



The Voice

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

July 2026



Rest for the weary

Dear friends in Christ,

It seems like most of us have experienced someone asking us about being tired and then we're left trying to recall the last time that we weren't tired. Weariness seems to be a way of life, and it's caused by life in this fallen world. It can be the weight of grief, the exhaustion from caregiving, the stress of financial pressures, burnout, or the quiet burden of hidden sin and doubt.

In the midst of all of this, Jesus speaks: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28–30, ESV). These words from our Savior are not a call to work harder or to try more. They are an invitation from Jesus to come to Him. At the cross, Jesus took on His shoulders the crushing burden of our sin, our guilt, and God's righteous wrath. He now offers us forgiveness, peace, and rest that the world cannot give, all because He carried that load to the cross and then rose victorious.

Isaiah speaks of the renewal that we have. "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary ... He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength" (Is. 40:28–29, ESV). The blessings that our Lord gives are never depleted. We are renewed through His Word and Sacraments. He washes us, feeds us, and strengthens our faith.

If you are tired today, come to Jesus. Lay down your heavy burdens at His feet. He is faithful. He will give you rest.

Come unto Me, ye weary, And I will give you rest." O blessed voice of Jesus, Which comes to hearts oppressed! It tells of benediction, Of pardon, grace, and peace, Of joy that hath no ending, Of love which cannot cease. "Come unto Me, Ye Weary" (LSB 684:1)

In Christ,

Rev. Samuel M. Powell
Third Vice President
Missouri District

Prayer: Gracious Lord, You call all who are weary and heavy laden to come to You for rest. Grant us faith to lay down our burdens at the cross and receive the peace and forgiveness of Christ, who gives rest to our souls; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Serving This Month

July 5th

Pastor Gary Stolle
Reader: Fred Reifsteck
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: April Causey
Elder: Cory Brown

July 12th

Pastor Wayne Persich
Lay Reader: Kirsten Englund
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: April Causey
Elder: Aaron Kirchhoff

July 19th

Pastor Gary Stolle
Lay Reader: Aaron Kirchhoff
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: April Causey
Elder: Cory Brown

July 26th

Pastor Wayne Persich
Lay Reader: Sherrelynn Martin
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: April Causey
Elder: Aaron Kirchhoff

Altar Guild for July 2026

Sharon Bahl & Hillary Brown



July Birthdays: 11-Cathy McGuire; 18-Doris Thate; 22- Rachel Oetting; 23-Amy Ford, Horst Jeske;
24-Doug Mackey; 26-Phyllis Bredehoft; 29- Linda King; 31-Jennie Oetting

No July Wedding Anniversaries. If anyone has been missed let the office know.

The Lord bless you, and keep you; The Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26



Consider the Cost

Galatians 6:9-10 – Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

In the United States, on July Fourth, Americans celebrate Independence Day. One of the things that people need to be reminded of is that freedom isn't free. In this world, someone always pays the price for people to be truly free. Consider the signers of the Declaration of Independence, all 56 of them.

Did you know how much they risked for your freedom (assuming you're a citizen of the United States)?

If they won the war with the British, there would still be years of hardship as a struggling nation. If they lost, they would face a hangman's noose. And yet there it is where it says, "We herewith pledge, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." They signed it, but did you know what price they paid for those signatures?

In a broadcast on July 4, 1974, Paul Harvey reminded us

- * that Carter Braxton, a wealthy planter and trader, after signing saw his ships swept from the seas to pay his debts. He lost his home and all of his property. He died in rags;
- * that Thomas McKean of Delaware was so harassed by the enemy that he was forced to move his family five times in five months. He served in Congress without pay;—his family in poverty, and in hiding;
- * that Thomas Nelson, Jr. of Virginia raised \$2 million on his own signature for provision for our allies, the French fleet. After the War he personally paid back the loans, wiping out his entire estate; he was never reimbursed by his government. He died bankrupt;
- * that John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside while she was dying; his 13 children fled in all directions for their lives. His fields and gristmill were laid waste. For more than a year, he lived in forests and caves and returned home after the War to find his wife dead, his children gone, his properties gone. He died a few weeks later of exhaustion and a broken heart.

Of the 56 signers of the Declaration, few were long to survive. Five were captured by the British and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes;—from Rhode Island to Charleston;—sacked and looted, occupied by the enemy, or burned. Two of them lost their sons in the Army; one had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 died in the War from its hardships or merciful bullets. They had learned that liberty is so much more important than security, for that they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. They fulfilled their pledge; they paid the price, and freedom was born.

It's hard to imagine paying such a price so that others might be free. But then, we're reminded of the price Jesus Christ paid for our freedom, not just politically for the moment, but eternally for all time. In order to save us from our sins, God literally had come into our predicament, as the God-Man, to live our life perfectly, to pay the debt for our sin personally, and to give us the eternal life He earned as a gift, received by grace alone, through faith. When it comes to freedom, I pray that you yearn for the freedom that comes in Christ alone more than any of the other freedoms combined. You'll be blessed if you do!

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for the freedom that You earned for us, that You give by grace to us. Let us joyfully receive that freedom by faith and share it with anyone who will receive it! Amen!

From "Freedom's Price Has Been Paid ... Serve It Forward," a message from Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, former Speaker of The Lutheran Hour July 4, 2020

Reflection Questions:

1. How do you celebrate the Fourth of July? Do you have a most-memorable experience?
2. Do you have opportunities to do good that you don't always capitalize on?
3. How much should doing good and helping others out be a part of our lives as Christians?



Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 1 Peter 2:16



St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMS

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Office Closed	4
5 Worship Service 9am	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Worship Service w/communion 9am	13	14 Prayer Shawl 12:30pm	15	16	17	18
19 Worship Service 9am	20	21	22	23 Church Council 7pm	24	25
26 Worship Service w/communion 9am	27	28 Prayer Shawl 12:30pm	29	30	31	



There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:1-2

