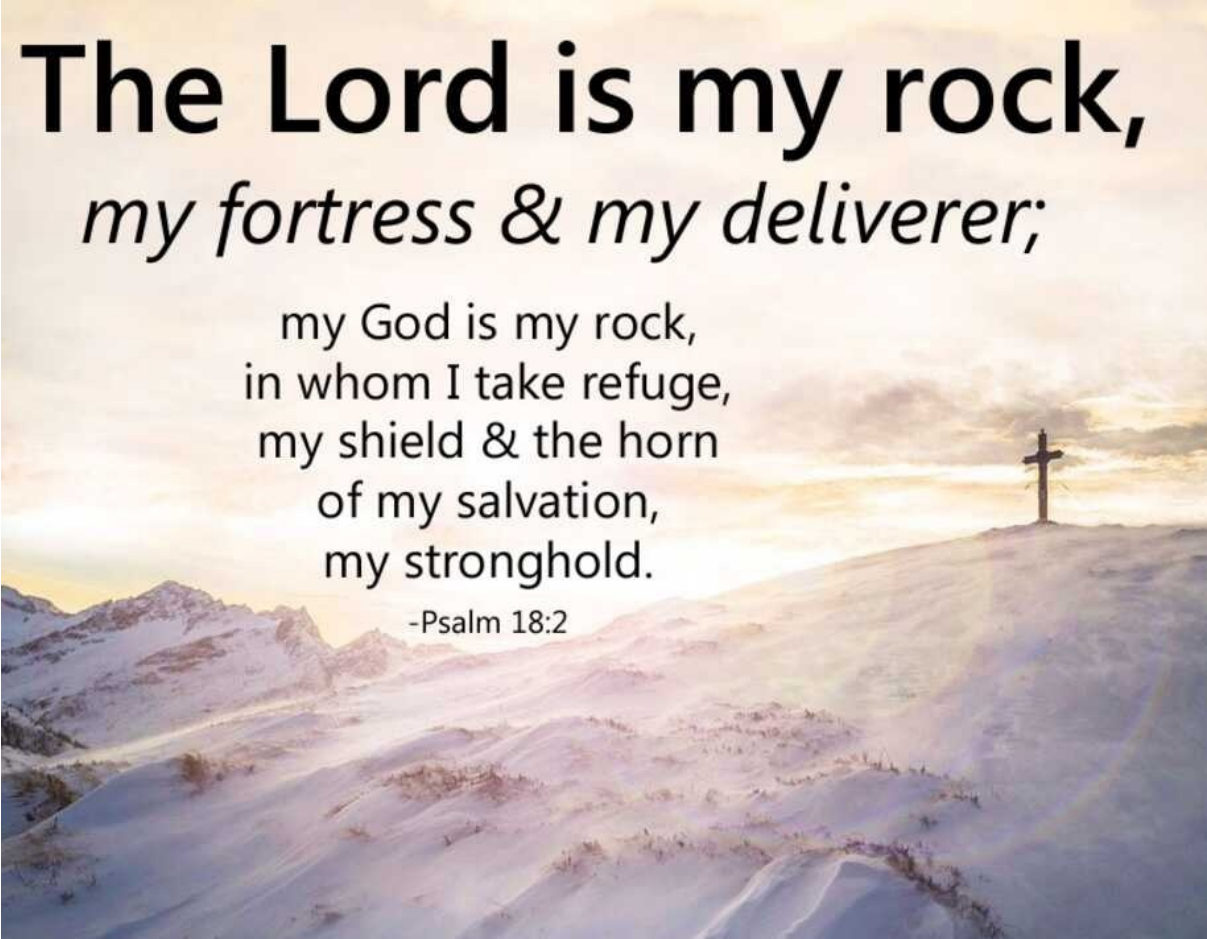


THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 12-13, 2026

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



The Lord is my rock,
my fortress & my deliverer;

my God is my rock,
in whom I take refuge,
my shield & the horn
of my salvation,
my stronghold.

-Psalm 18:2

**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! It is a genuine joy to welcome all who have come to praise our Lord. Let us begin this service as we should begin every day: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 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

Almighty God, grant that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our baptism into the death and resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ, may be renewed by Your Holy Spirit to live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

5:00pm - Special Music: “Glorify Thy Name”, “I Exalt Thee”, and “Surely The Presence of the Lord is in This Place”
Elizabeth Truax, Piano

8:30am - Special Music: “Rock of Ages”
Liz Deck, flute

We’re So Glad God Brought You Here Today!

Opening Hymn: “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”
LSB, hymn #761

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.

Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law’s demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

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 God, how quickly we forget the great love with which You love us and the grace You have freely bestowed upon us through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Grant that our gaze be fixed on Jesus, our hearts overwhelmed by Your love, and that all our relationships may be marked by forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

(Please be Seated)

8:30am - Special Music: “My God Is So Great” and “Jesus Loves Me”

Day School Children's Choir

THE READING OF THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 18:1-6, 17-19, 46-50 *(My Rock and Fortress)*

I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of

destruction overwhelmed me. The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears. The earth trembled and quaked, and the foundations of the mountains shook; they trembled because he was angry. . . . He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the LORD was my support. He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me. . . . The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Savior! He is the God who avenges me, who subdues nations under me, who saves me from my enemies. You exalted me above my foes; from violent men you rescued me. Therefore I will praise you among the nations, O LORD; I will sing praises to your name. He gives his king great victories; he shows unfailing kindness to his anointed, to David and his descendants forever.

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 eighteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35

(Forgiveness!)

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you

back.' "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be Seated)

Sermon 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.

Sermon: "Treasures In God's Kingdom"

Psalms 18:2

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

8:30am - Special Music: "Christ Be My Leader"

Liz Deck, flute

8:30am - Dedication of Faculty and Staff of St. Paul's

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 whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. . . . O God, we pray for Your church, that we be a community of mutual forgiveness and reconciliation, reflecting the heart of Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, we pray for our nation, that all elected and appointed officials govern as giving account to You, O Lord, and work to reduce strife and limit the evil effects of sin. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of grace and mercy, You are the great physician of both body and soul. Look with compassion on all who are in trouble, distress, illness, or injury. We pray that you be with those hospitalized this past week (*Epecially, . . .*). 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, keep them firm in their faith and their trust in You. Grant them relief, healing, and hope. 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: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

LSB, hymn #657

A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe Has sworn to work us woe.
With craft and dreadful might He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, rejected.

But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God Himself elected.

You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is He,

Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God’s only Son, adored.

He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land All threat’ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot overpow’r us.

Let this world’s tyrant rage; In battle we’ll engage.

His might is doomed to fail; God’s judgment must prevail!

One little word subdues him.

God’s Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;

For God Himself fights by our side With weapons of the Spirit.

Were they to take our house, Goods, honor, child, or spouse,

Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day.

The Kingdom’s ours forever!

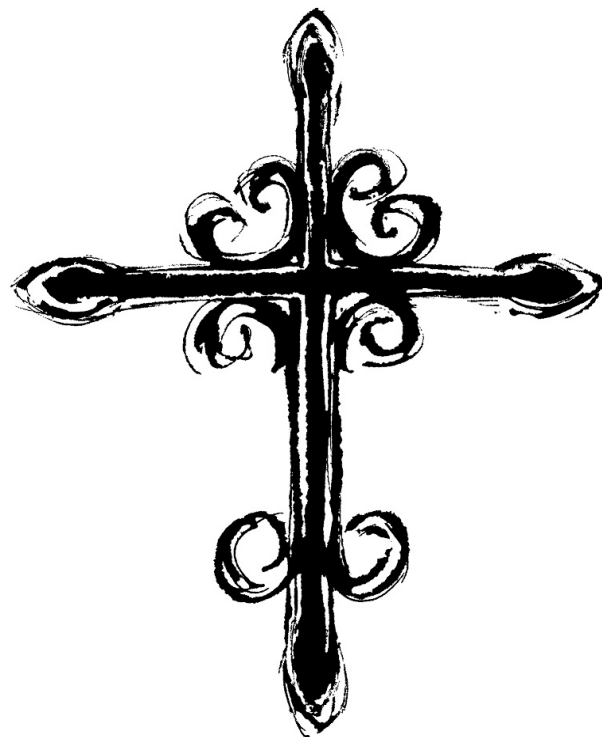
See You In Worship Next Week!

After worship prayer

Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

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 parents, James & Johanna Campbell, my brothers, David & Jim Campbell, and my nephew Tom Hudgins, by Barb Campbell; also in loving memory of our mom and Ahma, Sue Milton, on her birthday, by the Milton families.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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