



The Voice

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

May 2026



Comfort and Hope in God's Steadfast Love

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!" (Psalm 118:1)

Psalm 118 is a song of triumph and trust, a hymn of thanksgiving that resonates deeply with God's children, pointing us to the comfort and hope found in God's unchanging love and His saving work through Jesus Christ. As we meditate on this psalm, we are reminded that, no matter the trials we face, God's steadfast love is our refuge and our reason for hope.

The psalmist begins and ends with a call to give thanks for God's goodness and His *hesed*—His steadfast, covenantal love that never fails (vv. 1, 29). This love is most fully revealed in the cross of Christ. When the psalmist declares, "The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (v. 6), we hear echoes of the confidence we have through faith in Christ. Sin, death, and the devil have no ultimate power over us because Jesus has conquered them all. In our moments of fear, doubt, or sorrow, this truth brings profound comfort: God is for us, and His love will never abandon us.

Martin Luther himself often turned to the Psalms for comfort, especially in times of trial. He understood that our salvation rests not on our own strength but on God's grace alone. Psalm 118:14 proclaims, "The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation." This is the heart of the Gospel: Christ, our salvation, is God's gift to us, received through faith. When we feel weak or overwhelmed, we can rest in the assurance that Jesus is our strength, carrying us through every storm.

The psalmist reflects on times of distress, saying, "Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free" (v. 5). This verse invites us to recall God's faithfulness in our own lives—how He has delivered us in the past and promises to do so again. This hope is anchored in the resurrection of Jesus, "The stone that the builders rejected" (v. 22), who has become the cornerstone of our faith. Christ's victory over death assures us that no suffering is final, and no darkness can overcome His light.

In our daily lives, we may face rejection, loss, or uncertainty, but Psalm 118 reminds us that God's plan is greater than human failure. The rejected stone—Jesus—has become the foundation of our hope. As Lutherans, we cling to the promise of the Gospel: through Baptism, we are united to Christ's death and resurrection, and through the Lord's Supper, we receive His body and blood for forgiveness and strength. These means of grace sustain us, giving us hope to face each day with courage.

Psalm 118 calls us to live in gratitude: “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (v. 24). Each day is a gift from God, an opportunity to trust in His mercy and share His love with others. We are called to respond to God’s grace with lives of worship and service, knowing that our salvation is secure in Christ. Even in the midst of trials, we can say with the psalmist, “I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord” (v. 17). Our hope is not in our circumstances but in the God who has redeemed us.

Prayer

Merciful God, we give You thanks for Your steadfast love that endures forever. In times of distress, comfort us with the promise of Your presence and the victory of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Fill us with hope through Your Word and Sacraments, and help us to live each day in gratitude, proclaiming Your deeds to the world. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Your Servant in Christ,
Rev. Brian K. Thieme
Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbia, Mo.
Missouri District



Serving This Month

May 3rd

Pastor Gary Stolle
Lay Reader: Sherrelynn Martin
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: April Causey
Elder: Aaron Kirchhoff

May 10th

Pastor Wayne Persich
Lay Reader: Fred Reifsteck
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: April Causey
Elder: Cory Brown

May 17th

Pastor Gary Stolle
Lay Reader: Kirsten Englund
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: April Causey
Elder: Aaron Kirchhoff

May 24th

Pastor Wayne Persich
Lay Reader: Aaron Kirchhoff
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: April Causey
Elder: Cory Brown

May 31st

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

Altar Guild for May 2026

Hillary Brown & Lois Gravitt



May Birthdays 3-Larry Weinreich; 4-Larry Garr; 8-Linda Loges; 11-Lisa Fonseca; 16-Aaron Kirchhoff.

No May Wedding Anniversaries

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

My Hope Isn't In the Panic Button

In the Word

The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD (Lamentations 3:25–26 NIV).

Of the Word

Life is woven together with good days and troublesome days. The good times are easy to navigate, but it is during the tough times that our faith is put to the test. Troubles will come our way, but what is important is how we handle them and where we put our hope and trust.

We do have choices. We can hit the panic button or lose sleep from worrying. Or we can turn to our trusted Friend, God our heavenly Father, Who is always ready to listen to those who seek Him. In Him is our hope for a brighter tomorrow.

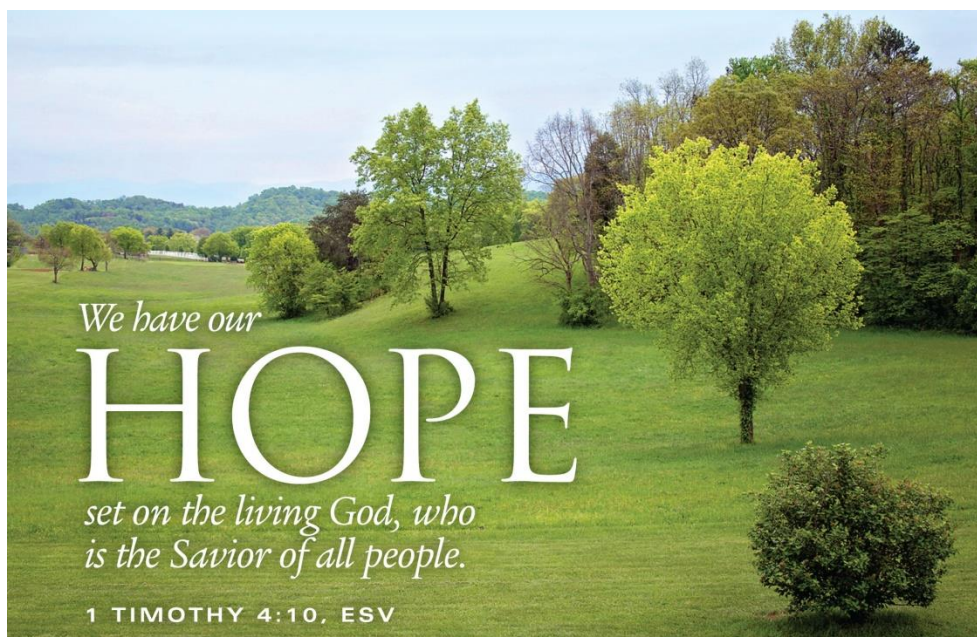
Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful (Hebrews 10:23 NIV). I sought the LORD and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears (Psalm 34:4 NIV).

A Point to Ponder: What trouble will I consciously give to God today?

Walking with my Lord

Lord, You promise to hear me when I come to You with my burdens. Grant me the patience to be still and wait for Your answers, for I know they will come. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mustard Seed: *The Word: Wisdom for Living*. Authors: Marcia Gomulka and Myrna Lou Meyer. 11/32 ©2015 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. Code: #40198 Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations were taken from ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.





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



*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your
 God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my
 righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10*

