



**The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 21, 2026**

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grant Park, IL

Theme of the Day: Say It Out Loud: Keep the Faith

Believers in God and their ministers have always been persecuted. Religious leaders in Jerusalem tried to muzzle the truth, but they only succeeded in sending people to preach the Word throughout the land. The Roman Empire persecuted Christians with stakes and lions, but God's Church exploded with growth. In Martin Luther's day, both pope and emperor tried to limit the gospel movement that was spreading from Germany, but God led many people to speak his truth. God wants his people to keep the faith and preach the Word even in the face of opposition.

Order of Service: Service Setting Two (CW page 172)

Prayer upon entering church: Lord Jesus, Your peace is not the world's peace. your cross is a stumbling block that causes scandal and division in the world, our families and our homes. Empower us to boldly share the light of your salvation in the sin-darkened world, that they may know the true peace that comes from you alone. Amen.

Opening hymn: Hail to the Lord's Anointed (CW 384)

Invocation and Confession

The Word

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, because your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in your eternal love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13 – Jeremiah refuses to abandon the faith even when beaten and put in stocks.

You persuaded me, Lord, and I agreed to it. You are stronger than I am, and you won out. I have become a laughingstock all day long, and everyone is mocking me. Whenever I speak,

I cry out. I cry out, "Violence and destruction!" But the word of the Lord has brought scorn on me. I am mocked all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him or speak in his name anymore," then there is a burning fire in my heart, shut up in my bones, and I am weary of holding it in. I cannot! I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side!" All my close friends, those who are watching for my fall, say,

"Denounce him! Let's denounce him. Perhaps he can be pressured into making a mistake. Then we will have the upper hand against him, and we will take our revenge on him." But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior. So my persecutors will stumble, and they will not gain the upper hand. They will be put to shame completely, because they have not been successful. Their eternal disgrace will never be forgotten. Lord of Armies, you test the righteous. You see the heart and the mind. Let me see your vengeance on them, for I have laid out my case before you. Sing to the Lord! Praise the Lord, for he has delivered the life of the need from the hand of the wicked.

Psalm: Let My Prayer Rise before You (Psalm 141)

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.
O LORD, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice
when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Jesus sent these twelve out and commanded them, “Brother will hand over his brother to death, and a father will do the same with his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all people because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. And when they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. Amen I tell you: You will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor is a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher and the servant like his master. If the master of the house was called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household! “So do not be afraid of them, because there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, fear the one who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

“Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without the knowledge and consent of your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows. “Everyone who confesses me before others, I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven.

The Gospel of our Lord

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day: Jesus, Priceless Treasure (CW 823)

Sermon: Press On When It Is Hard (2 Timothy 4:1-8)

Nicene Creed (CW 180-181)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering: We give our gifts to the Lord and sing “Fight the Good Fight” (CW 876 vs. 1) in response to our offerings.

Lord’s Supper (CW page 183)

Communion Hymn: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (CW 621)

Communion Hymn: Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit (CW 898)

Prayer and Blessing (CW page 187)

Closing hymn: Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See (CW 884)

Announcements

Welcome in Jesus' name to any and all guests and visitors here with us today. It is a joy to be able to worship with you. Help us to remember your visit by signing our guest book. Ask an usher if you need help finding the book. If you would like more information about our church please speak with pastor after church. If you need a hearing device, please speak to a greeter. Please come again!

Weekly Preview next week we will be having Stephen Bautista lead us in worship!

Hospitalized/Homebound members/members to keep in your prayers: Janice Hooton, Elmer Guritz Myrna Vandergriff (Windward Pointe Senior Living, Portage, Indiana) David Moeller, Dorothy Riechers (Beecher Manor) and Don Genge.

Christian Concert The Christian artist Stephen Bautista will be holding a concert here at church on June 28 in place of our normal Sunday service. We'll be having a potluck after service. Please put your name on the list to bring food and invite your friends to join us!

Mark your calendars our yearly Soccer camp will be held on July 28-30. The time will be from 4-5:30pm. The camp is for ages 4-10. A volunteer signup is located in the narthex as well as information flyers. Please take one and pass it out!

Pastor Installation Pastor Jordan Uhlhorn will be installed at Trinity in Crete on July 26. More information will be coming about the service. We rejoice at the upcoming installation!

Communion Service In the Lord's Supper, our Savior offers unworthy sinners a personal pledge of forgiveness of sins through his body and blood. As he draws repentant sinners to himself, he also draws them into a special bond of fellowship with one another. In the WELS, we demonstrate this special fellowship bond in what is called "close communion." Thus, if you have never communed with us before, we ask that you first speak with our pastor. He will share with you the steps toward establishing communion fellowship. Thank you for respecting our practice.

This week at St. Paul

Today: Worship with communion 9am

Sunday: Worship 9am

Organist: Thank you to Michelle Micheel

Last Week's Attendance: Sunday Worship 56

St. Paul Evangelical (Gospel Centered) Lutheran Church

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