

Eight Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

9:30 a.m. Worship



Bernadette Lopez, www.evangelie-et-peinture.org

Como Park Lutheran Church, ELCA, RIC

Reaching out in Christ to a changing world.

1376 Hoyt Ave W | Saint Paul, MN 55108

(651) 646-7127

www.ComoParkLutheran.org



We welcome all to worship here: those who are strong in faith and those who are seeking, those who are hurting and those who give comfort; all who are drawn to worship, community, and faith.

We acknowledge and celebrate the rich diversity within and around us. As a community rooted in the body of Christ, we commit ourselves to creating a space where people of all races, ages, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions are not only included but deeply valued and seen as essential to our shared journey.

Together, we value human diversity as a divine gift and blessing—a reflection of God’s boundless creativity and love. Because of this, we commit ourselves in ministry to fully embracing all people and advancing racial equity in our ministry.

We recognize that we hold a variety of beliefs, perspectives, and lived experiences; and yet we gather in Christ to worship God together. If you have questions, feedback, or needs for assistance, please ask. We seek to grow together in ministry, community and faith, and we are glad that you are here with us today.

♥ IT TAKES MANY HANDS ♥

Worship at Como Park Lutheran happens because our community shows up for one another. Greeters, ushers, readers, communion assistants, coffee hosts, video techs, bus drivers—every role helps create the welcoming experience we love each week.

Could you help? Most volunteer roles take only a small amount of time, and training is always provided.

We're especially looking for communion assistants to join the rotation.



To help, contact: Alex Leone, Sunday Volunteer Coordinator, alex@leonesoftware.com

**Coffee hour will take place immediately after the service.
Join us in the Narthex for coffee and light snacks.**

Upcoming events and announcements can be found at the back of the bulletin.

This service is broadcast live on YouTube and recorded for later viewing:
www.youtube.com/c/ComoParkLutheranChurch



Regular - Liturgist
Bold - Congregation
✠ - Stand as able



ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

arr. Mark Albrecht

Sue Woodhall, flute

WELCOME, GREETING, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠CONFESSIOIN AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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 sins in the presence of God and 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.

✠OPENING HYMN

O Holy Spirit, Enter In

ELW 786

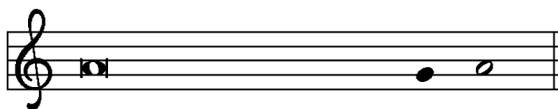
✠THE APOSTOLIC GREETING (2 Corinthians 13:14)

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

ELW pg. 147-148



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



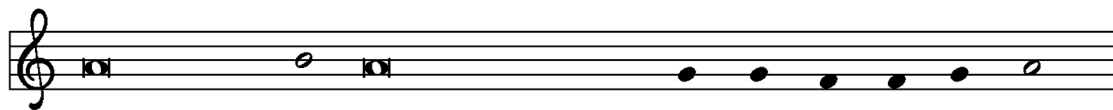
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

✠THIS IS THE FEAST

ELW pg. 149-150

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

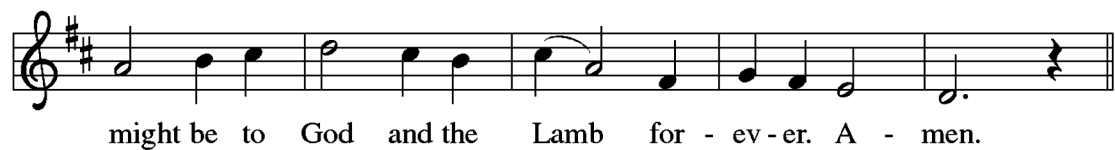
Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray...

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.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

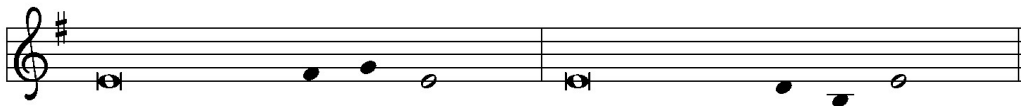
⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸ Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 86:11-17



¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk | in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to re- | vere your name.

**¹² I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,
and glorify your name for- | evermore.**

¹³For great is your | love toward me;
you have delivered me from the | pit of death.

¹⁴ The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people | seeks my life;
they have not set you be- | fore their eyes.

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kind- | ness and truth.

¹⁶ Turn to me and have mer- | cy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child | of
your handmaid.

¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may
see it and be | put to shame;
because you, LORD, have helped me and com- | forted me.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption; when we cry, “Abba! Father!”¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now;²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.²⁴ For in hope we were saved; now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what is seen?²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✠ GOSPEL VERSE

ELW pg. 151



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

✠GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mathew the Thirteenth Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴ He put before them another parable: “The **kingdom of heaven** may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’²⁹ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house, and his disciples approached him saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.”³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the **Son of Man**;³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom, the weeds are the children of the evil one;³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his **kingdom** all causes of sin and all evildoers;⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Mary Ann Schmidt

(Jesus Loves Me! ELW 595)

SERMON

Pastor Peter Coen-Tuff

✠HYMN OF THE DAY

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW 679

✠APOSTLES' CREED

Standing together, let us confess our faith...

**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

... Lord, in your mercy,
... hear our prayer.

✠THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

(In sharing God's Peace we share with each other our hope for God's blessing by shaking hands, or turning to one another and nodding, or bumping fists and saying "God's peace be with you.")

THE MEAL

OFFERING

This Is My Father's World

arr. Brent Olstad

Sue Woodhall, flute

Electronic offerings can be made using smart phones and tablet devices by going to www.ComoParkLutheran.org and clicking on the "donate" button. You may also use the giving kiosk in the narthex located by the staircase.



✠OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray...

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠WORDS OF INSTITUTION (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

In the night in which he was betrayed...
... Do this for the remembrance of me.

✠THE LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13; Revelation 11:15)

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

All who believe Christ is truly present in the sacrament are invited to receive communion. At the server, hold out the flat of your palm to receive the wafer. If you desire gluten-free wafers, simply say to the first server "gluten-free." Then, step to the second server and take the wine in the small cup. The cups hold red wine and grape juice. If you are allergic to grapes, you are free to receive only the bread, knowing that Christ is fully present within each element. Children who do not yet commune will receive a blessing from pastor or first server.

LAMB OF GOD (John 1:29)

ELW pg. 154

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

Great is Thy Faithfulness

ELW 733

✠POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

✠POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O God, that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal. Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE SENDING

✠BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:24-26)

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.

✠CLOSING HYMN

This Is My Father's World

ELW 824

✠DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Carillon

Louis Vierne

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Please pray for...

Anders N.	Tyler F. (brother-in-law of Ginger F.)
Kathy H.	J.J. K. (great grandson of Bill H.)
Ann L.	Joe (friend of Sandra H.)
Ruth R.	Cheryl & Jim (quilter & husband)
Gina K.	Nichole (friend of Como Connects)
Gary (friend of Deb S.)	Mary C.
Heidi G.	Ginger F.
Betty H	... and all in need of prayers

We welcome names of members, family, and friends on our prayer list.

✠ ✠ ✠

Serving in the Military

Dane Beecham, Jonathan Lund, Kristian Nelson
... and all others who serve

✠ ✠ ✠

We pray regularly for all members and friends of our congregation.

This week in worship, we pray for:

Zack & Claire Zehrer, Everett, Lawrence
Paul Ziegenhagen
Marc Al
Darlene Amlotte
Audrey Anderson
Darrell Anderson
David & Donna Anderson

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Pastor: Peter Coen-Tuff

Director of Music Ministry: Tom Ferry

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Date	July 19, 2026
Time	9:30 AM
Acolyte	Sofi Duncan
Communion Prep	Lynn Ketelsen
Assisting Minister	Polly Heaton
Communion Asst 1	Mary Sommerfeld
Communion Asst 2	Janice Kragness
Greeter	Dick & Zarida Young
Coffee Servers	Kevin Johnson & Fay Cushman
Children's Message	Mary Ann Schmidt
Reader	Craig Canada
Liturgist	Emily Purdham
Ushers	Family Team O'Brien
Welcome Desk	Janice Kragness
Bus Helper	Shirley Dingman
Bus Driver	Lowell Lundy
Video Tech	Craig Canada

USHER TEAM

Family Team O'Brien: Sarah & Jeff, Imogen and Harper



Meet Our Interim Pastor: Pastor Peter Coen-Tuff

Dear friends of Como Park Lutheran,

My name is **Pastor Peter Coen-Tuff**, and I am honored to serve as your interim pastor during the coming months as you prepare to call your next settled pastor.

My wife, Karla, and I recently moved to St. Paul after serving for 26 years in Grand Forks, North Dakota, where we ministered together at United Lutheran Church. We made the move to be closer to our family, and we're grateful to now call the Twin Cities home. Karla is currently serving as interim pastor at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in West St. Paul.

As your congregation begins this new chapter, I look forward to getting to know each of you, worshiping together, and walking alongside you through this important season of transition. Interim ministry is a unique opportunity to celebrate the past while preparing for the future, and I am excited to see how God will continue to lead Como Park Lutheran in the months ahead.

I look forward to meeting you soon!

God's peace,
Pastor Peter Coen-Tuff

GROW ONE EXTRA ROW

Whether you have a backyard garden, a raised bed, or just room for one container, you can make a difference. **Como Grow-a-Row** is a community gardening initiative that invites neighbors to grow a little extra produce to share with others. Together with the Como Community Seed Library and gardeners throughout the neighborhood, we're helping provide fresh, locally grown produce to Keystone Community Services and Peace House Community.

Last year, gardeners throughout our congregation and neighborhood donated **more than 2,500 pounds of fresh produce.**

If you're thinking, "I don't have a garden. I don't have room. I can't do this," you're not alone. "I said that three years ago," says Sue Brogger, Como Park Lutheran's Director of Hunger Ministries. "I can plan and I can lead, but I don't know if I can grow anything." Now Sue encourages others not to let that stop them.



"You don't have to be an avid gardener, and you don't need an acre to plant. You can just make a decision to pick one spot, one pot, and grow something."

Grow abundance for your neighbors, Join the Community Action!

Como Grow a Row Today



Sign up for the Grow a Row community it's easy just scan the QR code



Choose your Seeds



Grow them in your garden lot or Container



Track your progress and Tell your Story



Donate your Harvest—We Can Help Coordinate with Donation collection and Delivery minimizing our collective carbon footprint



SCAN HERE

**JULY 19, 2026
EIGHTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**



Christians are people of hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds
Monday	Isaiah 44:6-8	The Lord's promise to Israel
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-25	Future glory for God's people
Wednesday	Genesis 28:10-22	Jacob's dream at Bethel
Thursday	Psalms 139:1-24	The inescapable God
Friday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Saturday	Psalms 86:11-17	Save me, Lord
Sunday	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Parables of the kingdom

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. **Romans 8:24-25 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, may the hope you have given us take away our fear and strengthen us for each new day through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you for your goodness and for the good seed that falls into the soil to give us bread. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be gracious to you.



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JULY 19, 2026

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Goodness Is

Stronger than Evil

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Where do you find hope when you read or hear something bad in the news?
- How does the power of the Holy Spirit in your life give you hope?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 8:12-25.

The Apostle Paul speaks about our death “*by the Spirit*” that we may live (v. 13). It is a baptismal theme he mentioned in Romans 6:4: “. . . *we have been buried with [Christ] by baptism into death . . . so we too might walk in newness of life.*” Paul speaks of living “*according to the flesh*” (v. 13). It is the life lived without hope in God. We live by the power of the Holy Spirit and are adopted as children of God. That life-giving Spirit kills the “*deeds of the body*” (v. 13), our life in the flesh (life without God). Life in Christ is a death and life experience, one that leads to hope. As children who can say, “*Abba! Father!*” (v. 15), we are heirs of God’s future in Christ. Being an heir does not mean we avoid disappointments and hurts. In fact, Paul reminds us that we “*suffer with [Christ] so that we may also be glorified with him*” (v. 17). We are people of hope as we suffer—just as Christ suffered and died—that we may rise with Christ to a new life. In faith, we wait for Christ’s final victory with hope and patience.

Discuss: How does being an heir of God’s future in Christ give you patience and hope?

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, you give us a living hope; through the ups and downs of life, help us to have faith in you and trust in your saving work now and always. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you support and encourage someone going through a tough time?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships—often in our own homes. Think or talk about the Christian rituals and traditions you do in your home, like prayer and scripture reading. Who taught them to you? Have you taught some of these rituals and traditions to a family member or someone else? If not, think about who you can teach them to.

Pray: **“Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.” Amen.** (Psalm 86:11)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



**Please visit the Welcome Desk in the narthex
if you have any questions about our facility or upcoming events.**

**Adult Forums, Membership Classes,
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Custodian & Groundskeeper

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