



July 26, 2026 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus and His disciples have left the crowds. Jesus is now in private with His disciples, and there He continues to teach them. He explains to them the parable of the weeds. Then He tells them three more parables: the parable of the hidden treasure, the parable of the pearl, and the parable of the net. In all four sections, Jesus encourages His disciples. Jesus' ministry has already been and will continue to be opposed. But Jesus reminds them that it will not always be this way; on the Last Day, the righteous (Jesus' disciples as well as all Christians) "will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Matt. 13:43). And in the parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl, Jesus shows His incredible love and mission to seek and save His people. This should be an encouragement to them in the midst of opposition. We, too, can take comfort by Jesus' parables. In the midst of this life, we remember that Jesus has purchased us to make us His own, and we look forward to the Last Day when He will make everything right.

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 763, "When Peace, like a River"*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us take a moment of silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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.

People: **Amen.**

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN *LSB 722, "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"*

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

CATECHISM *The Seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:15; LSB 321)*

Pastor: What is the seventh commandment?

People: **You shall not steal.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: **We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him improve and protect his possessions and income.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 7:6–9*

⁶ "For 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. ⁷ It 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, ⁸ but 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. ⁹ Know 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,

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalms 125*

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

People: **As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore.**

Pastor: For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous,

People: **lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.**

Pastor: Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts!

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

EPISTLE READING *Romans 8:28–39*

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For 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. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² 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? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who 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. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 13:36-50*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the thirteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. ⁴⁴ "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, ⁴⁶ who, 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. ⁴⁸ When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY *LSB 573, "Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee"*

SERMON *"Parables of Encouragement"*

APOSTLE'S CREED

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 159-160)*

All: What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, and confident that You will hear and answer us, O Lord.
People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
All: 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.

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: 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.
People: Amen.

HYMN *LSB 922, "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Next Week's Readings: August 2, 2026 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5 Psalm 136:1-9

Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21

Service adapted from Divine Service setting 1 (LSB 151-166).



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of July 26, 2026

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen

Cell: 832-727-3135 pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

Family for the Week: **Tammy Stafford & Homebound**
 Zion, Prairie City, MO

Prayers of Peace and Comfort: Family of Keith (friend of Sue Doss)

Prayers of Thanksgiving: Carol and Gary; Madison Swoyer

Prayers for Health and Healing: Maribeth Lamp; Sandra Whalen

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Becky (Cheryl Lile's friend – fighting an infection)

Ardella – (health and healing)

Tammy Ardrey – (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)

Bruce Banks – (friend of Teri Ediger)

Rick Bauer – (Gladys' son – health and healing)

Jeannie Bennett – (relative of Teri Ediger – health and healing)

Blazi – (friend of Jaycee & Ty – health and healing)

Treasa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – (health and healing)

Joyce Campbell – (friend of Wanda Thompson – health and healing)

Teri Ediger – (health and healing from surgery)

Kyle and family – (grandson to Cathy Munden, son of Teri)

McGee family – (health and healing)

Glenda – (Teri Ediger's step-mother – health and healing)

Long Term

Gladys Bauer – (health and healing)

Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)

Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)

Rev. Johannes Brann – (health and healing/peace and comfort)

Rev. Brian and Jessica Chisamore – (health and healing for Jessica)

Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)

Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)

Mary Ann Campbell – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)

Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken-hip)

Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)

Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)

Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)

Gary Gardner – (health and healing)

Betty Gordon – (health and healing)

Sharon Crandall (health & healing)

Tessie Holle – (cousin of Kathy Holle)

Family of Jamie – (friend of Jaycee & Ty – health and healing)

Janet – (Darlene Lampe's son-in-law's mother)

Aaron (grandson of Bill & Joanne)

Beverly Lofton – (friend of Cathy Munden – health and healing)

Family of Eldrid Holle (Kathy Holle's uncle)

Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel's brother – health and healing)

Rebecca – (Kathy Holle's relative – health and healing from cancer)

Emma S. – (recovery after hospital stay)

Tim Tucek – (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)

Baby Vada – (Cathy Munden's great grandchild – health and healing)

Dayton Wheeler – (grandson of Wanda Thompson – surgery)

Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)

Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden's granddaughter)

Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)

Mitzie Lorenz – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)

Jeeper Meyer – (health and healing from cancer)

Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's sister-in-law – health & healing)

Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)

Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)

LC Stalcup – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)

Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)

Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)

Bill Thompson – (health and healing)

June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health & healing)

WEEK

Sunday

July 26th

9:00 am - Happy Half Hour, Bible Study

9:30 am - Fellowship

10:00 am – Service

Monday	July 27 th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Thursday	July 30 th	No Confirmation
Friday	July 31 st	Pastor's Day Off
Sunday	Aug. 2 nd	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour, Bible Study 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service with communion

Monday	Aug. 3 rd	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
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Birthdays: Aug. 2-Hannah Heitshusen; Aug. 3-Robert Miller-Morgan; Aug. 4-Marlo Springer
Anniversaries: Aug. 4-James & Betty Gordon

July

Greeters

26: Bill and Joanne Michel

Ushers

26: Matthew Springer

August

Greeters

8/02: Stan & Sharon Crandall
 8/09: Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer
 8/16: Charlie & Edee Chambers
 8/23 Emily Ernest & Matthew Springer
 8/30: Bill & Joanne Michel

Ushers

02: Charlie Chambers
 09: David Lampe
 16: Bill Michel
 23: Matthew Springer
 30: Doug Goodman



NO Joint Service! We will NOT have a joint worship service at Trinity on August 16. We WILL meet here at Grace just like normal!

LWML invites all ladies to a Mother/Daughter/Friend Salad supper on Monday, August 3, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity Lutheran School in Freistatt. It's a Route 66 themed evening with a Photo Booth perfect for a great backdrop. We have two speakers — one to show us how to take better photos with our cell phones, including selfies, and the next to show us some ways to look better in photos taken. We'll be taking photos, and if willing, we'll share them on the white board — before and afters! It should be a fun evening with lots of laughs, so mark your calendar and join us.

Sunday Bible Class - Why do we begin the service with confession? Why does Pastor say "in the stead and by the command of Christ..."? Why do we have four Scripture readings every Sunday? Are they connected to each other? Is there any Biblical basis for why we do the things we do on Sunday morning? NEXT SUNDAY, August 2, our Sunday morning Bible class will begin a new study that walks through the worship service. We will seek to answer these questions (and more). If you've ever wondered why we worship the way we do, then come and join us!