

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, August 30, 2026, 10:00 am

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



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! The psalmist reminds us that God's name is majestic in all the earth (see Psalm 8:9, NRSV). With love for God and for one another, let us approach the throne of grace from which all blessings flow. Welcome, friends!

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 worshiping 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 (west) entryway.

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.

AS WE GATHER: Some voices in our world today claim that good needs evil in order to help what is right truly express itself. The Bible takes a different view, giving us God's perspective on good and evil. That which is truly virtuous doesn't depend on evil. No, quite the opposite, that which is good - God and His love in Jesus Christ - actively dispels evil at the cross. By His resurrection from death's grave, Jesus crushes evil and guarantees that it has no power over those who trust in Him. Remaining in Christ's love, we respond to the evil in our world, even the evil that comes directly at us through the wrongdoings of our enemies, with the goodness of forgiveness. Instead of retaliating against evil ourselves, we allow our good and gracious God to respond to it, and overcome it, in our loving Savior.

Before worship prayer

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new unto us every morning, and though we have not deserved Your goodness, You abundantly provide for all our wants of body and soul. Give us Your Holy Spirit that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!

Anniversary Hymn: "Christ Be My Leader" LSB, hymn #861

Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

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: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** 1 John 1:8-9

P: Dear friends in Christ, since we are gathered to delight ourselves in the Word of God and to assemble as one family in worship, let us with repentant hearts confess our sins before our heavenly Father, seeking His forgiveness in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. . . . Gracious Lord,

C: **We come before You, laying the burden of our sin at the foot of Your cross. We openly acknowledge our failure to follow Your plans for our lives.**

P: We have stumbled and fallen in our service to You.

C: **We have placed our agenda ahead of Yours. We have been shallow in our love toward You and toward those You have placed in our path. We cry out for mercy, trusting in Your promise to forgive us through the love of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Children of God, rejoice! God has heard your cry for mercy and fulfills His promise to save and deliver you! Lavishing His grace upon you in Jesus, He enables you to love and forgive as He has first loved and forgiven you. 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

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the evil of sin and death at the cross for our redemption. Grant to us the goodness of our Savior so that we are not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good; 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)

Song of God’s Blessings: “God Most High”

- 1) Give me all eternity,
And ten thousand tongues to sing,
Even then I’d find it impossible,
To fully praise the One inexhaustible.
- Chorus) God most high,
God most holy,
God most great,
God most worthy,
And with each new breath my soul will cry,
Praise, more praise to the God most high.
- 2) Every glimpse of majesty,
Takes me once more to my knees,
Yet to rise again in the grand refrain,
Of the thundering throng shouting out His name. (Chorus)
- Bridge) Bow with the angels,
Stand with the saints,
Sing with creation,
Our God is great,
Unto the endless,
And boundless One,
We’ll sing an everlasting song.
(Repeat) (Chorus 2X)

THE READING OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Romans 12:9-21 (Overcome Evil With Good)

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one

another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Stand (as you are able)

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16:21-28 (Take Up Your Cross)

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be Seated)

Sermon Hymn: “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

LSB, hymn #722

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life’s way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

Sermon: “A Cross-Shaped Mind”

Matthew: 16:21-28

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

Offering Song: “We Are An Offering”

We lift our voices, we lift our hands.
We lift our lives up to You, We are an offering.
Lord, bless our voices, Lord, bless our hands,
Lord bless our lives, they are Yours. We are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are,
All that we hope to be we give to You, We give to You.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands. We lift our lives up to You,
We are an offering. We are an offering.
(Repeat All)

PRESENTATION - 2nd Graders Receive Bibles

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. . . . Heavenly Father, You alone have the power to redeem Your enemies and make them friends. In the mercy of Jesus, who has claimed us as His own, enable us to show love to our enemies, heaping Your grace upon them. As You have loved us even though we never deserve it, help us to do the same to others in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Lord Jesus, our hearts delight in Your goodness despite the evil of this fallen world. You entered into our midst because of Your mission to seek and save the lost. We join with You in this mission, Lord, commissioned by Your Gospel to make known among the nations what You have done. Restore us, renew us, and lead us! We delight in the new life You have given to all who trust in You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Gracious God, Your loving-kindness toward us is especially evident today. We thank and praise You for creating Your Church and for giving life to this congregation and our school through the power of Your Holy Spirit. Bless us as we share the joy of Your love and forgiveness in Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for Your children, who are at times, attacked by trials and losses. We especially pray for those who are ill and those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit. We lift up before You those hospitalized this past week (*Especial*ly, . . .). 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*). Sustain them by Your strength and protection. Preserve all of us from despair and depression caused by the circumstances of our lives. Keep us strong in faith and give us the wisdom of perspective that places all earthly concerns under Your care. 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: “Christ Our Hope in Life and Death”

- 1) What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to Him belong.
Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes, apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ, in which we stand.

*Chorus) O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.*

- 2) What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good, God is good.
Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer’s blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ? (*Chorus*)

- 3) Unto the grave, what shall we sing?
“Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!”
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with Him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord,
Then sin and death will be destroyed,
And we will feast in endless joy,
When Christ is ours forevermore. (*Final Chorus*)

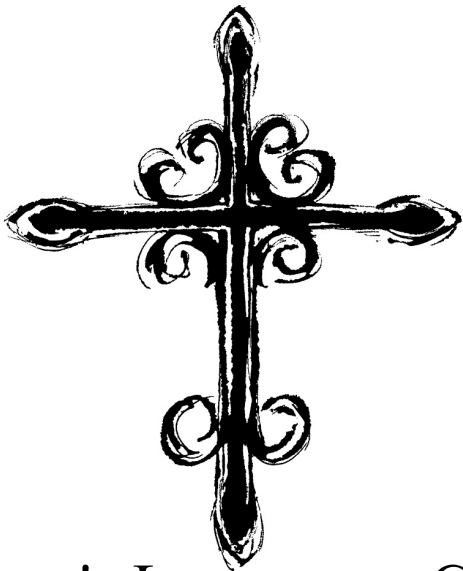
Final Chorus) O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.
O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

See You In Worship Next Week!

After worship prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, of Your great mercy in Jesus Christ You have granted us forgiveness of sin and all things pertaining to life and godliness. Send us Your Holy Spirit that He may so rule our hearts that we, being ever mindful of Your fatherly mercy, may serve You in holiness and pureness of living and may give You continual thanks for all Your goodness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

Altar Flowers Altar flowers this weekend are given in loving memory of my mother Bonnie Causer, by Jill Arseneau; also in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Les Jennings.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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COVER GRAPHIC: Artwork - "God is our Refuge" by Christopher Arndt

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