

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
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www.siuoxcitystpauls.org



6 p.m. Sat., July 3, & 8:15 a.m. Sun., July 4, 2021
"Mightier Than the Thorn" 2 Corinthians 12:1-10



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- a Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

INDEPENDENCE DAY

(6 p.m. Sat., July 3 & 8:15 a.m. Sun., July 4, 2021)

Servants of God's House Today:

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu **DCE Intern:** Grace Wolfgram

Organists: 6 p.m. Sat. Mabel Huldeen; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Mabel Huldeen

Ushers: Steve Segebart

Missionaries: Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump, Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf,
Rev. Paul Flo, Rev. Charles Cortwright

Elders: 6 p.m. Sat. Randy Johnson; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Daryl Heimgartner

Readers: 6 p.m. Sat. Grace Wolfgram; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Jim Winckler

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

AS WE GATHER Today, our nation celebrates its place as the land of the free and the home of the brave. At times, this reality causes us to thump our chest to let the world know how great we are. The apostle Paul, too, could claim his place among the greats. Paul was "circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ" (Philippians 3:5-7). Yet, he was not mightier than the thorn. As Paul followed Jesus, he was plagued by a thorn in the flesh to keep him from becoming conceited. He asked God to take it away, and God said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). So, too, God's grace is sufficient for us no matter where this life takes us, because when we are weak, then we are strong.

HOLY COMMUNION The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod believes the Biblical teaching that in communion we receive not the symbolic but the true body and blood of Jesus Christ with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the same Biblical teaching, and if you agree with the announcement on our communion card and the confession of our faith, please join us to receive the gifts that Jesus Christ has prepared for us in communion. If you have any questions or uncertainties, please feel free to make an appointment to talk with the pastor during the week before communing with us.

DIVINE SERVICE ONE

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(The congregation is invited to respond with the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

The Wave of Fellowship

Hymn of Invocation

“Before You, Lord, We Bow”
(stand as you are able for the last verse)

LSB 966

(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Opening Sentences 1 Corinthians 10:12–13; Hebrews 4:15–16

P: Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.

C: **God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.**

P: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

C: **Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

Confession and Absolution

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

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

(A moment of silence for reflection of God's word and self-examination)

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

C: **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.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Service of the Word

The Kyrie “Lord, Have Mercy” (Sung)

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P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: 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.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C: **Amen.**

This is the Feast (*Sung*)

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(Refrain) This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

¹Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. (Refrain)

²Power, riches, wisdom, and strength and honor, blessing, and glory are His. (Refrain)

³Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

⁴Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. (Refrain)

⁵For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

(Final Refrain) This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

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P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.** (*Sung*)

P: Let us pray.

C: **Gracious and ever-loving God, we thank and praise You for the freedom we have in You and also the freedom we celebrate today in our nation. As Your grace has been sufficient for Your people throughout all time, grant that it be sufficient for us as well for Your power is made perfect in our weaknesses; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 61:1–7

(From shame to joy)

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁵Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; ⁶but you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast. ⁷Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm *Psalm 119:41–48*

L: Let Your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, Your salvation according to Your promise; then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me, for I trust in Your word. And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in Your just decrees.

C: I will keep Your law continually, forever and ever, and I shall walk in a wide place, for I have sought Your precepts.

L: I will also speak of Your testimonies before kings and shall not be put to shame, for I find my delight in Your commandments, which I love.

C: I will lift up my hands toward Your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on Your statutes.

The Epistle Lesson 2 Corinthians 12:1–10 (Paul boasts in his weaknesses.)

¹I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand as you are able)

The Alleluia and Verse Luke 22:26

C: Alleluia. Let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. But I am among you as the one who serves. Alleluia.

(Please remain standing for the Gospel)

The Holy Gospel Luke 22:24–30 (The one who serves is the greatest.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 22nd chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (*Sung*)

²⁴A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵And he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.

reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

²⁸“You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, ²⁹and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, ³⁰that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

²⁷For who is the greater, one who

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (*Sung*)

(Please be seated)

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

LSB 821

Sermon

“Mightier Than the Thorn” 2 Corinthians 12:1–10

Catechism

The Fourth Commandment; The Fourth Petition

P: Honor your father and your mother. What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

P: Give us this day our daily bread. What does this mean?

C: God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

P: What is meant by daily bread?

C: Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

The Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God and all people according to their needs. Almighty and most holy God, we thank and praise You for all You provide us freely by Your grace. We are especially thankful for the freedoms we enjoy and celebrate today as we gather to worship You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the leaders of our nation, state, and community, We acknowledge that You have placed them in these positions to govern us and all people of this land. Grant them wisdom and lead them to make decisions that are in line with Your will for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Amid the thorns of this life, we lean on Your grace, knowing that it is sufficient for us and in our weakness Your strength shines through. We ask for Your grace and healing for those who grieve, We ask for Your grace and healing for those struggling in body, mind, and spirit, especially Bill Wheatcraft, Diane Hueschen, Jodi Kennedy, Pasty White, Clarence Anderson, Frances Snyder and Gerry Hanna. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We live in a nation and in communities where we are thankful to have brothers and sisters in Christ, yet there are also many who have either disconnected from You and Your Church or who have never known You. Lead us to share Your grace with others. Guide our conversations and grow our relationships with those who do not share the hope we have. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries that they remain faithful to your Word including; Isabel Hannemann, Mia Schroeder, Richard Sulzbach, Brooks Wagner, Wanita Bishop, Larry Doerr, Brittini Donaldson, Bill Wheatcraft and Keisha Nichols. Lord, in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

P: No matter where life takes us, we know we are in Your hands. So, we confidently come before You as Your children and place these prayers and all our concerns into Your gracious hands, in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Offering of God's People to their Beloved Savior

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul's members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings. Please place your offerings in the box upfront.

To our guest: Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please put your **Welcome Card** in the box at the back of the church.

Psalm 61:8 –So will I ever sing praises to Your name, as I perform my vows day after day.

Offertory Hymn

“America the Beautiful”

1. O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain; for purple mountain Majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed his grace on thee, And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.
2. O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country Loved, and mercy more than life! America! America! May God thy gold refine, Till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.
3. O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears! America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law. (Public domain)
(stand as you are able)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (Sung)

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P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalm 136*

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus “Holy, Holy, Holy” (Sung) *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

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Words of our Lord

Pax Domini The Peace of the Lord *John 20:19*

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P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.** (*sung*)

Agnus Dei "Lamb of God" (*Sung*) *John 1:29*

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Reading of the Communion Announcement Card

(Please be seated)

The Distribution Hymns

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" LSB 733

"I Love Your Kingdom, Lord" LSB 651

(Stand as you are able)

The Post Communion Collect

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P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction *Numbers 6:24-26*

P: 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.

C: **Amen.** (*sung*)

The Closing Hymn "God Bless Our Native Land"

LSB 965

Silent Prayer

Postlude

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“Mightier Than the Thorn”

Date: 07/04/2021

Text: 2 Corinthians 12:1–10

Verse to Remember:

But the Lord said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

Points to Ponder

1. What do the people from other countries typically remark about Americans?
2. What is the main reason we have all that we enjoy?
3. What happens when a nation or a person start to rely on themselves?
4. Why did God allow Paul to “suffer”?
5. Who is ultimately in charge?