

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Wounds that Heal:
The Door Is Very Narrow
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025



Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

Service Notes For This Service



When it comes to the uncomfortable topic of who goes to heaven and who goes to hell, it is natural to want to avoid the issue. One way we do that is to direct our attention to more theoretical questions. "What is heaven like?" "How old will we be there?" Today someone asks, "Lord, are only a few going to be saved?" Jesus brushes all such questions aside. Instead, he answers the question we should be asking. "How might I be saved?" Jesus explains there is only one way—entering through a very narrow door. Jesus' words cut deep! For he teaches that it is very easy to develop a false sense of security about our standing before God based on some superficial familiarity we have with him. Jesus warns that many who think they are on the path to heaven will end up shut out. These wounding words of Jesus provide healing, pushing us toward that narrow door: faith in him.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Accompanist, Tammy Paul

Acknowledgements

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God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;
 have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.
 You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.
 For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 66:18–24

Many of those closest to God's saving acts will reject them and perish. Meanwhile, many who seemed to be far from the kingdom will hear of God's grace, believe, and be saved.

¹⁸As for me, because of their works and their thoughts, the time is coming for me to gather people from all nations and all languages. They will come, and they will see my glory.

¹⁹Then I will set up a sign among them, and I will send out survivors from among them to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, to those who are archers, to Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands, who have not heard my message and have not seen my glory. Then they will declare my glory among the nations.

²⁰Then they will bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD. They will bring them on horses and chariots and wagons and mules and dromedaries to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, in the same way that the people of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel to the LORD's house. ²¹Even from among these people I will take priests and Levites, says the LORD.

²²For just as the new heavens and the new earth that I am making will remain standing before me, declares the LORD, in the same way your offspring and your name will stand. ²³As often as one new moon follows another and one Sabbath follows another, all flesh will come to worship before me, says the LORD.

²⁴They will go out, and they will see the corpses of the ones who were rebelling against me, for their worm will not die, and their fire will not be quenched, and all flesh will be horrified by them. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:18–24

Entering the narrow door into eternal life has nothing to do with keeping the Law of Moses. It has everything to do with Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant, who paid for our sin with his blood.

¹⁸You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to burning fire, to darkness, to gloom, to a raging storm, ¹⁹to the sound of a trumpet, and to a voice that spoke. Those who heard the voice asked that not one more word be added, ²⁰because they could not endure what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned." ²¹The sight was so terrifying that even Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

²²Instead, you have come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God; to the heavenly Jerusalem; to tens of thousands of angels in joyful assembly; ²³to the church of the firstborn whose names are written in heaven; to God, who is the judge of all; to the spirits of righteous people who have been made perfect; ²⁴to Jesus, the mediator of a new testament; and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better message than the blood of Abel. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 13:29

Alleluia. People will come from east and west and north and south,
and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 13:22–30

Jesus urges, “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door.”

²²He went on his way from one town and village to another, teaching, and making his way to Jerusalem. ²³Someone said to him, “Lord, are only a few going to be saved?”

He said to them, ²⁴“Strive to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. ²⁵Once the master of the house gets up and shuts the door, you will begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Lord, open for us!’ He will tell you in reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ ²⁶Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ ²⁷And he will say, ‘I don’t know where you come from. Depart from me, all you evildoers.’ ²⁸There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown outside. ²⁹People will come from east and west, from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰And note this: Some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.” (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day

698 Seek Where You May to Find a Way

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

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.

Be seated

Special Prayers This Week

- † Thanksgiving that Tom Kulhaneck surgery went well.
- † Sara Batzer passed away. Her funeral was on Friday.
- † For the new school year.
- †
- †
- †

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Connect Card and Offering

Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card. After a few moments, the ushers will come forward to collect the offering. You may place your Connect Card and any offering you brought in the plate as it is passed. Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



Musical Offering

Stand

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

927 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



Take Home Questions

Isaiah 66:18-24

1. Considering Isaiah's audience of Jews, in what ways is Luke 13:30 put into practice in these verses from Isaiah?
2. These are the last verses in the entire book of Isaiah, which closes with a picture of ultimate victory for God's Church and ultimate destruction for its enemies. How does this picture motivate us as missionaries?

Hebrews 12:18-24

3. What is the mountain described in verses 18-21? What did that mountain represent? (Hint: read Exodus 19-20)
4. Verses 22-24 describe the mountain that we Christians call home. What does that mountain represent? (Hint: read Galatians 5:4)
5. What strikes you about each element of Mount Zion's description?

Luke 13:22-30

6. If our salvation is a gift of God, what does Jesus mean when he calls us to "strive to enter through the narrow door?"
7. Those who were outside of the narrow door had claims of familiarity with Jesus. What would such claims look or sound like today?
8. Who will be at the feast with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Why would this be a surprise?

News & Announcements

Are There Lost Books of the Bible?

Aug. 24 | 10:30 am

Maybe you have heard of the Book of Enoch or the Gospel of Thomas. Are we missing out on some special revelations if we don't read these "lost" books? During today's Bible study hour, you can learn why books like these were not included in the biblical canon. Join us in the cafeteria at 10:30 am.

Note: We won't have Bible Study next Sunday, Aug. 31. **Join us on Sept. 7 as we begin a new study series** on the Council of Nicaea and its creed.

School Begins – Parking Reminder

Aug. 26

Just a reminder that our students use the south end of the parking lot for recess throughout the school day. Please park on the north end of the lot or on the street during the week.

Come for Chapel

Aug. 27 | 8:45 am

Parents, grandparents, and congregation members are welcome to attend the weekly school chapel service on Wednesday at 8:45 am. (Note the earlier start time.) These services usually last about 20 minutes and include hymn singing plus a message from a called work from our school, Northland Lutheran High School, or one of our sister congregations. Come encourage our students and staff with your presence.

Join the Church Choir

Sep. 8 | 6:00 pm

Sing praises to the Lord. Add your voice to our church choir. They add special music to our services especially on special occasions like Reformation. Choir practice is on Mondays at 6:00 pm in the balcony. They being meeting on Sept. 8.

Want to Learn More about the Christian Faith?

Sept. 4 | 6:30 pm

Pastor Plagenz is holding a 12-week course that will take you through the basics of Christianity as taught in the Holy Bible. Whether you are just exploring Christianity or are a long-time church member, this course promises to share new insights into what we believe and teach at St. Paul's. Classes are on Thursdays at 6:30 pm beginning Sept. 4. Please contact Pastor Plagenz if interested.

Evening Compline Service

Sep. 3 | 6:30 pm

If you are out of town for Labor Day weekend, be sure to join us for the evening Compline Service on Wednesday, Sept. 3 at 6:30 pm.

Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	10:30 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
Monday	1:30 PM	Spiritual Health Group at the chapel of WR Health Services
Tuesday	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers Peer Group in the Resource Center
Wednesday	8:45 AM	School Chapel Service
	6:00 PM	Bible & Brews at B's Tap House
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group in the Resource Center
Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship

Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 195

Next Sunday

Theme: Wounds That Heal:

Those Who Exalt Themselves Will Be Humbled

Readings: Proverbs 25:6-7a;

James 2:1-13; Luke 14:1,7-14

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 1 Labor Day
- Sept. 3 Catechism Classes Begin
- Sept. 3 Compline Service
- Sept. 4 Foundations of the Christian Faith Begins
- Sept. 7 Sunday School Begins



**First day of school
August 26**



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