



Sunday Service

Ninth 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

July 26, 2026

THE GREATEST

treasure

A TALK FROM MATTHEW 13:44-52



***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School***
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The Glory of God's Word
PSALM 119



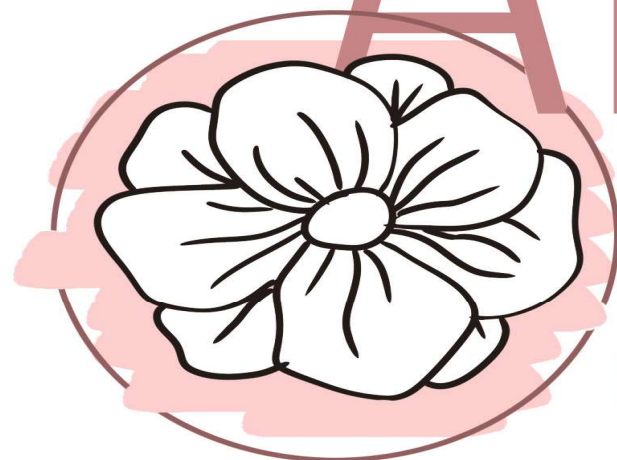
lcmmc

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US

ALTAR *flowers*



Altar flowers given in thankfulness to God
by Janet Brinkmeyer



**Brunch will resume
in August**



lcmc
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ



PRAY FOR: COURAGE

Heavenly Father, as people come to know you, give them courage to trust and obey.

“In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength...”

Isaiah 30:15

 PRAYER LEAGUE

prayerleague.org

INTRODUCTION

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

In the name of God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

Gathering Song

“Open Your Ears, O Faithful People”

Hymn # 519

**¹ Open your ears,
O faithful people,
open your ears and hear God's
word.**

Hymn # 519

**Open your hearts,
O royal priesthood,
God has come to you.**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 519

[Refrain - *Sung twice*]

**God has spoken to the people,
hallelujah!**

**God has spoken words of
wisdom, hallelujah!**

Hymn # 519

**Final They who have ears to
hear the message,
they who have ears, then let
them hear.**

Hymn # 519

**they who would learn the way
of wisdom,
let them hear God's word.
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 519

[Refrain - *Sung twice*]

**God has spoken to the people,
hallelujah!**

**God has spoken words of
wisdom, hallelujah!**

Hymn # 519

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 direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world.

Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

.

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.

⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.
¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 119:129-136

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130)

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives
light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

131 I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.

**132 Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love
your name.**

133 Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

**134 Rescue me from those who oppress
me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

135 Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

136 **My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your
teaching.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words.

²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.
³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else?

³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind;

⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.”

⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley



Hymn of the Day

“Be Thou My Vision”

Hymn # 793

**¹ Be thou my vision, O Lord of
my heart;
naught be all else to me, save
that thou art:**

Hymn # 793

**thou my best thought both by
day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy
presence my light.**

Hymn # 793

**2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou
my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with
me, Lord.**

Hymn # 793

**Thou my soul's shelter, and
thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'n ward, O
Pow'r of my pow'r.**

Hymn # 793

**³ Riches I heed not, nor vain,
empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now
and always:**

Hymn # 793

**thou and thou only, the first in
my heart,
great God of heaven, my
treasure thou art.**

Hymn # 793

**Final Light of my soul, after
victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys,
O heaven's Sun!**

Hymn # 793

**Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
still be my vision,
O Ruler of all.**

Hymn # 793

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.**

Congregation may be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our wisdom and our song, we pray for all who seek to lead your disciples in any way.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty and we remember our friends and family members before you.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our redeemer, may we trust your love above
and beyond all else that distracts, annoys,
frightens, exhausts, or divides us.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

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 Mac & Selah in South Asia, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Big Sandy in McGregor, Minnesota.

Today we also pray for our congregation, St. Paul Lutheran Church. By your Holy Spirit, give us the strength of faith to answer your call to make disciples.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

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

“Let All Things Now Living”

Hymn # 881

**¹ Let all things now living a
song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator
triumphantly raise,**

Hymn # 881

**who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the
end of our days.**

Hymn # 881

**God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in
the night,**

Hymn # 881

**till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light
into light.**

Hymn # 881

**Final God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses and
sun in its orbit obediently
shine;**

Hymn # 881

**the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean
proclaim God divine,**

Hymn # 881

**We too should be voicing our
love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let
us raise,**

Hymn # 881

**till all things now living unite
in thanksgiving:
“To God in the highest,
hosanna and praise!”**

Hymn # 881

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

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A photograph of a sunrise over a vast expanse of clouds, with the sun low on the horizon and its rays visible. The scene is framed by a thick orange border.

Sunday Service

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost