

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Saturday, July 25 & Sunday, July 26 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Children's Message

Sunday only

Welcome and Announcements

Please rise in body or spirit

Confessions and Forgiveness

Screen

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn:

"Open Your Ears, O Faithful People" ELW #519 or Screen



- 1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
- 2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version

Music: YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic tune

Text © 1966, 1982 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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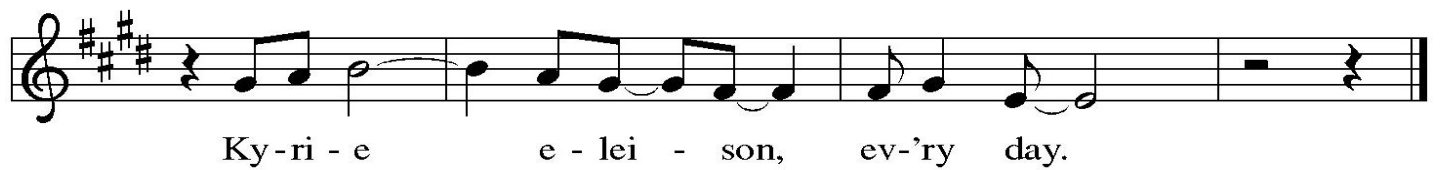
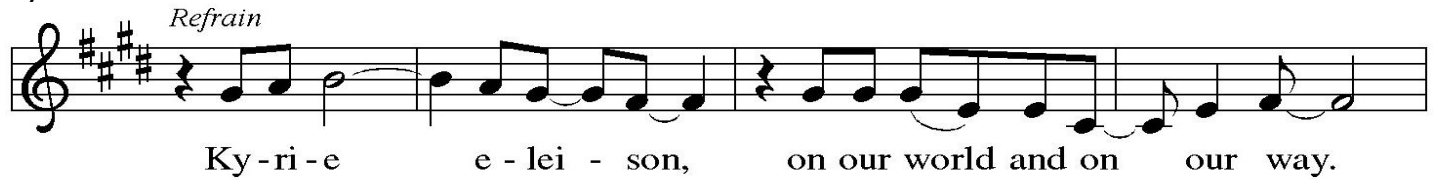
Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

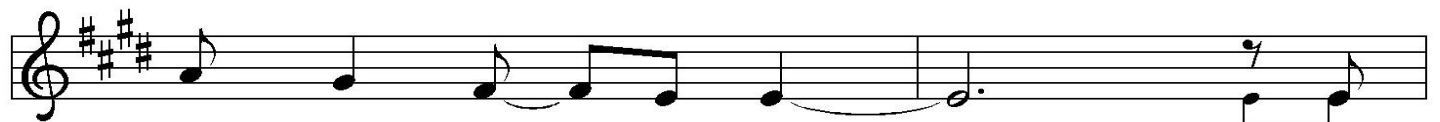
C: And also, with you.

Kyrie:

Screen



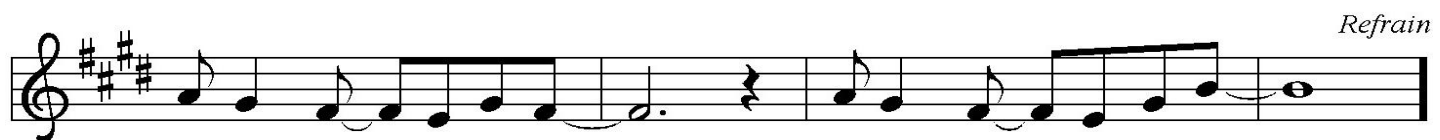
- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passionate re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God,

C: through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The congregation is invited to be seated.

WORD

First Reading – 1 Kings 3:5-12

Screen

A: A reading from the book of 1 Kings.

A: ⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

A: Word of God, Word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm – Psalm 119:129-136

Screen

A: We will read the Psalm responsively by whole verse.

A: Your decrees are wonderful;

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

**C: When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

A: I open my mouth and pant

because I long for your commandments.

**C: Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

A: Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

**C: Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

A: Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

**C: My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

Second Reading – Romans 8:26-39

Screen

A: A reading from the book of Romans.

A: ²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A: Word of God, Word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please rise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Screen



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel – Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Screen

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: ³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has

become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

The congregation is invited to be seated

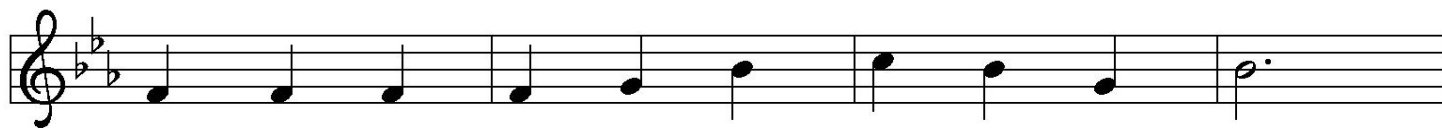
Sermon

Please rise in body or spirit.

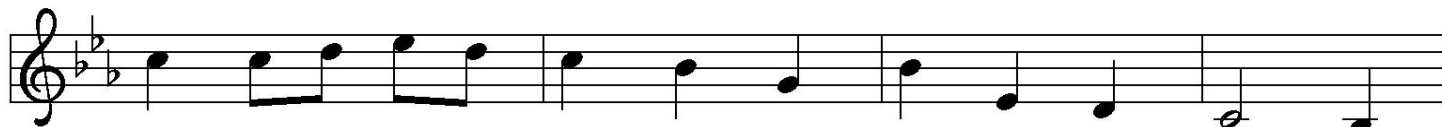
Hymn of the Day: "Be Thou My Vision" ELW #793 or Screen



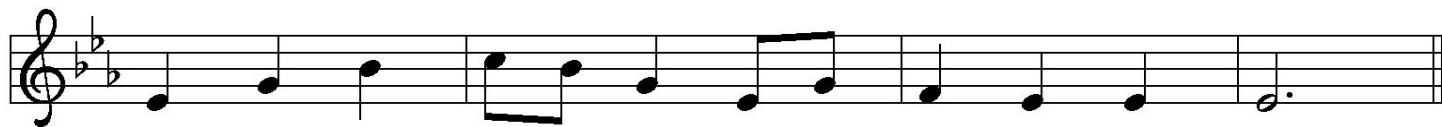
1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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Apostles' Creed

Screen or ELW pg. 105

P: Together let us confess our faith in God using the words of the Apostles' creed:

**C: 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 of Intercession

Screen

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and

uncertainty. We pray especially for Barb Strom, Deanna Wilson, Eva Cowley, Deb Liebzeit, Connie Laidig, Chase Flynn, La Donna Groshans, David Weaver, Judy Hallquist, Joyce Snyder, Jim & Carolyn Marshall and those we name aloud or in our hearts ... *brief silence....* God of Grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Almighty God, You inspire us to do Your work with our hands, feet, and voices. Bless the ministry partnership we have with Immanuel, that we may be united in our mission to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

C: hear our prayer.

P: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office by phone or email.

Peace P: The peace of Christ be with you all. **C: And, also with you!**

Please share a sign of Christ's peace however you feel comfortable.

The congregation is invited to be seated.

MEAL

Offering

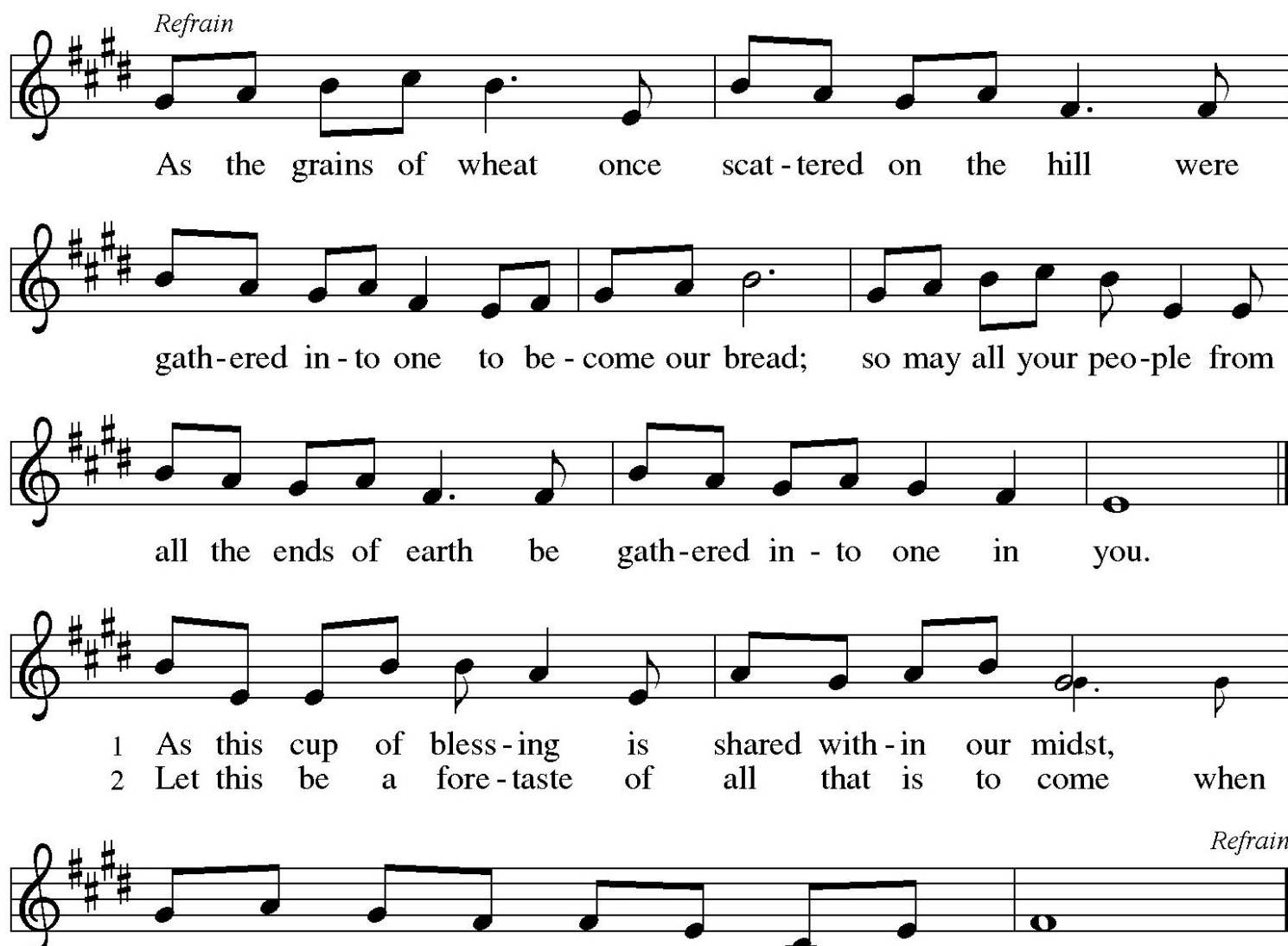
General and special offerings may be placed in the plates by the doors as we enter or depart. In addition to the offering that supports the ministry of St. Paul, the children of St. Paul receive a weekly Children's Offering.

Their offering for July and August will support LWR School Kits.

We thank the children and youth for their help collecting the children's offering!

Offering Hymn: "As the Grains of Wheat" ELW #465 or Screen

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when
Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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Please rise in body or spirit.

Offering Prayer

Screen

A: Let us pray. Loving God,

C: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

Holy Communion

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The Lord's Prayer

Screen

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

The congregation is invited to be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you." Each person may respond, "amen".

St. Paul Lutheran Church and the ELCA practice "open table" communion. This is Christ's table; Jesus is our host. Everyone is invited and welcome to receive Holy Communion!

Communion Hymns:

Lamb of God

Screen

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, Lamb of God.

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

ELW #471 or Screen



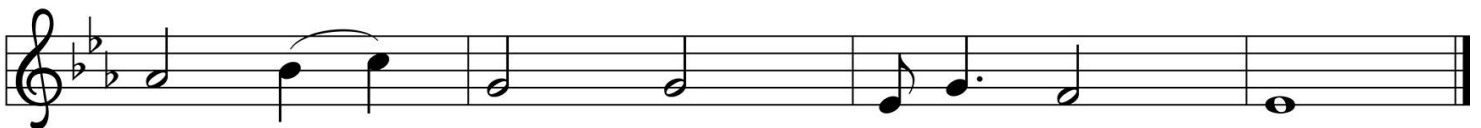
1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



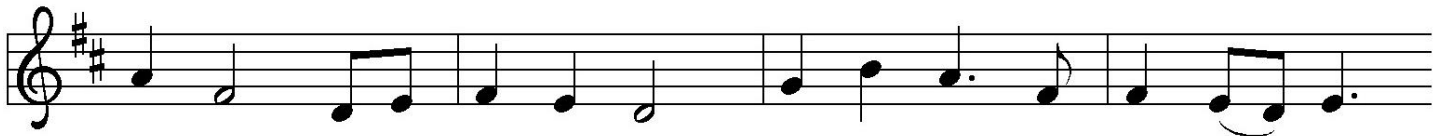
sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual
 public domain

"We Come to the Hungry Feast"

ELW #479 or Screen



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
 2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
 3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
 from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
 and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
 poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
 with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever

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Please rise in body or spirit

Post Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Screen

A: Let us pray. Compassionate God,

C: through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

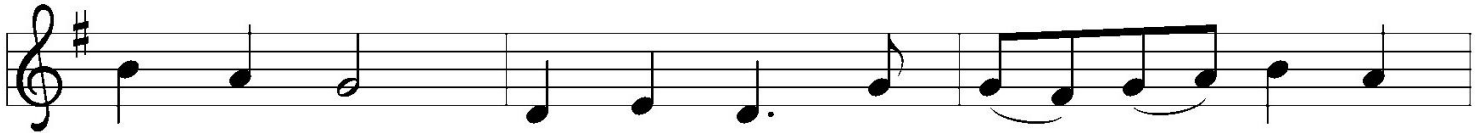
P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✚ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn:

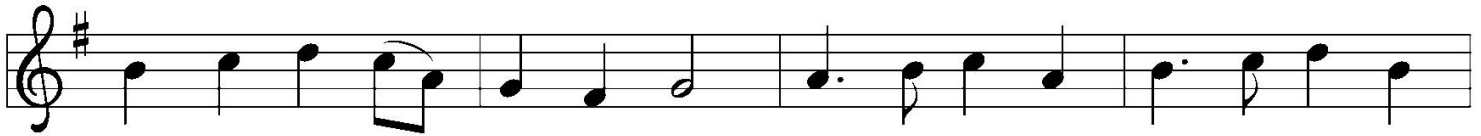
Saturday: "God of Grace and God of Glory" ELW #705 or Screen



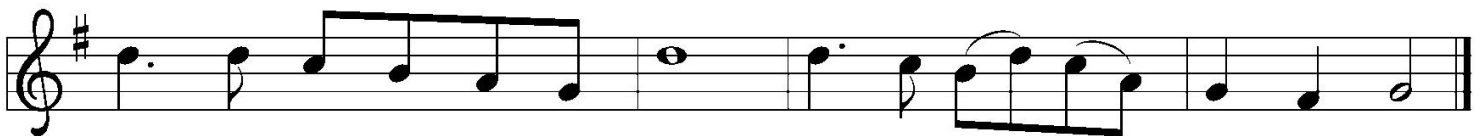
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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Sunday:

"May This Church Be like a Tree"

Screen



1 May this church be like a tree, be - hind your
2 May this church be like a tree there in the
3 May this church be like a tree, O God, that



house, there in your gar - den, meet - ing - place for joy, and
street or in the pla - za, for the birds a nest - ing -
thrives where you have plant - ed; may it stand to show the



feast, and sim - ple prayer be - neath its branch - es.
branch, for pass - ers - by a wel - come shel - ter.
way, your way of lov - ing and self - giv - ing,



With its roots in earth so fer - tile, and its arms raised
May it stand as if it's watch - ing, near my house, just
of - f'ring shade, and fruit for shar - ing, giv - ing up its



high to heav - en, may this church bear fruits of
round the cor - ner, wait - ing for this wea - ry
wood for burn - ing. May this liv - ing church that



jus - tice, acts of lov - ing and com - pas - sion.
pil - grim with its arms wide to em - brace me.
names you be a tree of life e - ter - nal.

Refrain / Estribillo

Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,
 run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.
 Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,
 run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.

Text: Pablo D. Sosa, 1933–2020; tr. Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951
 Music: QUE ESTA IGLESIA SEA UN ÁRBOL, Pablo D. Sosa
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Dismissal

A: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Leading Worship

Presider and Preacher: Pastor Riley

Musician: Kathy Sheridan

Worship Assistants: Saturday: Lester Hallquist Sunday: Sherry McCarter

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St. Paul Announcements

Church Office contact information ~ email: office@stpauldixon.org phone: 815-288-2757

Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

Pastor Anthony Windau (414) 364-9504 pastoragwindau@gmail.com

Pastor Riley Reed-Windau (406) 240-2145 pastorreedwindau@gmail.com

This week's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by the Schulte Memorial fund.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today ~ Sunday, 7/26:	Worship Service 10:45 am
Monday, 7/27:	Prayer Team 10:30 am Church Council meeting 2:00 pm
Tuesday, 7/28:	Joint Staff Meeting 9:00 am at St. Paul Line Dancing 9:00 am
Thursday, 7/30:	Chair Yoga 11:00 am
Saturday, 8/1:	Worship 5:30 pm at Immanuel
Sunday, 8/2:	Worship Service 10:45 am ~ Praise Band worship assistant: Glen Hughes

Today's worship is livestreamed on Facebook and archived on YouTube. If ever you miss a service, you can join us online!



If you are not receiving the Epistle by email or if your email has changed recently, please let the office know so we can update your email.

Thank you to all who helped move the pews to make the sanctuary more accessible!

Thank you!
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR:



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS**

The following items are included in one school kit. Please consider purchasing and donating enough school supplies to fill 1 kit, or any combination of single items from the following list. Items may be dropped off at St Paul anytime before September 7. The donations dropbox is located in the Gathering Area. The July and August children's offerings will support LWR school supplies and shipping costs. Children and youth and adult volunteers will be packing the kits on Sunday, September 13 (Rally Day) 9:30-10:30am.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

lwr.org/kits

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH SCHOOL KIT

- FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose leaf paper
- ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ONE pencil sharpener
- ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ONE 2 ½" eraser

Participation in Thrivent Choice® and Thrivent Action Teams makes a difference!

Thrivent clients: Your generosity makes a lasting impact. Whether it's directing Choice Dollars®, making a fee-free donation or leading a Thrivent Action Team, you can help St Paul Lutheran Church's ministry grow. Get started today at thrivent.com/generosity. And, for more information about Thrivent Choice and Action Teams programs, pick up a flyer in the gathering area. Now ALL Thrivent members can direct Choice Dollars® to their favorite religious or nonprofit organization.