SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service of Farewell for Pastor Cameron Steele July 27, 2025, 9:30 AM



The Lord's Supper at St. Paul

God's Word teaches the real presence of Christ's body and blood invisibly in, with, and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. We take seriously the spiritual care of those who commune at our altar. It is important that every partaker must be a baptized Christian and come with repentant faith. The Word of God states that no one offend against Christ and His Word by denying His true presence and its promise and seal of forgiveness. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (see 1 Cor. 11:27-29), and because Holy Communion is a confession of what is taught and believed at this altar (1 Cor. 11:26), any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession (beliefs) differing from that of this congregation (that is, belong to another church body or denomination) and yet desire to receive the sacrament, should first speak with the pastor before communing. As a courtesy, guests from sister congregations of the LCMS or from congregations of the American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC) are also asked to introduce themselves to the pastor before communing.

As We Gather



God's Word instructs us to stay connected to Christ. We experience that connection as we gather to hear God's Word, dine at our Lord's Table, and pray persistent, bold prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, communities, and world. Today we hear Abraham pleading with God on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah. We hear Jesus teaching His disciples to pray. Jesus then illustrates the power of bold, persistent prayer and affirms the goodness of the One who

hears our prayers. "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time" (1 Timothy 2:5–6).

Vocal Choir

Welcome

Hymn of Invocation: 869 "With the Lord Begin Your Task"

- 1 With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it. For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it. Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise, And when day is ended, In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him commended.
- Let each day begin with prayer,
 Praise, and adoration.
 On the Lord cast ev'ry care;
 He is your salvation.
 Morning, evening, and at night
 Jesus will be near you,
 Save you from the tempter's might,
 With His presence cheer you.
- With your Savior at your side, Foes need not alarm you; In His promises confide, And no ill can harm you. All your trust and hope repose In the mighty Master, Who in wisdom truly knows How to stem disaster.
- 4 If your task be thus begun
 With the Savior's blessing,
 Safely then your course will run,
 Toward the promise pressing.
 Good will follow ev'rywhere
 While you here must wander;
 You at last the joy will share
 In the mansions yonder.

5 Thus, Lord Jesus, ev'ry task
Be to You commended;
May Your will be done, I ask,
Until life is ended.
Jesus, in Your name begun
Be the day's endeavor;
Grant that it may well be done
To Your praise forever.

Text: Morgen- und Abend-segen, 1734, Waldenburg; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt. Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002452

Invocation Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

In the name of the Father and of the

→ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Exhortation

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Confession of Sins

O almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution [John 20:19–23]

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Introit: Psalm 138:1-3, 8

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,

for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased.

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Kyrie Mark 10:47

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glory be to God on high:

and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day: Proper 12 (Year C)

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 18:20–33

²⁰Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

²⁷Abraham answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak.

Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹He said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." ³³And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Handbell Choir

Epistle: Colossians 2:6–19

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

¹⁶Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Song: "Come to Jesus" by EJ, Addison, and Audrey Fisch

Holy Gospel: Luke 11:1–13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eleventh chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ²And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread,

⁴and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation."

⁵And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? ⁸I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

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.

Children's Hymn of the Month "Lord Be Glorified"
In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified,
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.
In my song...

In Your church...

Children's Object Lesson

Hymn of the Day: 828 "We Are Called to Stand Together"

We are called to stand together
With the saints of ages past,
With the patriarchs and prophets
In the faith they once held fast;
Promises and hopes they treasured
Now we find fulfilled at last!

- 2 Those whom Jesus called apostles Journeyed with Him side by side, Heard His teaching, felt His power, Saw the way He lived and died; Then the news of resurrection They delivered far and wide.
- 3 Through the intervening ages
 Round the world the Gospel spread:
 Faithful heralds took the message,
 Guided where the Spirit led;
 So the body grew in stature,
 Serving Christ, the living head.
- 4 Now in many tongues and cultures
 Songs of celebration ring;
 Millions who confess our Savior
 Honor Him as Lord and King
 And, for courage, grace and guidance
 Ev'ry day their prayers they bring.
- To each coming generation
 Tell the truth, persuade, explain,
 Till the time when time is ended,
 Till the Savior comes again—
 Till the saints are all united
 Under Christ's eternal reign!

Text: Martin E. Leckebusch, 1962

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Sermon "God of Conversation and Community" (Luke 11:1-13)

Offering

Offertory Solo: by Hannah Steele

Prayer of the Church

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Full)

Sanctus Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He,

blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's PrayerMatthew 6:9–13

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28;

Pax Domini John 20:19

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution of the Sacrament

Visitors:

Please read the communion statement at the beginning of this worship folder.

Distribution Hymn: 596 "All Christians Who Have Been Baptized"

- 1 All Christians who have been baptized, Who know the God of heaven, And in whose daily life is prized The name of Christ once given: Consider now what God has done, The gifts He gives to ev'ryone Baptized into Christ Jesus!
- You were before your day of birth, Indeed, from your conception, Condemned and lost with all the earth, None good, without exception. For like your parents' flesh and blood, Turned inward from the highest good, You constantly denied Him.
- 3 But all of that was washed away— Immersed and drowned forever. The water of your Baptism day Restored again whatever Old Adam and his sin destroyed And all our sinful selves employed According to our nature.
- 4 In Baptism we now put on Christ— Our shame is fully covered With all that He once sacrificed And freely for us suffered. For here the flood of His own blood Now makes us holy, right, and good Before our heav'nly Father.

- O Christian, firmly hold this gift
 And give God thanks forever!
 It gives the power to uplift
 In all that you endeavor.
 When nothing else revives your soul,
 Your Baptism stands and makes you whole
 And then in death completes you.
- 6 So use it well! You are made new—
 In Christ a new creation!
 As faithful Christians, live and do
 Within your own vocation,
 Until that day when you possess
 His glorious robe of righteousness
 Bestowed on you forever!

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. Jon D. Vieker, 1961

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Distribution Hymn: 766 "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above"

- Our Father, who from heav'n above
 Bids all of us to live in love
 As members of one family
 And pray to You in unity,
 Teach us no thoughtless words to say
 But from our inmost hearts to pray.
 - Your name be hallowed. Help us, Lord, In purity to keep Your Word, That to the glory of Your name We walk before You free from blame. Let no false teaching us pervert; All poor deluded souls convert.
 - 3 Your kingdom come. Guard Your domain And Your eternal righteous reign. The Holy Ghost enrich our day With gifts attendant on our way. Break Satan's pow'r, defeat his rage; Preserve Your Church from age to age.

- 4 Your gracious will on earth be done
 As it is done before Your throne,
 That patiently we may obey
 Throughout our lives all that You say.
 Curb flesh and blood and ev'ry ill
 That sets itself against Your will.
- 5 Give us this day our daily bread, And let us all be clothed and fed. Save us from hardship, war, and strife; In plague and famine, spare our life, That we in honest peace may live, To care and greed no entrance give.
- 6 Forgive our sins, Lord, we implore, That they may trouble us no more; We, too, will gladly those forgive Who hurt us by the way they live. Help us in our community To serve each other willingly.
- 7 Lead not into temptation, Lord, Where our grim foe and all his horde Would vex our souls on ev'ry hand. Help us resist, help us to stand Firm in the faith, a mighty host, Through comfort of the Holy Ghost.
- 8 From evil, Lord, deliver us;
 The times and days are perilous.
 Redeem us from eternal death,
 And, when we yield our dying breath,
 Console us, grant us calm release,
 And take our souls to You in peace.

9 Amen, that is, so shall it be.
Make strong our faith in You, that we
May doubt not but with trust believe
That what we ask we shall receive.
Thus in Your name and at Your Word
We say, "Amen, O hear us, Lord!"

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1, 6, 8–9): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (sts. 2–5, 7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, alt. Text (sts. 1, 6, 8–9): Public domain Text (sts. 2–5, 7): © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002452

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,

for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,

a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving Psalm 107:1

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Collect

Salutation 2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus Psalm 103:1

Bless we the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Steele (Led by Jamie LeBlanc, President of the Congregation; Dennis Sattelberg, Vice-president of the Congregation; and Eric Bitzer, Chairman of the Board of Elders)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Pastor Steele is retiring from his pastorate at this congregation. At this time of farewell and Godspeed, let us hear the Word of the Lord.

Philippians 1:3–8

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:58

⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Psalm

Psalm 121:1–2; 90:1–2; Deuteronomy 28:3, 6; Psalm 90:14, 16–17

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heav'n and earth.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Blessèd shall you be in the city, and blessèd shall you be in the field.

Blessèd shall you be when you come in, and blessèd shall you be when you go out.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us;

yes, establish the work of our hands! 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.

(Please stand, Pastor will kneel)

Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks for all the blessings You have bestowed on this congregation through the ministry of Your servant Cameron. By Your Holy Spirit grant him grace that, by his example of faithful devotion to Your Word, he may continue to be a blessing to many. In Your mercy support and strengthen Pastor and Ruth, and grant them a cheerful spirit, peace, and blessedness; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Go in peace and joy. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and bless and strengthen you for faithful service in His name.

Amen.

Benediction (given by Pastor Steele)

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen, amen, amen.

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
You are My own.
In My love's baptismal river
I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing—
You are My own.

1

- Go, My children, sins forgiven,
 At peace and pure.
 Here you learned how much I love you,
 What I can cure.
 Here you heard My dear Son's story;
 Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
 Go, My children, sins forgiven,
 At peace and pure.
- Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
 Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
 Here My Spirit's power filled you;
 Here His tender comfort stilled you.
 Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.
- 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you
 And give you peace;
 I the Lord will smile upon you
 And give you peace:
 I the Lord will be your Father,
 Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
 Go, My children; I will keep you
 And give you peace.

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Leaving

Pastor's Retirement Celebration: Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a celebration honoring Pastor & Ruth.

Acknowledgments

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