

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
October 12, 2025
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Your presence at worship is important to God and to us! Whether you are a first-time visitor, frequent participant, neighbor, member, or friend, please take a moment as you prepare for worship to share some information on the "Welcome to Worship" card included with your bulletin. Place it in the offering plate at the time the offering is received.

It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.

Many of our worship materials are taken from the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW). Page numbers are located in the front half of the book and hymn numbers are located in the back half of the book.

The assembly **speaks** or **sings** the bold responses.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

"We Come to You for Healing, Lord"

Stanzas 1, 2, and 3.

Greeting

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.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness
fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that,
whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful
hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Page 212

2 Timothy 2:8-13

We will live with Christ.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Children's and Outreach Message

Jenny Brelje

Gospel Acclamation

ELW Hymn 617

"We Come to You for Healing, Lord"

Stanzas 4 and 5.



Luke 17:11-19

One leper gives thanks to God.

The gospel is introduced:

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity

Healing Prayers

Those who wish to receive prayer and the laying on of hands (and anointing, if desired) are welcome to come forward at any time and kneel or stand at one of three stations at the altar.

During this time, all are invited to sing:

"There Is A Balm In Gilead"

ELW Hymn 614

"When Peace Like A River"

ELW Hymn 785

"Healer Of Our Every Ill"

ELW Hymn 612

At the conclusion:

Living God, through the laying on of hands and anointing, grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Our offering is a collection of money for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, as a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. Your offering and "Welcome to Worship" card may be placed in the offering plate. The QR code on the right may be used if you wish to give electronically.



Offering Song

"Lord, I Need You"

Lord, I come, I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
Without You I fall apart
You're the One that guides my heart

Lord I need You, oh, I need You

Every hour I need You

My one defense, my righteousness

Oh God, how I need You

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are, Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me. **R**

Teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus, You're my hope and stay. **R**

Offering Prayer

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts,

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks . . .

After each prayer:

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

At the conclusion:

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

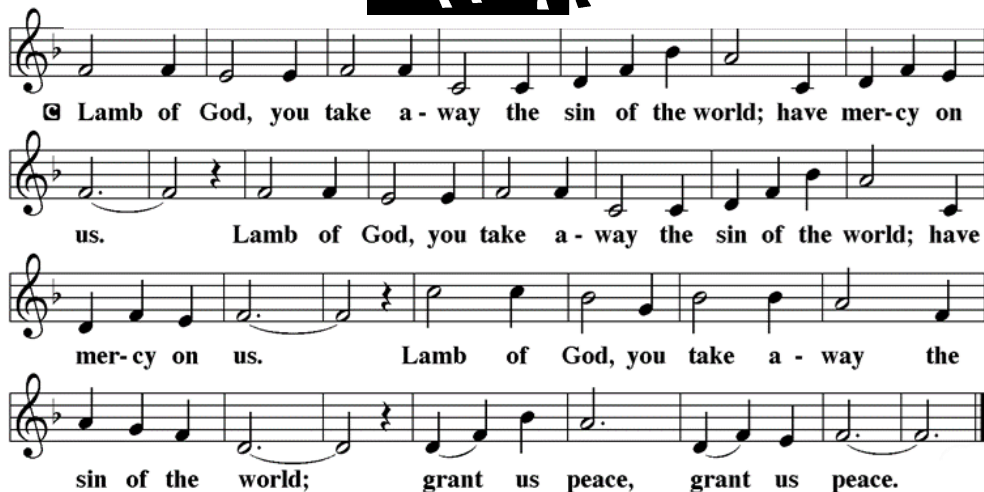
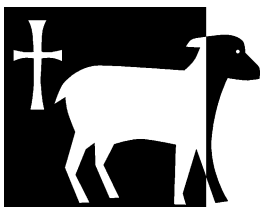
Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**



Communion

We celebrate at an open communion table. All who hear our Lord's invitation are welcome to participate. Receive the bread first with an open hand and eat immediately, followed by the juice (white) or wine (red). Gluten-free bread is available at the front end of the center aisle. Please indicate to an usher if you need to receive communion from your pew. Children who have received age-appropriate instruction are welcome to commune. If you prefer instead to receive a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your shoulders.

*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.



Prayer After Communion

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

Blessing

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.

Sending Song

ELW Hymn 840

"Now thank thee all our God"

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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DAILY PRAYER

Health Care Providers



Merciful God, your healing power is everywhere about us. Strengthen those who work among the sick; give them courage and confidence in all they do. Encourage them when their efforts seem futile or when death prevails. Increase their trust in your power even to overcome death, pain, and crying. May they be thankful for every sign of health you give, and humble before the mystery of your healing grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONNECTIONS WITH THE LITURGY

Let us give thanks



In worship, we join with the lepers to sing "Have mercy on us" whenever we sing before communion, "Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us." But more, we also shout "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God" whenever we begin the communion celebration. During the twentieth century, many Lutherans recovered the ancient practice of giving thanks to God in a substantial prayer before joining together at the table of the Lord. To those who refuse to pray such a prayer, one might ask: In this prayer, we thank God for creation, the history of salvation, the mercy of Christ, the food on this table, and the presence of the Holy Spirit: how bad can that be?! "It is right to give our thanks and praise."

CATECHISM CONNECTION

Praying in suffering



In praying the Sixth Petition of the Lord's Prayer, "And lead us not into temptation," Martin Luther encourages us to pray so that "our flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief." For those who find no comfort in aphorisms such as "everything happens for a reason" or "God doesn't give us more than we can bear," Luther's example of free and bold prayer is a liberating antidote. Luther says in the Large Catechism that "true prayer" is "utter earnestness" where we "feel our need, the distress that drives and impels us to cry out." (LC 444.26) Like the lepers in today's gospel, we are free to cry out and demand mercy from God.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

On Common Ground

Ten people are healed by Jesus, but only one returns to thank him. That is the central tension of today's gospel story. But there is also a twist, one we may have missed if we were not listening closely: the one who thanked Jesus was a Samaritan.

The faithful of Jesus' time would have known all about the hostility between Judeans and Samaritans. The conflict between the two groups stretched back generations and generations. It was animosity so entrenched that people probably did not remember the specifics of the fight. They just knew they hated the other side. A Judean would never associate with a Samaritan, much less heal one of them.

But as we see in this story and others throughout the gospels, Jesus did not seem to care about the labels the world assigned to people: scribe or Pharisee, sinner or tax collector. Jesus also did not stop to consider whether the person was from Judea or Samaria. He looked into the eyes of all who came to him and saw directly to their humanity. He brought healing and wholeness to everyone.

Just as Jesus told the Samaritan, he could tell us, too, that our faith makes us well. God gives us faith that overcomes the destructive words of the world, allowing us to transcend barriers and labels and to recognize the humanity in each individual. God is also calling us as a whole community to go and seek out the Samaritans of our own time and place—anyone whom the rest of the world rejects and reviles—and show them the same compassion and mercy we have received.

God's love makes us whole. Words can hurt, but thanks to Jesus, words can heal too. More often than not, we will find common ground through God's power to heal, even among the Samaritans.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582
Wednesday, October 15, 2025**

A mystical writer and reformer of the monastic order (Carmelites) to which she belonged, Teresa may also be commemorated with John of the Cross on December 14. Latino Christians traditionally remember her on this date.

**Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, died around 115
Friday, October 17, 2025**

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch in Syria, the city where the name "Christians" originated. Ignatius is known to us from his letters, which encouraged Christians to live in love, yet stand firm in true doctrine.

**Luke, Evangelist
Saturday, October 18, 2025**

Identified as the author of both Luke and Acts, Luke was careful to place the events of Jesus' life in their social and religious contexts. His gospel gives us some of the most beloved parables, as well as the songs of Zechariah, Mary, the angels, and Simeon.