



8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 19, 2026

Welcome to
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lakewood, Colorado

A Warm Welcome in Christ to our Worship Guests. The members of St. Paul are pleased to meet you and are happy that you are here to worship with us today. We are a congregation committed without reservation to the entire truth of God's Word, the Bible. We have found joy and hope in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have found moral guidance, a way of life, and the promise of eternal life in the Holy Scriptures. It gives us pleasure to share these blessings with you. Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again! Questions? Please speak with one of the ushers. They will be happy to assist you!

Opening Prayer

Hymn

LSB 901 – “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

The Invocation

P: Welcome ... in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.** (*spoken*)

Confession of Sins & Announcement of Forgiveness

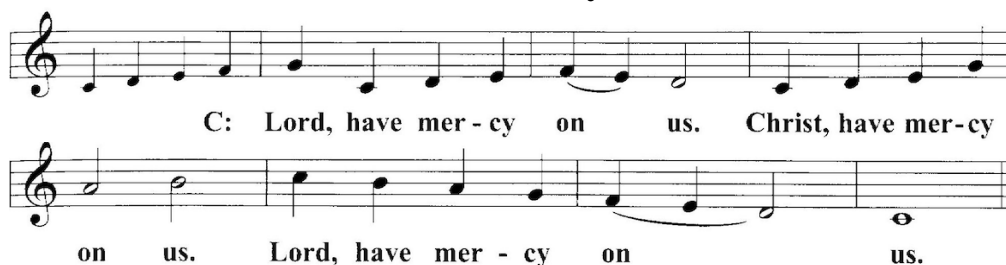
P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

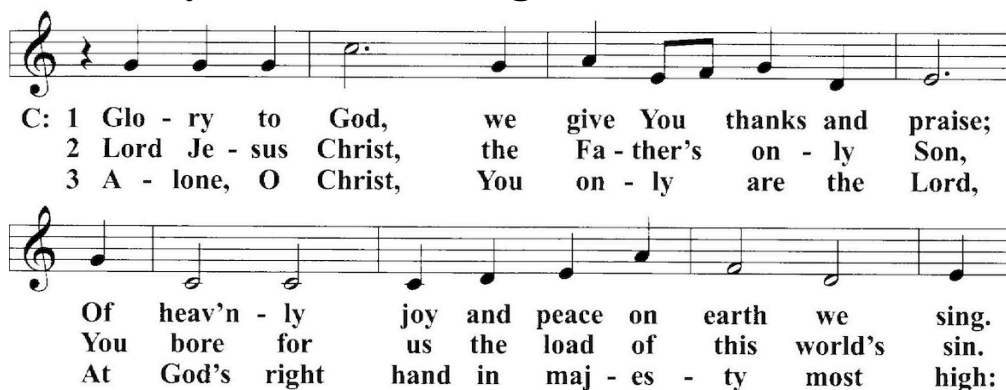
P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

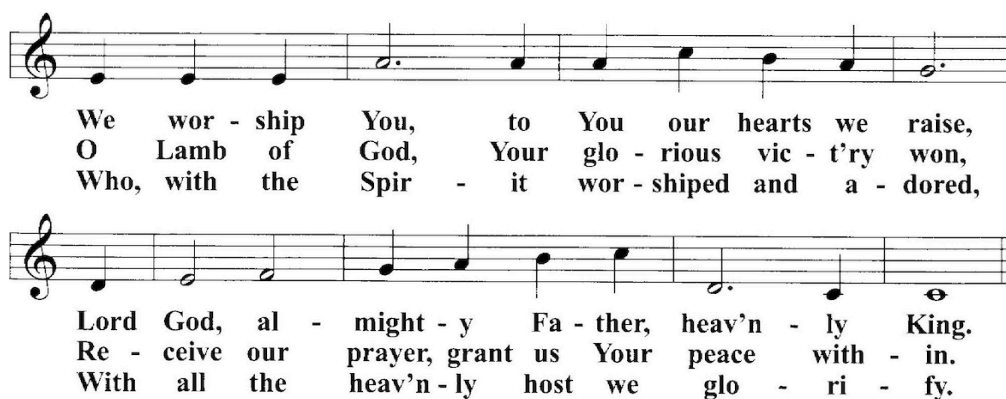
C: **Amen.** (*spoken*)

Lord, Have Mercy *The Kyrie*



Glory to God in the Highest *The Gloria in Excelsis*





Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray: "... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever."

C: **Amen.** (*spoken*)

First Lesson – Isaiah 55:10-11

10 "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 65

P: Praise is awaiting You, O God, in Zion:

C: **And to You the vow shall be performed.**

P: You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it:

C: **You make it soft with showers.**

P: The river of God is full of water:

C: **You provide the people with grain.**

P: You crown the year with Your goodness:

C: **And Your paths drip with abundance.**

P: They drop on the pastures of the wilderness:

C: **And the little hills rejoice on every side.**

P: The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys are covered with grain:

C: **They shout for joy, they also sing.**

Second Lesson – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

1 On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. 2 And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and

the whole multitude stood on the shore. 3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. 8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” | 18 “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. 20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. 22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. 23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it. Alleluia!

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Confession of Faith – Apostles Creed

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

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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

540 – “If You But Trust in God to Guide You” (printed below)

540

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

Ps 55:22; Prov 3:5,6; Isa 41:10; Matt 9:22

1. If you but trust in God to guide you and place your
2. How can these anx - ious wor - ries aid you, these nev - er -
3. Be pa - tient and a - wait His lei - sure in cheer - ful
4. Sing, pray, and keep His ways un - swerv - ing, per - form your

con - fi - dence in Him, He'll give you strength and stand be -
ceas - ing moans and sighs? Will not His wings of mer - cy
hope, with heart con - tent; then take what - e'er your Fa - ther's
du - ties faith - ful - ly, and trust His Word; though un - de -

side you when days are drear - y, dark, and dim. For those who
shade you when - ev - er trou - bled times a - rise? Our cross and
plea - sure and His dis - cern - ing love have sent. Doubt not; your
serv - ing, you'll find His prom - ise true to be. God nev - er

trust His change - less love build on the Rock that does not move.
tri - als do but press the heav - ier for our bit - ter - ness.
in - most wants are known to Him who chose you for His own.
yet for - sook in need the soul that trust - ed Him in - deed.

O Sing of Christ #540, Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire WI 2024. Public domain.

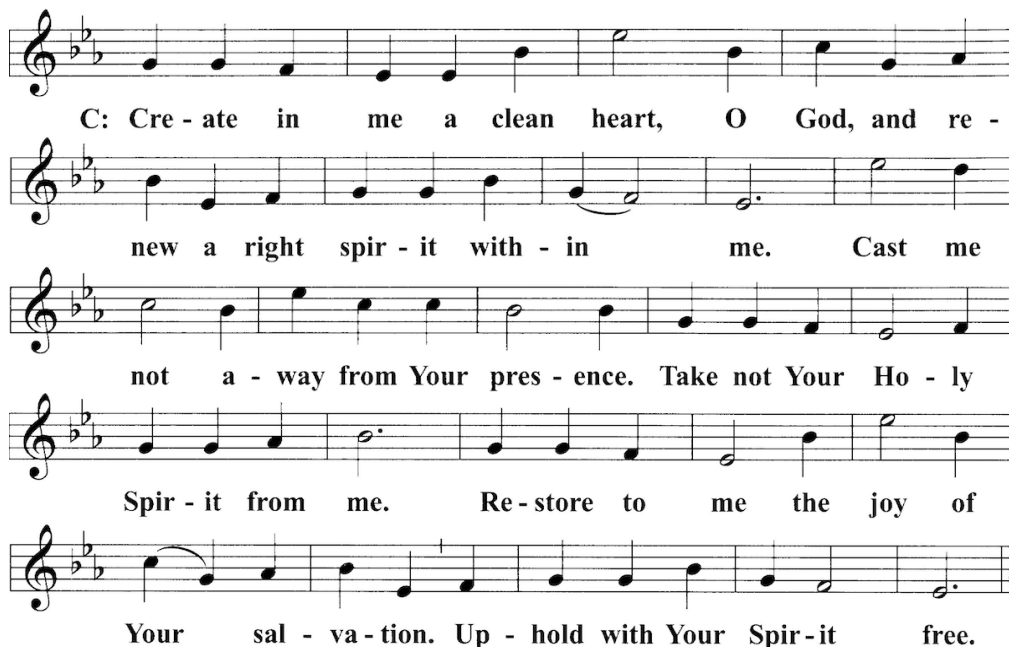
Sermon, based on Romans 8:18-25

A Word from St. Paul for Discouraged Christians

1. The cause of our discouragements.
2. How to overcome them.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

Offertory



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me
not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

Offering of Thankful Hearts / Prayer of the Church

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.

Hymn

LSB 387 – “Joy to the World”

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you ...

C: 
A - men, a - men, a - men.

Closing Hymn

LSB 692 – “Praise to You and Adoration”

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This Week at St. Paul

Today (7/19)	8:30 am	Church Council Meeting
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Coffee Hour (downstairs)
Thu-Sat	9:00 am	Vacation Bible School (till noon)
Sunday (7/26)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	VBS Potluck

Quarterly Voters Meeting: Sunday, August 2, 10:45 am



Vacation Bible School: This Thursday through Saturday, July 23-25, from 9:00 am to noon each day. The theme for our school is “Vibrance of the Son.” The series of Bible Lessons to be presented to the children will explore the “colors of God’s grace,” as symbolized by colors of the church year:

- purple – the color of suffering and sorrow
- black – the color of sin and its curse
- white – the color for purity and life
- red – the color for fire and zeal
- green – the color for growing in God’s grace

Other activities will include: assembling craft projects, learning a Gospel song, snacks, and recess. Posters for advertising our school are available in the narthex. Take and share! **Note:** To wrap-up our VBS, we will celebrate with a congregational potluck in

the Fellowship Hall on July 26 after the worship service. You are invited to bring picnic food items such as fried chicken, sandwiches, potato salad, etc. Please join us!

CLC News & Notes

Nine CLC Mission Helpers (Lauren Gurgel, Abigail Gerbitz, Elijah Sumey, Jeff Radichel, Sarah Radichel, Josh Ohlmann, Lydia Ohlmann, Andrew Lau, Alexis Aichele) along with team leaders (Pastor Tom Naumann and Missionary Todd Ohlmann) recently traveled to the East African nations of Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia. The Tanzania team was welcomed and joined in their work by Missionary Bruce and Paula Naumann. The Mission Helpers have been spending their time in Africa proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to an estimated 6,000 children. They are focusing their efforts in villages where the Kenya-CLC, Tanzania-CLC, and Zambia-CLC have been working to establish congregations and preaching stations. You can follow along with the Mission Helpers through the trip blog at www.2026clcmisionhelpertripeastafrica.blogspot.com. Your prayers are requested and much appreciated.

Exciting news on the ILC Gymnasium Project: Delegates at the CLC Convention which convened recently in Eau Claire, WI voted to raise the approved Church Extension Fund (CEF) loan amount for the new gymnasium from \$3M to \$7M. With \$2.6M already donated to the Building Fund, this means that when that \$7M is received into the CEF and offerings grow by another \$1M, we can begin construction – as early as next Spring! In passing these resolutions, the Convention removed all doubt that we are moving forward with this project, as well as providing opportunity for CLC members to continue to show their support. Four things you can do:

- 1) Pray! Ask the Lord to bless this project and move the hearts of our CLC membership to share the wealth He has already provided us.
- 2) Consider loaning money to the CEF. You can choose your rate of interest (up to 2.5%). [For the past 12 years, no new loans have been accepted into the CEF. That has now changed]. The CLC Board of Trustees will share information in the coming days on how to lend money to the CEF for the Gymnasium Project.
- 3) Contribute to the ILC Building Fund. In addition to funds loaned to the CEF, we need \$1M in additional contributions and investment earnings to begin construction.
- 4) Consider bequests to the ILC Building Fund as part of your estate planning.

To refresh yourself on the design and get a virtual walk through of the building, go to www.fep.ilc.edu.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

July 20-25

Mon Mark 3:1-6 Jesus knows that He is being watched in order to accuse Him, but He restores the use of a man's hand anyway, and immediately the Pharisees begin to plot how they might get rid of Him.

Tues Mark 3:7-12 Jesus' healing ways attract such large crowds that they could even pose a hazard (v9), but perhaps a greater threat comes from unclean spirits, whose "help" He steadfastly refuses.

Wed Romans 6:19-23 Paul reminds us of the shameful deeds and fatal result of our former slavery to sin, that we might now rejoice to be slaves to God, with sanctified fruits and eternal life resulting.

Thurs Jeremiah 31:23-25 The Lord promises that He will unite His people once more and bring them back from the captivity they have deserved. They will bless His gathering place, and He will satisfy their needs.

Fri Psalm 125 Everyone trusts someone, but those who trust in the Lord are truly secure. The Lord even protects them from oppression that might tempt them to turn to evil ways in their own defense (v3).

Sat Psalm 119:49-56 The Word of God brings us hope, and hope brings comfort in times of suffering. Therefore His words will occupy our songs (v54) and remind us of His Name in the darkest of nights (v55).

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Sunday School Superintendent: Derek Barthels

Serving Us Today

Organist Suzannah Miller

Ushers Bob Rankin, Mark Hartmeister

www.denverlutheran.com

Find us on Facebook at: “St Paul Ev. Lutheran Church”

Member Congregation: Church of the Lutheran Confession

www.clclutheran.org