

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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www.denverlutheran.com

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Member Congregation:
Church of the Lutheran Confession
www.clclutheran.org



8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 23, 2023

Order of Worship: Service of the Word

(printed on liturgy insert inside front cover of maroon hymnal)

Serving Us At God's House Today

Organist: Jeana Kettner

Ushers: Mike Sprengeler, John Sprengeler

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 5 (pew bible, p.482)
- ◆ The Hymns: 901, 586, 589, 921
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Romans 8:18-25; Matthew 13:1-9,18-23
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (liturgy insert, p.15)

Sermon Text – Isaiah 55:10-11

God's Word Works!

1. It is filled with *divine* power.
2. It freshens our souls like rain and snow.
3. It *always* accomplishes His will.

- ◆ Offering of Thankful Hearts
- ◆ Altar Prayer & Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction
- ◆ Closing Hymn (921)

Today's Scriptures

First Lesson – Romans 8:18-25

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 33

- P Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous:
C **It is fitting for the upright to praise him.**
P For the word of the LORD is right and true:
C **He is faithful in all he does.**
P The LORD foils the plans of the nations:
C **He thwarts the purposes of the peoples.**
P But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever:
C **The purposes of his heart through all generations.**
P The eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him:
C **On those whose hope is in his unfailing love.**
P We wait in hope for the LORD:
C **He is our help and our shield.**
P May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD:
C **Even as we put our hope in you.**

Second Lesson – Matthew 13:1-9.18-23

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 He who has ears, let him hear.” | 18 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20 The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. 22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. 23 But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Sermon Text – Isaiah 55:10-11

10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, 11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

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A Warm Welcome To Our Worship Guests. It is our prayer that your faith is strengthened today by the preaching of our Lord's pure Word and by the psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs that our Scripture-based liturgy offers every week. St. Paul is a member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC). The CLC is represented by congregations throughout the United States and Canada, with affiliated churches in Africa, India, and neighboring nations. All of our churches confess the Bible to be the inspired and unerring Word of God. We invite our Guests to record their visit by signing the Guestbook and to come worship with us again.

This Week at St. Paul

Today (7/23)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Quarterly Voters Meeting
Sat	10:00 am	Velma Clark Funeral
Sun (7/30)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Coffee / Fellowship Time

Elders Meeting: Sunday, August 6, 8:30 am

In Our Prayers: The family and friends of Velma Clark who was called to her eternal rest last Tuesday, July 18. Her victory service will be conducted at 10:00 am, Friday, July 28, here at St. Paul. Burial will be at Crown Hill Cemetery in Wheat Ridge. Visitation will be Thursday, July 27, at Crown Hill from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. *"And the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away" (Isaiah 35:10).*

Walk with the Apostle Paul (Greece / Turkey Trip) – "A group trip to Greece and Turkey is planned for May 27 – June 5, 2024 with a possible three day extension to Rome for those interested. The trip will include visits to Athens, Corinth, Berea, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Ephesus and much more. It will include visits to the traditional sites of many of the visits of the Apostle Paul recorded in the Book of Acts. We will be reminded of the zeal and spread of the early Christian church. The extension to Rome will include visits to the Sistine Chapel, Basilica of St. Peter, Catacombs, Colosseum, St. Paul's Church, and more. A video of a similar trip can be seen here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ul-o6E47MMw. If you would like more information about this trip, please contact Nathanael Mayhew (nnmayhew@sleepyeyelutheran.com). Brochures with additional trip details are available upon request."

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

July 24-29, '23

Mon Mark 4:26-29 God rule is not always visible and, as the seed grows even while the farmer is sleeping, so also God's kingdom grows. The farmer does not have to know how the seed grows, blade to grain, for it is the Lord who brings the growth until the much-awaited day of harvest.

Tues 1 Timothy 6:6-12 Although the Kingdom of God is sometimes compared to a farmer and his earthly crops (yesterday's reading), it has far greater promise than the harvests of this world. In fact, focusing too much on earthly wealth can distract one from seeking the Kingdom of God and eternal life.

Wed Isaiah 62:6-9 The Lord, who watch's over His people (Jerusalem), has watchmen, not just to warn of an enemy's approach, but also to pray that the Lord remember His promises and establish His kingdom forever. For this they are to pray without ceasing (v7 cp. 1Thess 5:17).

Thur Isaiah 62:10-12 The prophet urges the people to go out the gates and prepare the highway for the Lord's harvest, as He gathers His people from ends of the earth to His banner. This is the salvation that He has promised, and His people will be known as the redeemed of the Lord.

Fri Colossians 3:12-17 In Christ's Kingdom we are *forgiven* by Christ the King, and want to forgive others. Under God's rule we have the *peace* of Christ, and want to live in that peace with one another. The *word* of Christ, by which He rules, is also what we want to speak to one another, and walk in *love* (v14).

Sat Matthew 13:24-30 When God rules, His servants may not always understand why He permits bad things to happen or evil to grow for a time in the world, but in the harvest it will be apparent that He was always working for the good of His own precious crop.