

***The Parable of the Vineyard Workers
(Matthew 20:1-16)***



18th Sunday after Pentecost – September 27, 2026

Welcome to
**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lakewood, Colorado**

To Our Worship Guests a special welcome in Jesus' Name. The members of St. Paul are pleased to meet you and 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 684 – “Come unto Me, Ye Weary”

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*

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and half notes. The lyrics are written below the staff. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

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

C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,

The musical notation consists of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and half notes. The lyrics are written below the staff.



Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray: ... through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

First Lesson – Isaiah 55:6-9

6 Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 27

P: Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice!:

C: **Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.**

P: Do not hide Your face from me:

C: **Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help.**

P: Do not leave me nor forsake me:

C: **O God of my salvation.**

P: Though my father and my mother forsake me:

C: **The LORD will take care of me.**

P: I would have lost heart, unless I had believed:

C: That I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

P: Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart:

C: Wait, I say, on the LORD!

Second Lesson – Philippians 1:1-5, 19-27

1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, greeting. To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. | 19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. 24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. 25 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, 26 that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again. 27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.

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.



Confession of Faith – The 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

LSB 555 (1-6) – *“Salvation Unto Us Has Come”*

Sermon, based on Matthew 20:1-16

As You Do God’s Work, Think God’s Way!

1. Human thinking says: “You don’t get anything for free.”
2. God gives you what you’ve not earned, generously, for Jesus’ sake.

1 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 and said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. 5 Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?’ 7 They said to him, “Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.’ 8 “So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.’ 9 And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. 10 But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. 11 And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, 12 saying, “These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.’ 13 But he answered one of them and said,

“Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. 15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?” 16 So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.”

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

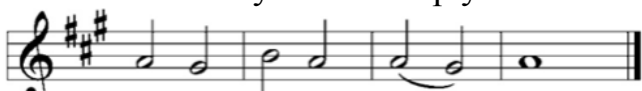
Prayer of the Church

Hymn

LSB 565 – “*Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ*”

Benediction

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

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

Closing Hymn

LSB 560 – “*Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed*”

This Week at St. Paul

Today (9/27)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
Sunday (10/4)	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class

Extended Calendar

Mary/Martha Ladies Meeting: Sunday, October 11 (10:45 am)
Church Council Meeting: Sunday, October 18 (8:30 am)
Fall Clean-up Day: Saturday, October 24
Quarterly Voters Meeting: Sunday, October 25 (10:45 am)

A Victory Service commemorating God's grace in the life of Delwyn Maas, a former pastor of St. Paul, will be held on Saturday, October 17 at 3:00 pm.

We Are Now Providing a Live Stream of our Sunday worship service [on our YouTube page](#). This link is also posted on our St. Paul Facebook page. The Live tab on YouTube will show the live service each Sunday. Here you will also be able to see past services. Older services can also be viewed on our [Facebook](#) page.

The Annual Front Range Reformation Festival Service will be hosted this year by Redeemer Lutheran Church of Cheyenne. Date and time of the service: Sunday, November 1, at 11:00 am. Bible Class and Sunday School will be conducted at 10:00 am. There will be a choir rehearsal at 10:45 am. A meal will follow the service at 12 noon. Save the date!

October Birthday (Anniversary) Blessings To . . .

Mark Hartmeister, Oct 1	Rae Baker, Oct 18
John Sprengeler, Oct 8	Sharlene Chiappetti, Oct 29
Jaxon Potter, Oct 14	(Andrew & Rebecca Baker, Oct 8)
Andrew Baker, Oct 17	

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Pastor: Thomas Schuetze, 303-557-7362, trschuetze@yahoo.com

President: Ed Chiappetti, 303-882-1776

Sunday School Superintendent: Derek Barthels

Serving Us Today

Organist Suzannah Miller

Ushers Mark Hartmeister, Bob Rankin

www.denverlutheran.com

Sunday Worship Livestream: www.youtube.com/@stpaulmlutheranco/live

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

Member Congregation: Church of the Lutheran Confession

www.clclutheran.org

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

September 28 – October 3

Mon Luke 14:1-11 Pharisees watch Jesus to see if He will try to help a suffering man and break one of the rules that they had made to exalt themselves. Jesus helps the man and warns against self-exaltation.

Tues Ephesians 4:1-6 Paul calls upon believers to walk humbly, to bear with one another in love, and to make every effort to maintain the unity which God the Holy Spirit has created among them.

Wed 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Hannah has formally dedicated her young son to the Lord. She sings thanks, both for a son, and for a God who blesses His humble people. Mary echoes some of her thoughts in Luke 1:46ff.

Thurs Psalm 56 When David is pursued or ambushed or surrounded by enemies, he turns in trust to God. He looks forward to bringing his thank-offering, to walking before God in the light of life (v13).

Fri Jude 20-25 Jude closes his letter by encouraging the believers to grow in faith and love, showing mercy toward those who need it. To God, who can keep us from stumbling, be all glory, majesty, and power!

Sat Psalm 119:129-136 The testimonies of God are a special gift that give understanding and grace. By them our walk in life is kept steady. It is a special favor of God (face shine = smile) to be taught His statutes.