

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
October 18, 2026
21st Sunday after Pentecost**



Our Vision

Love and serve God by walking with, caring for,
and learning from our members, friends, and neighbors.

Our Values

Welcome. Generosity. Faithfulness.

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.

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

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.



"Shout to the Lord"

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

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by
you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for
your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

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

Children's Word

First Reading

Pew Bible: Old Testament Pages 674-675

Isaiah 45:1-7

*The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the
one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD
makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this
LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god
of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light
and darkness.*

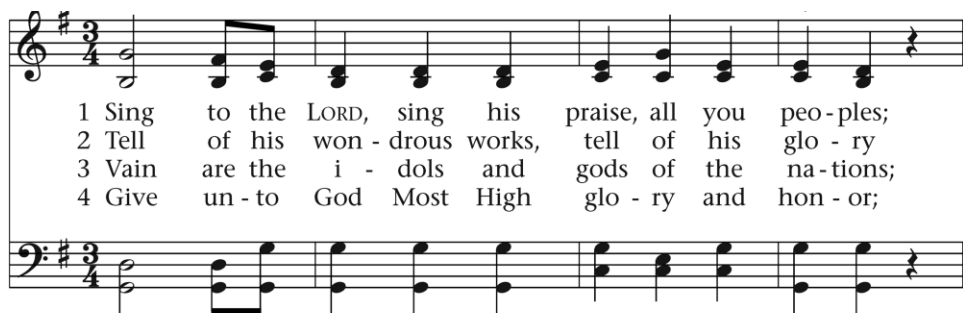
At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Psalm 96:1-9 (paraphrase)



1 Sing to the LORD, sing his praise, all you peo-ples;
 2 Tell of his won-drous works, tell of his glo-ry
 3 Vain are the i-dols and gods of the na-tions;
 4 Give un-to God Most High glo-ry and hon-or;



new be your song as new hon-ors you pay.
 till through the na-tions his name is re-vered.
 God made the heavens, and his glo-ry they tell.
 come with your of-ferings and hum-bly draw near.



Sing of his maj-es-ty, praise him for-ev-er,
 Praise and ex-alt him, for he is al-might-y;
 Splen-dor and maj-es-ty shine out be-fore him;
 Wor-ship the LORD in all beau-ty and splen-dor;



show his sal-va-tion from day to day.
 God o-ver all, let the LORD be feared.
 glo-ry and strength in his tem-ple dwell.
 trem-ble be-fore him with god-ly fear.

Second Reading Pew Bible: New Testament Pages 205-206

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading Pew Bible: New Testament Pages 24-25

Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

The gospel is introduced:

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Vicar Allison Klein

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day

"Everybody's Got Something To Offer"

***Everybody's got something to offer
Young and old the prince and the pauper
Everybody's got something to offer
In the name of the Lord***

***To the lost and the lowly ones
The message it is clear
We have all got a gift to give
Our hands our hearts our tears R***

***To the believers gathered here
The message it is true
We have all got a gift to give
In all we say and do R***

Prayers of Intercession

*After each prayer:
Hear us, O God.*

Your mercy is great.

At the conclusion:

*Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we
pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.*

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 *"Try a little Kindness"* John Ostrem, soloist

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.

Holy God, our Bread of life . . .

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .

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

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal . . .

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

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.

Communion Song

"Here I Am to Worship"

**Light of the world,
You stepped down into darkness.
Opened our eyes let us see,
Beauty that made
This heart adore You.
Hope of a life spent with You.**

*So here we are to worship.
Here we are to bow down.
Here we are to say that You're our God,
And You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to us.*

**King of all days,
Oh so highly exalted.
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came
To the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor. R**

**And we'll never know how much it cost,
To see our sin upon that cross.
And we'll never know how much it cost,
To see our sin upon that cross.**

Prayer After Communion

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

"Go Now With God"

vs. 1 Filled ___ with the Ho - ly ___ Spir - it
vs. 2 Of - fer - ing a hand ___ to a stran - ger go now with God,
vs. 3 Wa - ters of mer - cy have found us
vs. 4 Cross - ing ev' - ry boundry, ev' - ry na - tion

go now with God. In - to the world ___ as a serv - ant
Trust - ing in the ris - en ___ sav - ior
Grace ___ on the jour - ney sur - rounds us
Danc - ing in the gift of lib - er - a - tion

go now with God, go now with God. Go ___ now
go ___ now go ___ now with God.
Go ___ now go ___ now go ___ now with God.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Luke, Evangelist

Sunday, October 18, 2026

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.

James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62

Friday, October 23, 2026

One of three early-church leaders named James, this man is identified in the New Testament and by a historian of the time as a brother of Jesus. Scholars are uncertain whether this means a blood brother. He was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Undivided Loyalty

When Jesus holds up a coin in the marketplace and asks the Pharisees and Herodians, “Whose head is this and whose title?” (Matthew 22:20), he is asking a question not about money, taxes, or the Roman Empire—at least not directly. It is likely that the emperor’s title, printed on that coin, proclaimed the emperor’s divinity: an implicit question of loyalty. And when Jesus asks his hearers to give “to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s” (v. 21), he invites his hearers to decide where they will place their loyalty. What will they give to God? What belongs to the emperor?

We might ask ourselves the same question: Where do we place our loyalty? Where do we place our trust? In Jesus, we see an example: Jesus is loyal to us. Jesus is loyal to us when he teaches. Jesus is loyal to us when he bends down to wash his disciples’ feet. Jesus is loyal to us when he goes to the cross, dies, and rises again for us and for our salvation. Jesus is always loyal to us. Jesus is generous with us in pouring out grace upon grace for us. And we respond to Jesus’ loyalty and generosity with loyalty and generosity of our own.

Throughout our lives, we are empowered by the loyalty and generosity of Jesus to give to God the things that are God’s. We offer our resources for the good of our neighbors. We offer our time, investing in the work of the gospel in our communities and beyond. And we offer our very selves, pledging our undivided loyalty to Jesus, who is loyal to us first.

Church Staff

Sr. Pastor	Rev. Nathan Baker-Trinity
Visitation Pastor	Rev. Laurel Halvorson Bernard
Vicar	Allison Klein
Director of Music	Andy Peterson
Casual Worship Leader	Karen Hillmann
Office Coordinator	Kristin Nelson
Accountant	Michael Benson
Maintenance	Jeff Thomsen
Audio-Video Engineer	Tim Schingen

2026 Church Council Officers

President	Shelley Jokinen
Vice President	Pam Seekel
Secretary	Chris Shivers

2026 Committee Chairpersons

Financial Operations	(Open Seat)
CYF	Sabrina Bell Kristie Mack
Evangelism & Membership	(Open Seat)
Fellowship	Janine Siverson
Memorial & Grants	Diane Podratz Barb LaCosse
Mission Outreach	Ann Kriesel
Property & Grounds	(Open Seat)
Seniors	Jenny Powell
Worship	Jennifer Braun

St. Paul Lutheran Church

609 S. 5th Street, Stillwater, MN 55082
(651) 439-5970

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Email: spkc@stpaulc.org Website: stpaulc.org

Facebook: [@stpaulstillwater](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulstillwater)