

Welcome!

to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Clay Center, KS

Thank you
for joining us for worship!

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 25 & 26, 2026

Worship Folder



St. Paul Lutheran Communion Statement:

COMMUNION WELCOME-God calls upon His people to exercise care in the use of His Supper because harm results when Communion is received without repentance or a right understanding (1 Corinthians 11:23-30) and when fellowship is practiced without agreement in God's Word (Galatians 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:15, 3:14). In Communion Jesus gives us His true Body and Blood, in with and under the bread and wine, to forgive our sins (Matthew 26:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 10:16-21). We also profess agreement in the teachings of the church at whose altar we commune. Thus, we cannot offer this Supper to those who have not received instruction per the mysteries of this meal. We do invite fellow members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to join our members as we receive the Sacrament today. Others are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. Those who desire to come forward for a blessing are invited to do so, indicating their intent to receive a blessing by crossing their arms in front.

Distribution of the bread is to the hand of the communicant. "Gluten Free" wafers are available. Please let the ushers know PRIOR to service if you are needing this substitution.

Distribution of the wine is by choice of individual cup or common chalice. If you receive with the individual cup, please keep the small cup visible to the minister with the common cup. Individual cups of unfermented grape juice will be provided at the center of each of the trays for those who prefer grape juice over wine. Both are "fruit of the vine" and in the sacrament become means by which Christ grants us his blood to assure us of forgiveness, life and salvation. The unfermented grape juice is light in color.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

AS WE GATHER

Jesus famously teaches, “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21), and Jesus knows a treasure when He sees one. Listen to the Readings in worship today. From the days of the Old Testament onward, the Lord has clearly declared how He vastly treasures His people. The Son of God gives up everything to reclaim you as His treasured possession. And it is purely His love for you that gives you true value and limitless worth. Since His treasure is His people, you can be sure His heart remains with His people too, as He visits us here with the priceless goodness of His Word and Sacrament.

✠ **PREPARATION** ✠

God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It

LSB 594

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

C **How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!**
- P** The LORD set His love on you and chose you.

C **Know therefore that the LORD is God.**
- P** For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

C **To Him be glory forever. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** You are a people holy to the Lord your God.

C **We confess our unholy thoughts, words, and actions.**

Silence for personal reflection.

- P** Almighty God,

- C** **we have not lived up to our calling as Your treasured possession. Our desires are selfish and our love is shallow. We have turned aside from doing good and chosen to treasure things of creation rather than our Creator. In our sinful state we are vulnerable to the devil, death, and darkness. And so we seek Your mercy. We surrender to Your loving kindness in Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

P “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

C **“He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?”**
- P** Indeed, the mercy of almighty God is displayed in the giving of His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

INTROIT

- P** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

C **Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!**

P Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

C **Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!**

P Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

C **O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

LSB 821

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Loving God, You mercifully call Your people to be Your treasured possession and defeat our mortal enemies of sin, death, and darkness. Supply our hearts with faith and secure us in the victory of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

⁶“You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 125

P ¹Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

C ²**As the mountains surround Jerusalem,**

**so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore.**

P³For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest
on the land allotted to the righteous,
lest the righteous stretch out
their hands to do wrong.

C⁴**Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their hearts!**

P⁵But those who turn aside to their crooked ways
the LORD will lead away with evildoers!
Peace be upon Israel!

EPISTLE

Romans 8:28–39

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

P Alleluia. I will open My mouth in parables;

C **I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.
Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44–52

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. 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, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, 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 gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.”

⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Through Jesus' Blood and Merit

LSB 746

SERMON

CATECHISM

The Second Article

C I believe 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.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,

who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Mighty Lord, we need Your constant defense in a world of death, danger, and distraction. Guard us in both body and soul, that Your people might live to the praise of our victorious Savior, Jesus. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Generous Lord, all good things are gifts from Your holy hand. Undo our attitudes of selfishness and renew within us a spirit of generosity, freely giving of our treasures to the needy in our midst. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Seeking and saving Lord, You tirelessly pursue the children of earth with Your goodness and mercy. Soften hearts hardened to Your Gospel and activate Your people to witness to Your goodness. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Faithful Lord, despite our sin, You keep covenant and steadfast love. Rescue families where loyalties have been betrayed and trust broken. Mend hurting hearts with forgiveness and restore them by Your grace. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

P All-seeing Lord, You set Your heart on the least and fewest. Set Your heart once again on the lonely, the dying, the poor, and the sick, Mary, Brandon, Rebecca, Kenzie, Dwight, Larry, Larry, Wilder, Jackie, Paisley, Beverly, Keith, Barbara, Arielle, Brad, Norma, Kay, Van, Kathy, Philip, Katie, Denise, Bobbi, Sarah, Ryan, Emmitt, Malissa, David, Donna, Ron, Micah, Addie, Ann, Sandy, Irene, John, Greg, Melissa, Benjamin, Jennifer, Gail, Melissa, Darlene, Darla, Rachelle, Joe, Sheila, Connie, Kerri; and the shut-ins, Bonnie, Larry, Georgie, Julie, Cedric, Mary Ann, Pauline, Larry, and Lola. Bring good amid their challenges and remind us that no problem is too big for Your power and no one is too small to escape Your notice. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

P These prayers, and all those lifted up by believers around the world, we entrust to Your care, O almighty God, trusting You to hear and answer according to the Father's will, in the Son's grace, and by the Spirit's power.

C Amen.

OFFERING

Romans 8:18 – “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” It is very easy to get caught up in the present and lose track of our ultimate destiny in the kingdom of God. St. Paul encourages us to keep eternity in mind. This certainly has an application to our support for the Gospel — if we keep our focus on “the glory to be revealed,” we will see our tithes and offerings in a new light.

OFFERTORY



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

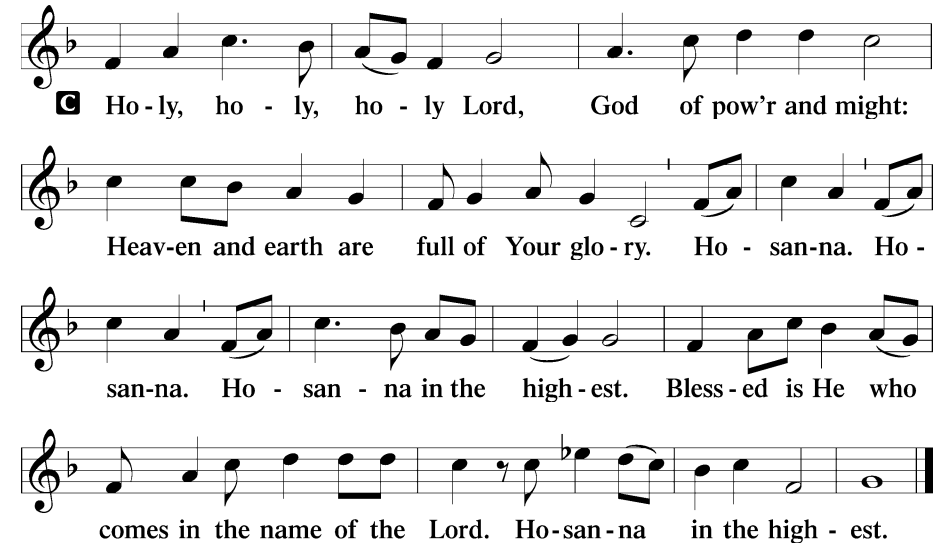
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P Gathered with grateful hearts, we praise You—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—for the victory won for us in the giving of Jesus Christ, our Savior. For us, Christ battled darkness, bore sin's curse, and broke death's hold on humankind. The trophies of His triumph are all souls who now believe and belong to Him. Our hearts, our lives, and even our songs are given worth and value purely through His immeasurable love. As we anticipate the coming again of our victorious Redeemer, we join in praising the glorious name of our Lord and saying:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Eternally victorious Christ, in the giving of Yourself on our behalf, You became the Lamb slain for us. And yet, You live triumphant to bring us into Your love through Your Word and Sacraments. Bless the Supper we share at Your Table, that in receiving Your true body and blood we might taste again Your victory that holds us through life's trials and into life everlasting; for You, O Christ, live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

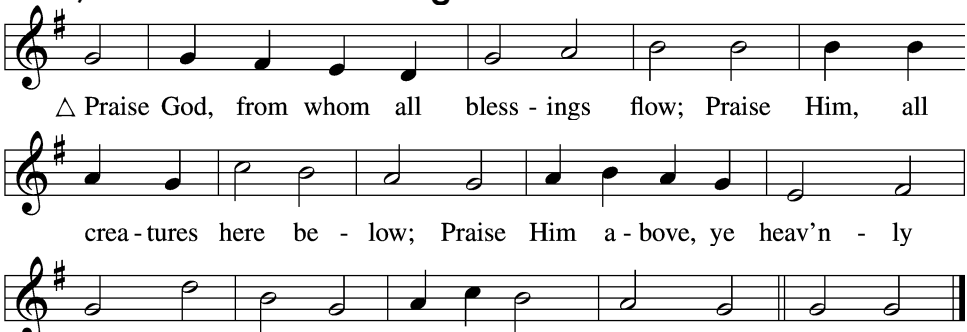
AGNUS DEI

C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

The Lamb	LSB 547
Chief of Sinners Though I Be	LSB 611
Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face	LSB 631
Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior	LSB 627

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings FlowLSB 805



Δ Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.
Most holy God, it is the promise of Your Word that You work all things together for good, for those called according to Your purpose. We praise You that at this altar we have tasted and seen what is good, and that by Your reconciliation, we have been made good through our Savior, Jesus Christ. May the goodness delivered to us by Your mercy be spread throughout our community, that everything good might witness to You, Giver of all good things. In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

In Thee Is GladnessLSB 818

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