

Sunday August 24, 2025  
St. Paul Lutheran Church

# THE GATHERING

Prelude:

“10,000 Reasons”

Praise Band

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Welcome and Announcements

Children's Message

*Please rise in body or spirit*

Confession and Forgiveness

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God,

**C: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ☩ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

**C: Amen.**

Gathering Song:

“Longing”

Vs. 1

Longing, we gather longing. Longing, we gather longing.

Longing, we gather longing. We gather longing, longing for peace.

Vs. 2

Singing, we gather singing. Singing, we gather singing.

Singing, we gather singing. We gather singing joyfully strong.

Vs. 3

Reaching, we gather reaching. Reaching, we gather reaching.

Reaching, we gather reaching. We gather reaching out to a hand.

Vs. 4

Weaving, we gather weaving. Weaving, we gather weaving.

Weaving, we gather weaving. We gather weaving, mending the whole.

## Vs. 5

Dreaming, we gather dreaming. Dreaming, we gather dreaming.  
Dreaming, we gather dreaming. We gather dreaming, the world to be.

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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:

*Refrain*



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned 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,

*Refrain*



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

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O God, mighty and immortal,

**C: you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*The congregation is invited to be seated.*

## **WORD**

### First Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14

A: A reading from the book of Isaiah.

A: <sup>9b</sup> If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord will guide you continually  
and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong,  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

<sup>13</sup> If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,  
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;  
if you call the Sabbath a delight  
and the holy day of the Lord honorable;

if you honor it, not going your own ways,  
serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;

<sup>14</sup> then you shall take delight in the Lord,  
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;  
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

A: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 103:1-8

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

A: Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**C: Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—**

A: who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;

**C: who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

A: who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**C: O Lord, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

A: You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.

**C: Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-29

A: A reading from the book of Hebrews.

A: <sup>18</sup>You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, <sup>19</sup>and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup>(For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.") <sup>21</sup>Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") <sup>22</sup>But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup>and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup>and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. <sup>25</sup>See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! <sup>26</sup>At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." <sup>27</sup>This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup>Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup>for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

### Gospel Acclamation:



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.

### The Gospel Reading: Luke 13:10-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

P: <sup>10</sup>Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. <sup>11</sup>And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup>When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." <sup>13</sup>When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup>But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." <sup>15</sup>But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? <sup>16</sup>And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" <sup>17</sup>When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

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.*

### Song of the Day:

“Beautiful Things”

ACS #925

#### Verse 1

All this pain, I wonder if I'll ever find my way  
I wonder if my life could really change at all

#### Chorus

You make beautiful things. You make beautiful things out of the dust  
You make beautiful things. You make beautiful things out of us

#### Verse 2

All this earth, could all that is lost ever be found  
Could a garden come up from this ground at all

#### Chorus

You make beautiful things. You make beautiful things out of the dust  
You make beautiful things. You make beautiful things out of us

#### Verse 3

All around hope is springing up from this old ground  
Out of chaos life is being found in You

#### Chorus

You make beautiful things. You make beautiful things out of the dust  
You make beautiful things. You make beautiful things out of us

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## Apostles's Creed

ELW page 105

### Prayers of Intercession

P: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

*A brief silence.*

A: You call your church to proclaim liberation and freedom to all. Give wisdom to bishops, synod councils and staff, and congregation leaders as they pursue a more just and equitable church and society. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: You inspire all creation to sing and bless your holy name. Send healing rains to parched places and relief to flooded lands. Lead us to enact policies to rebuild ruined ecosystems and habitats. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: You work vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. Strengthen the resolve of world leaders and local officials in the way of love and mercy, so that all persons may experience abundant life. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: You satisfy your people with good things. In your steadfast love, receive the cries of all who are bent over under the weight of addiction, isolation, and mental or physical illness especially Larry Clayton, Eva Cowley, Barb Strom, Deb Liebzeit, Melissa Feit, Sonja Magnifici, Chase Flynn, and those we name aloud or in our hearts... *brief silence*....Manifest your healing presence in their midst. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: You call us to delight in the sabbath. Invigorate worship planners and leaders with creativity to aid this assembly in fresh and faithful prayer and praise. Enable all who gather here to be nourished and renewed. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: With all your apostles, prophets, and saints especially Tim Stiens, we give thanks and bless your holy name. As they now rest from their labors, guide us by the witness of their lives to pursue your reign, which can never be shaken. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

**C: Amen.**

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

**We Share the Peace of the Lord**

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 & 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.

The Children's Offering is received during worship and during Sunday school.

The August offering will support Lutheran World Relief School Kits.

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

Offering Song: "Goodness is stronger Than Evil" ELW #721 sing twice



Good -ness is stron - ger than e - vil; love is stron - ger than hate;



light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic-t'ry is



ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic-t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931

Music: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, John L. Bell, b. 1949

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*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Creator God,

**C: in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.**

**Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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,...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,...Do this for the remembrance of me."

## The Lord's Prayer

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: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

*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."*


*And 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, eating at Jesus' table.*

### Communion Song: "Lamb of God"



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.

### Communion Song: "Here is Bread"

ELW #483

*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.**

## Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray. Mothering God,

**C: you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

### Blessing

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

### Sending Song: "Du är Helig (You Are Holy)"

*(sing twice)*

You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more  
than we ever understand. You are always at hand.

Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here  
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy, you are wholeness,  
you are present. Let the cosmos praise you, God!  
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia, halleluia, our God!

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945, Text © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, admin.

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### Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

### Praise Band

## Leading Worship

**Musicians:** Gerad VonHolten & Praise Band

**President:** Pastor Riley

**Preacher:** Pastor Anthony

**Worship Assistant:** Sherry McCarter

**Youth Worship Helpers:** Hannah, Rafael, Luis

## Announcements

### **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**August 30 (Saturday):** at Immanuel

**August 31:** Robin Colglazier

Today's Altar flowers were given by the Rodgers & Marco families in honor of their August birthdays ~ Lauren, Jessie, Rachel, Griffin, Helen, & Denise.

### **The Week at a Glance**

Sunday, August 24:	Youth Committee 9:15 am Worship Service 10:45 am ~ Praise Band
Monday, August 25:	Prayer Team 10:00 am Book Study Group 6:00 pm
Tuesday, August 26:	Line Dancing 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am at ILC
Wednesday, August 27:	Care Ministry 11:00 am
Thursday, August 28:	Chair Yoga 11:00 am Book Study Group 11:00 am
Friday, August 29:	Red Cross Blood Drive 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Saturday, August 30:	Worship 5:30 pm at Immanuel
Sunday, August 31:	Worship Service 10:45 am



**LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF  
SCHOOL KITS**

**The St Paul children and youth are collecting school supplies to make school kits for LWR. Pick up a shopping list in the gathering area to see which items are needed. Items may be dropped off at St Paul anytime before September 8. [lwr.org/kits](http://lwr.org/kits)**



**Dixon  
Habitat  
for Humanity®**

St. Paul / Immanuel will cooperate to serve the community by working at Dixon Habitat for Humanity on **Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>** There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. Contact Bob Gingras for any questions at 815-288-5262 or [segragingras70@comcast.net](mailto:segragingras70@comcast.net)



**The Church Office will be CLOSED  
Labor Day Monday, September 1**



Volunteers needed to help clean the pews with Murphy Oil Soap. If you can help, please call the church office.

St. Paul needs some volunteers to help with light cleaning. If you would be able to help by dusting or vacuuming or another bit of cleaning please contact Joyce Craney or Patty Hallquist.

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** We give thanks to God for the volunteers who helped and supported our free community lunch on August 12! Thanks for helping feed people in Dixon who could use a free meal!



## FALL CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Sept. 19-20

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!



**Fall Rally Day & Sunday School Kick-off:** Sept 14, 9:30 - 10:30 AM: yummy snacks, LWR school kit packing service project, meet your Sunday school leaders, find your classroom, and stay for 10:45 AM worship. Parents/guardians, scan **here** to register your student(s) for Sunday school and teen youth group on Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:30am!



**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Friday, August 29**  
**1:00 pm ~ 6:00 pm**



Out & About will meet at Coffee Crush on Tuesday September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 am