



18TH 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

September 27, 2026

THE PARABLE
OF THE TWO SONS

Matthew 21:28-32

THE KINGDOM
IN FOCUS

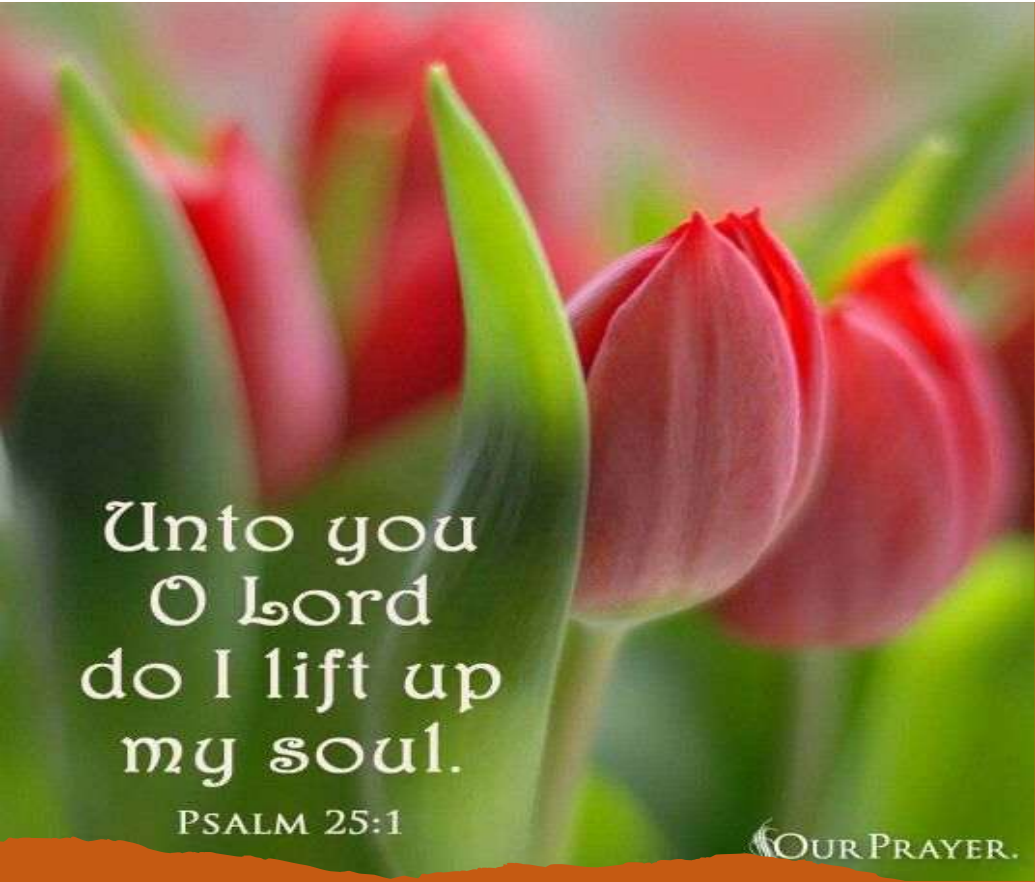
St. Paul
Lutheran



Taylor, TX
LCMC

***Welcome to
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Unto you
O Lord
do I lift up
my soul.

PSALM 25:1

OUR PRAYER.



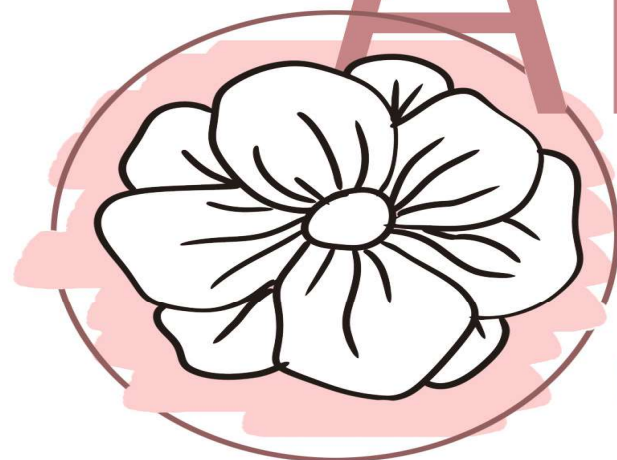
lcmc

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US

ALTAR *flowers*



In memory of Leland and Gladiola Kruse
on their birthdays.

St. Paul Lutheran Church



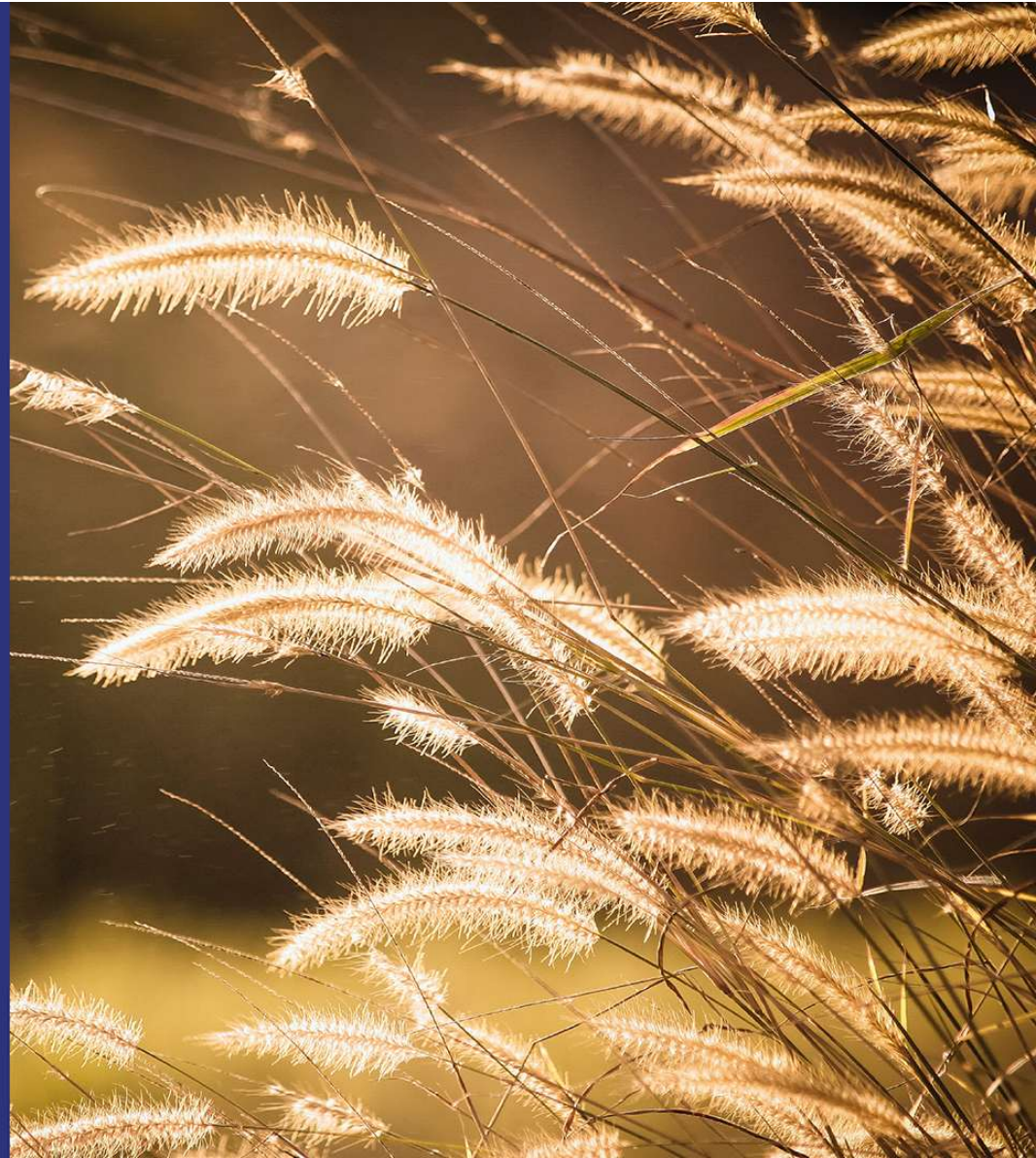
112th Anniversary

1914 – 2026

Join us after service for a celebration
brunch in the Fellowship Hall

Lord, raise up your people
to go to places that do not
have **PEACE**, **HOPE**, or the
JOY of knowing you!

 **PRAYER LEAGUE**
prayerleague.org



INTRODUCTION

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through
faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody
your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our
relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking
justice.**

**Divisions disrupt your call to show
genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

**Restore our world and reconcile us to one
another.**

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

Gathering Song

“Morning Has Broken”

Hymn # 556

**¹ Morning has broken
like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.**

Hymn # 556

Praise for the singing!
Praise for the Morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the word!

Hymn # 556

**² Sweet the rain's new fall,
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.**

Hymn # 556

**Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**

Hymn # 556

Final Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning,
born of the one light
Eden saw play!

Hymn # 556

**Praise with elation,
praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation
of the new day.**

Hymn # 556

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

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die.

²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?

³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone,
says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 25:1-9

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

¹ To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me
not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are
treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you
have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion
and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your
way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God

as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in

appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling,

¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you
both to will and to work for his good
pleasure.

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 21:23-32

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?'" ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

Matthew 21, 23-27



Hymn of the Day

“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”

Hymn # 818

**¹ O Master, let me walk with
you
in lowly paths of service true;**

Hymn # 818

**tell me your secret; help me
bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

Hymn # 818

**2 Help me the slow of heart to
move
by some clear, winning word of
love;**

Hymn # 818

**teach me the wayward feet to
stay,
and guide them in the
homeward way.**

Hymn # 818

**3 Teach me your patience;
share with me
a closer, dearer company,**

Hymn # 818

**in work that keeps faith sweet
and strong,
in trust that triumphs over
wrong,**

Hymn # 818

**Final In hope that sends a shining
ray
far down the future's broad'ning
way,**

Hymn # 818

**in peace that only you can give;
with you, O Master, let me live.**

Hymn # 818

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

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love,
we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love.

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably.
Remind them of their call to use their authority for
the sake of the common good. Give them the gift
of humility.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need and we remember our friends and family members before you. Grant us your salvation.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places.

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 missionary Julie in Radio Teos Burratia, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Grace Lutheran Church in Oconto Falls, Wisconsin.

We also celebrate and lift before you the ministry of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas and their pastor, Ray Hagen. Bless their work for your Kingdom's sake.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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

“On Our Way Rejoicing”

Hymn # 537

**¹ On our way rejoicing
gladly let us go.**

**Christ our Lord has conquered;
vanquished is the foe.**

Christ without, our safety;

Hymn # 537

**Christ within, our joy;
who, if we be faithful,
can our hope destroy?**

Hymn # 537

[Refrain]

**On our way rejoicing,
as we forward move,
hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!**

Hymn # 537

**Final Unto God the Father
joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior
thankful hearts we bring;**

Hymn # 537

**unto God the Spirit
bow we and adore,
on our way rejoicing
now and evermore.**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 537

[Refrain]

**On our way rejoicing,
as we forward move,
hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!**

Hymn # 537

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

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