

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

July 19th, 2026 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

July 19th, 2026

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SHARING THE PEACE

OPENING WORDS/CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✠ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

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. 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.

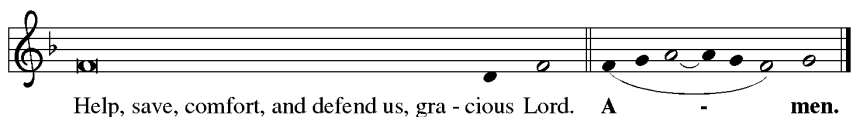
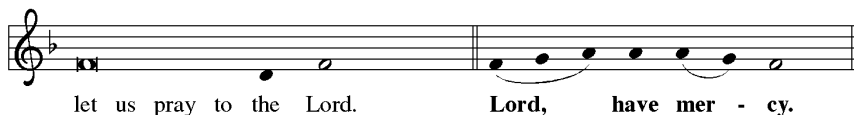
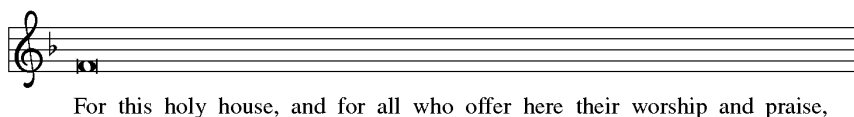
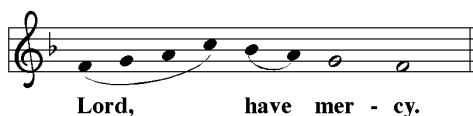
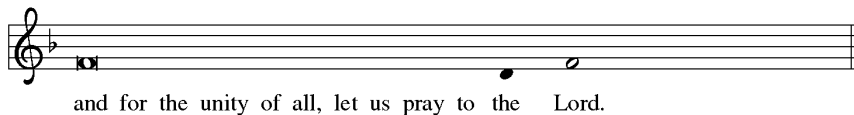
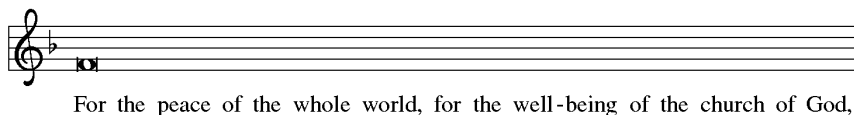
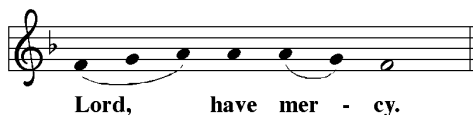
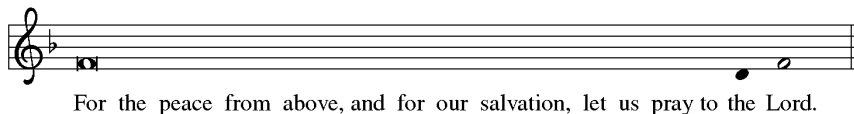
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: #689 Praise and Thanksgiving

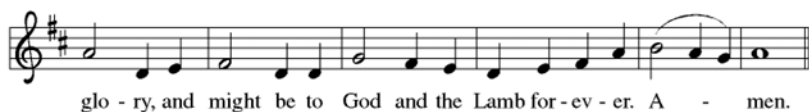
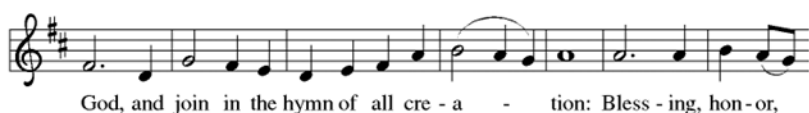
GREETING (p. 203)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE (p. 138)



CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 140)





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC Staci Knotek

First Reading: Genesis 28:10-19 (CEB)

God's graciousness to Jacob is shown in God's revelation of the divine self to the patriarch, who is running for his life after cheating his brother Esau out of the family inheritance. Jacob promises that if God brings him back to the land, he will be loyal to God and give God a tenth of everything (vv. 20-22).

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and set out for Haran. ¹¹ He reached a certain place and spent the night there. When the sun had set, he took one of the stones at that place and put it near his head. Then he lay down there. ¹² He dreamed and saw a raised staircase, its foundation on earth and its top touching the sky, and God's messengers were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ Suddenly the Lord was standing on it and saying, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will become like the dust of the earth; you will spread out to the west, east, north, and south. Every family of earth will be blessed because of you and your descendants. ¹⁵ I am with you now, I will

protect you everywhere you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done everything that I have promised you.”

¹⁶ When Jacob woke from his sleep, he thought to himself, The Lord is definitely in this place, but I didn’t know it. ¹⁷ He was terrified and thought, This sacred place is awesome. It’s none other than God’s house and the entrance to heaven. ¹⁸ After Jacob got up early in the morning, he took the stone that he had put near his head, set it up as a sacred pillar, and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He named that sacred place Bethel, though Luz was the city’s original name.

Psalms: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 (CEB)

¹ Lord, you have examined me.

You know me.

² **You know when I sit down and when I stand up.**

Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.

³ You study my traveling and resting.

You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.

⁴ **There isn’t a word on my tongue, Lord,
that you don’t already know completely.**

⁵ You surround me—front and back.

You put your hand on me.

⁶ **That kind of knowledge is too much for me;
it’s so high above me that I can’t reach it.**

⁷ Where could I go to get away from your spirit?

Where could I go to escape your presence?

⁸ **If I went up to heaven, you would be there.**

If I went down to the grave, you would be there too!

⁹ If I could fly on the wings of dawn,

stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean—

¹⁰ **even there your hand would guide me;**

even there your strong hand would hold me tight!

¹¹ If I said, “The darkness will definitely hide me;

the light will become night around me,”

¹² **even then the darkness isn’t too dark for you!**

**Nighttime would shine bright as day,
because darkness is the same as light to you!**

²³ Examine me, God! Look at my heart!

Put me to the test! Know my anxious thoughts!

²⁴ **Look to see if there is any idolatrous way in me,
then lead me on the eternal path!**

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25 (CEB)

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation, but it isn't an obligation to ourselves to live our lives on the basis of selfishness. ¹³ If you live on the basis of selfishness, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons and daughters. ¹⁵ You didn't receive a spirit of slavery to lead you back again into fear, but you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit, we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The same Spirit agrees with our spirit, that we are God's children. ¹⁷ But if we are children, we are also heirs. We are God's heirs and fellow heirs with Christ, if we really suffer with him so that we can also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I believe that the present suffering is nothing compared to the coming glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's sons and daughters. ²⁰ Creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice—it was the choice of the one who subjected it—but in the hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from slavery to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of God's children. ²² We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. ²³ And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. ²⁴ We were saved in hope. If we see what we

hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Before: The holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (CEB)

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like someone who planted good seed in his field. ²⁵ While people were sleeping, an enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ When the stalks sprouted and bore grain, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ “The servants of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Master, didn’t you plant good seed in your field? Then how is it that it has weeds?’

²⁸ ““An enemy has done this,’ he answered.

“The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and gather them?’

²⁹ “But the landowner said, ‘No, because if you gather the weeds, you’ll pull up the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both grow side by side until the harvest. And at harvesttime I’ll say to the harvesters, “First gather the weeds and tie them together in bundles to be burned. But bring the wheat into my barn.”’”

³⁶ Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷ Jesus replied, “The one who plants the good seed is the Human One. ³⁸ The field is the world. And the good seeds are the followers of the kingdom. But the weeds are the followers of the evil one. ³⁹ The enemy who planted them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the present age. The harvesters are the angels. ⁴⁰ Just as people gather weeds and burn them in the fire, so it will be at the end of the present age. ⁴¹ The Human One will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that cause people to fall away and all people who sin. ⁴² He will throw them into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s kingdom. Those who have ears should hear.”

After: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON: “The Messy Field of Grace”

HYMN OF THE DAY: #679 For the Fruit of All Creation

SPECIAL MUSIC: Saci Knotek “There is a Savior”

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition concludes: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

Offering Song: #186 Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Prayer: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING / HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (p. 144)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (p. 145)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (p. 145)

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.

LAMB OF GOD (p. 146)

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Let us sing:



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Each group at the altar rail will be dismissed with a blessing. Please give a family Communion card to an usher. Please follow the guidance of the ushers as you come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

**Distribution Hymns: #685 Take My Life, That I May Be
#707 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought us**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: #694 Sing to the Lord of Harvest

CHARGE: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran, Crookston, MN

July 19th, 2026

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

For those who need healing in body, mind, or spirit:

Julie Love	Eunice Sondrol	Judy Luettjohann
Darleen Jackson	Katie Bakken	Julian Bertils
Marlo Moren	Evie Gunderson	Nancy Eia
Mike Ophus	Loiland family	Trevin Monahan
Nash Erdman	Stuart Hanson	Mark Peterson
Glorrayne Casmey	Lucile Torkelson	Delores Sandager
Carol Chaffee	Kari L Trudeau	Mary Ann Knotek
Leah Knotek Ellefson	Luanne Devos	

For our missionaries: Steve & Kelly Solheim
City of Joy Rwanda

For our servicemen: Brandon Johnson D.J. Brace

Please keep them in your prayers this week.

If you have prayer requests, please contact the church office at 218 281-3638 or our prayer chain coordinator, Marian Bakken: (h) 218-281-1584, (c) 218-275-3143, marianbakken@gmail.com.

MISSION

To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people

1214 University Avenue – Crookston, Minnesota 56716

Website: stpaulscrookstonmn.com

facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn

Phone: 218-281-3638

Email: stpauls@midconetwork.com

Ministers

St. Paul's members

Council President

Anna Peterson

Pastor

Rev. Curt Peterson

Organist

Mary Ann Knotek

Webmaster

Anna Peterson

Treasurer

Betty Arvidson

Financial Secretary

Kathie Barnes

Custodian

Marilyn Flateland

Administrative Assistant

Tammy Frohlich

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING TODAY!

Ushers

Verle and Sandy Peterson

Scripture Reader

Sandy Peterson

Acolyte

Communion Server

Jan Vallager

Offering Counters

Kathy Barnes and John Vallager

Altar Guild

Sandy and Verle Peterson

Fellowship

Fellowship Committee

Livestream

Anna Peterson

JULY WORSHIP SERVICE TEAM

Thanks to the **Fabulous July Worship Service Team** for taking on many positions already; Just a few options for next week.

Judy Gustafson

Verle and Sandy Peterson

Kari and Tim Moe

John and Jan Vallager

Our TERRIFIC August Worship team poster is on the bulletin board and ready to go. If possible, please sign up as soon as possible. Thank you so much! You are appreciated!

Kathie Barnes

Marlys Demarais

Kathy Normandin

Paulette Wagner

Dave and Karin Danforth

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Readings for July 26th, 2026

9th Sunday After Pentecost

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

**Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 am- 2 pm,
and Tuesday: 12 pm – 5 pm.**

Please leave a message after 2 pm on the answering machine/drop something in the mailbox (north side of building) or call ahead. Pastor Curt is usually in the building but may be out on other church business. Worship via Facebook: facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn

Sunday, July 19

8:45 am

10:00 am

11:00 am

8th Sunday After Pentecost

Adult Bible Study

Worship and Communion

Fellowship

Monday, July 20

8:30 am

OFFICE CLOSED

LWR Quilting

Tuesday, July 21

7:00 am

9:30 am

1:30 pm

7:00 pm

Men's Coffee Fellowship

Circle: Joanna/Naomi

Circle: Lydia/Rachel

AA

Wednesday, July 22

Thursday, July 23

Friday, July 24

Church office closed

Pastor's Day off

Sunday, July 26

8:45 am

10:00 am

11:00 am

9th Sunday After Pentecost

Adult Bible Study

Worship

Fellowship

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

July 12th, 2026

Attendance:58

Our gifts towards Budget:

Sunday Envelopes	\$2,839.35
Loose Offering	\$ 19.68
Over and Above Benevolence	\$ 10.00
General Treas/No Benevolence	\$ 230.00

Improvement Fund	\$ 75.25
Children/Youth/Family (Coffee Hour)	\$ 46.00
Memorials	50.00

Needed weekly towards 2026 Budget:

Total received towards Budget	\$3,099.03
Total (non-budget) Receipts	\$ 171.25
Total Received	\$3,270.28

The most recent Treasurer's Report was approved at the last Church Council meeting. You can review it in the bulletin or web bulletin from June 28 or contact Tammy in the office and she can provide a copy.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

MEN'S TUESDAY MORNING CUP OF FELLOWSHIP

Join us every **Tuesday at 7:00 am** for a fresh pot of coffee and even better conversation. We gather to share the stories of our lives—the highs, the lows, and everything in between—while trusting the Holy Spirit to stir some faith into the mix. Whether you are a morning person or you need that first cup to get there, we would love to see you.

HELP SHAPE OUR NEW “PARENTS’ NIGHT” SERIES!

Following the wonderful turnout for our recent online safety presentation with the Polk County Sheriff's Office, we are excited to make these educational nights a regular offering for parents, grandparents, and caregivers in our community. Our next event is already in the works for this fall, featuring a dietician from Riverview Clinic who will share practical, stress-free ways to feed kids healthy meals between school, sports, and busy schedules.

To help brainstorm, plan, and organize future topics, we are forming a dedicated **Parents' Night Planning Team**. If you have a heart for supporting families and equipping the adults in our community, we would love your input!

Want to get involved? Please contact Pastor Curt or the church office to join the team.

SCHOOL KIT DONATION TIME

Each year our dedicated WELCA ladies put together school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Now is a wonderful time to begin purchasing supplies for the kits as school supply sales are beginning!

Each kit contains:

- 70-sheet spiral bound notebooks (4) wide or college ruled paper
- 30-centimeter ruler (or a ruler with both centimeter and inches)
- Pencil sharpener
- #2 pencils (5) (unsharpened with erasers)
- Black or blue ballpoint pens (5) (no gel ink)
- Box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 2 ½ inch eraser

Donations can be brought to the Fellowship Hall and placed in the tote on the welcome table. THANK YOU in advance for your generous support every year.