their peace and their salvation.
As with a mother’s tender hand,
He leads His own, His chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!

All who confess Christ’s holy name,
Give God the praise and glory.
Let all who know His pow’r proclaim
Aloud the wondrous story.
Cast ev’ry idol from its throne,
For God is God, and He alone:
To God all praise and glory!

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 . . . Lord God Almighty, even as You bless Your servants with various and unique gifts of the Holy Spirit, continue to grant us the grace to use them always to Your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen**

(Please be Seated)

THE READING OF THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson: 1 Kings 17:8-16 *(A Widow Feeds Elijah)*

Then the word of the Lord came to [Elijah], "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." And she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die." And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.'" And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints - and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you - see that you excel in this act of grace also.

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. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6:19-24

(Where Your Treasure Is)

[Jesus said:] "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be Seated)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled Are straying from the fold.

To comfort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lone and fatherless Is angels' work below.

The captive to release, To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace, It is a Christ-like thing.

And we believe Thy Word, Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto Thee.

Sermon: "They Gave Themselves First"

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

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

Special Music: "If With All Your Hearts"

Ruth Fabbro, Violin

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. . . .O merciful Shepherd, You came into the world to save sinners. Grant to us forgiveness of our sins, renewal of our lost lives, and the grace to serve You in willing obedience all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O merciful Shepherd, guard against all false doctrine and against those who teach in conflict with Your Word that the sheep of Your flock be preserved in faith to know and believe rightly by the power of Your Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O merciful Shepherd, give us good and faithful leaders who will govern us according to Your will and lead us and all nations in the ways of peace, justice, and virtue, that we live good, holy, and upright lives without fear or threat. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O merciful Shepherd, You do not abandon Your sheep even when they are wounded and infirm. Deliver the weak, the suffering, the troubled in mind, and those with hearts weighed low with grief. We pray that you be with those hospitalized this past week (*Especialy*, . . .). 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*). We pray that they be healed and comforted according to Your will and delivered from all that afflicts them on the day when You raise Your people to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O merciful Shepherd, You daily and richly supply all things good and beneficial to us and guard us against the evil one. Give us a discerning mind and a generous heart that as You have done for us, we do for others in Your name. 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.

Psalms 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: "How Firm a Foundation"

LSB, hymn #728

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,

Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!

What more can He say than to you He has said

Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

"Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,

For I am your God and will still give you aid;

I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,

Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
 I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
 That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
 I'll never, no never, no never, forsake!

“When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,
 My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.
 The flames will not hurt you; I only design
 Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

“Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove
 My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
 And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
 Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”

See You In Worship Next Week!

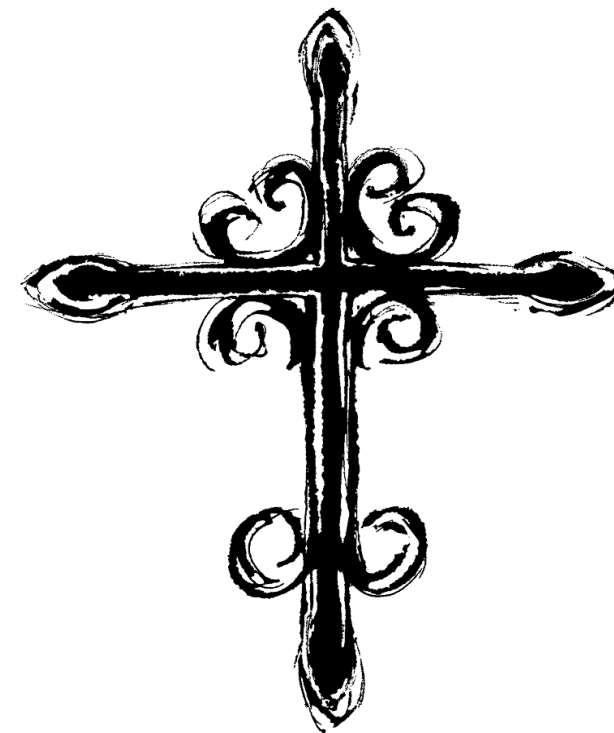
After worship prayer

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 Rene & Mildred Drazy on their anniversary by their children, Karen & Dan Beatty and Sharon Drazy and granddaughter, Danielle Slager; also in honor of our 17th wedding anniversary, by Scott & Elise Styck.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Karl J. Koeppen Senior Pastor	Rev. David Baker Missionary to Mongolia
Rev. Roger A. Drinnon Associate Pastor	Rev. Ross Engel Adopt-A-Chaplain
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