



12TH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST



***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School***
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

August 31, 2025

Humbled & Exalted

Luke 14:1, 7-14



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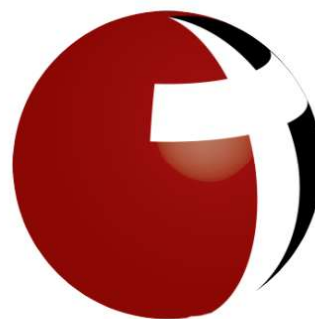
Prayer

is the breath, the watchword,
the comfort, the strength,
the honor of a Christian.

—Spurgeon

WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



lcmc

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ



**HAPPY
LABOR
DAY**

**Brunch will resume
September 21st.**



**No
BRUNCH
Today**



OUR HELP AND HOPE

LCMC 25TH ANNUAL GATHERING & CONVENTION

OCTOBER 5-8, 2025 | HOSANNA CHURCH | LAKEVILLE, MN

LCMC 25th Annual Gathering & Convention

October 5-8, 2025 | Hosanna Church | Lakeville, MN |

Registration Deadline: September 15

ALTAR *flowers*



Altar flowers are placed in celebration of family birthdays in
August and September

D'Ann (Aug 28th), Joshua (Aug 30th) and Terry (Sept 15th)
and William Taylor Richter born August 24th.



It's coming on September 21st, 2025!

Time to get prepared!

INTRODUCTION

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
**you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow
our own way.**
**You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life
you offer.**
**You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.**

**In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of + Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Hymn # 705

**¹ 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.**

Hymn # 705

**Grant us wisdom, grant us
courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

Hymn # 705

**2 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.**

Hymn # 705

**Grant us wisdom, grant us
courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

Hymn # 705

**3 Cure your children's
warring madness;
bend our pride to your
control; shame our wanton,
selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.**

Hymn # 705

**Grant us wisdom, grant us
courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's
goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's
goal.**

Hymn # 705

**Final Save us from weak
resignation to the evils we
deplore; let the gift of your
salvation be our glory
evermore.**

Hymn # 705

**Grant us wisdom, grant us
courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

Hymn # 705

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of
God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Glory To God

*Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest,
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on
earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you
thanks, we praise you for your
glory.
[Refrain]*

[Refrain]

*Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest,
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on
earth.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the
Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated
at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.*

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

*Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest,
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on
earth.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord
you alone are the Most High, Jesus
Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the
glory of God the Father. Amen.*

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

*Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest,
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on
earth, and peace to God's people
on earth.*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great;
⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 12

The righteous are merciful and full of compassion. (Ps. 112:4)

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's
commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in
the land;
the generation of the upright will be
blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the
upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of
compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in
everlasting remembrance.**

- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- ⁸ **Their heart is established and will not
shrink,
until they see their desire upon their
enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their
righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine
away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers.

⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia.

You have the words of eternal Life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 14:1,7-14

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host;

⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.

¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

Humbled & Exalted

Luke 14:1, 7-14



Hymn of the Day

“As We Gather at Your Table”

Hymn # 522

**¹ As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your
presence;
let our hearts and minds be
stirred.**

Hymn # 522

**nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy
banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry
known.**

Hymn # 522

**2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve
you,
bringing peace where there is
strife.**

Hymn # 522

**give us, Christ, your great
compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.**

Hymn # 522

**Final Gracious Spirit, help us
summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will
welcome those who had been
last and least.**

Hymn # 522

**There no more will envy blind us
Nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and
angels
To repeat the sounding joy.**

Hymn # 522

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the
Father,
and he will come to judge the living and
the dead.**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor/Labour Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray.
Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities,
those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or
struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who
need reassurance of your loving presence and we
remember our friends and family members before
you.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation,
we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of
welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those
who feed and nourish us.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries, for Juan and Ann in Bolivia, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Firmly Rooted Ministries in Greendale, Indiana. God of peace, you call your church to work together in unity. Help us to work in peace and harmony with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We thank you for the leadership and ministry of the Board of Trustees,

Ministry Board and support staff of Lutheran
Congregations in Mission for Christ as they serve our
association. Especially today we celebrate and lift before
you the ministry of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in
Cameron, Texas and their seminarian, Tami Wolfson.
May your grace flow through them as they share your
Good News. Bless and protect all our local nurses,
doctors, healthcare workers and first responders, our
students, teachers and school administrators.
Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Amen.

Canticle of Thanksgiving

Refrain ***Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb for ever and
ever.***

***¹ Great and wonderful are your
deeds, O God of the universe; just
and true are your ways, O Ruler of
all the nations.***

***Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and
sing the glory of your name?***

Refrain ***Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and
ever.***

***² For you alone are the Holy One,
and blessed is the one whose
name is the Word of God.
All praise and thanks to you, holy
God!***

Refrain ***Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and
ever.***

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and
mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you
peace.

Amen.

Sending Song

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Hymn # 543

**¹ Go, my children, with my
blessing, never alone. Waking,
sleeping, I am with you; you are
my own.**

Hymn # 543

**In my love's baptismal river I
have made you mine forever. Go,
my children, with my blessing,
you are my own.**

Hymn # 543

**2 Go, my children, sins forgiven, at
peace and pure. Here you learned
how much I love you, what I can
cure.**

Hymn # 543

**Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at
peace and pure.**

Hymn # 543

**Final Go, my children, fed and
nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.**

Hymn # 543

**Here my Spirit's power filled you;
here his tender comfort stilled
you. Go, my children, fed and
nourished, joyful and free.**

Hymn # 543

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

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A photograph of pink flowers with yellow centers growing in a forest setting. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and warm, golden light filtering through the trees. The entire image is framed by a solid orange border.

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