

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota

October 5, 2025

Seventeenth 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.

A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

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

Confession & Forgiveness

ELW page 94

Gathering Song "O Jesus, I Have Promised" ELW Hymn 810

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

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

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

Prayer for Illumination

As we continue our "Forward in Faith" initiative, we enter into a time of deep listening to God and one another. This morning we pray for ourselves as we seek deeper knowledge of God.

All sing together:

O - pen our eyes, Lord, we want to see Je -
sus, to reach out and touch Him, and say that we
love Him. O - pen our ears, Lord, and
help us to lis - ten. O - pen our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Je - - sus.

Gracious and holy God,
give us diligence to seek you;
come to us, O God.
Give us wisdom to perceive you;
come to us, O God.

(Continued on the next page.) 2

Give us patience to wait for you;
come to us, O God.

Grant us, dear Jesus, a mind to meditate on you;
open our minds, Lord.

Grant us eyes to behold you;
open our eyes, Lord.

Grant us ears to listen for your word;
open our ears, Lord.

Give us, Creative Spirit, a heart to love you;
awaken our hearts, Holy Spirit.

Give us a life to proclaim you;
awaken our bodies, Holy Spirit.

Give us a voice to praise you;
awaken our song, Holy Spirit.

First Reading

Pew Bible: Old Testament Pages 870-872

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Injustice and violence in the time leading up to the Babylonian exile move this prophet to lament: How can a good and all-powerful God see evil in the world and seemingly remain indifferent? God answers by proclaiming that the righteous will live by faith.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

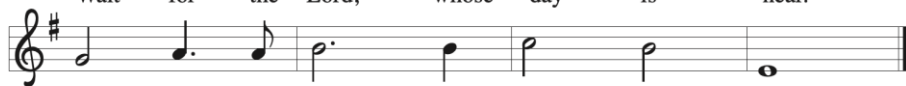
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 37:1-9

“Wait For The Lord”



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

(Continued on the next page.) 3

¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

² **For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

³ Put your trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

⁴ **Take delight in the LORD,
who shall give you your heart's desire. Refrain**

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what God will do.

⁶ **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the
light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off, but those
who hope in the LORD shall possess the land. Refrain

Second Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Page 211

2 Timothy 1:1-14

*This letter written to Timothy is a personal message of encouragement.
In the face of hardship and persecution, Timothy is reminded that his
faith is a gift of God. He is encouraged to exercise that faith with
the help of the Holy Spirit.*

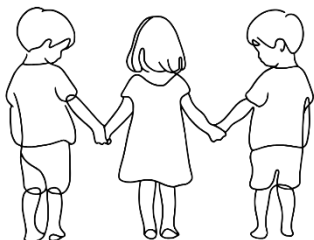
At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Children's and Outreach Message

Jenny Brelje



Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia"



Gospel Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Page 80

Luke 17:5-10

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus instructs his followers about the power of faith and the duties of discipleship. He calls his disciples to adopt the attitude of servants whose actions are responses to their identity rather than works seeking reward.

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.



Sermon

Pastor Laurel Halvorson Bernard

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.



Hymn of the Day "What Is The World Like"



1 What is the world like when God's will is
 2 What is the world like when God's will is
 3 What is the world like when God's will is
 4 What is the world like when God's will is
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im -



done? Mus - tard seeds grow more than
 done? Wit - ness the wan - der - ing
 done? No more is neigh - bor just
 done? Read - y for feast - ing, we
 parts, filled with the Spir - it who



we can con - ceive: roots thread the
 child com - ing home; watch as the
 al - ly or friend; peace thrives in
 watch through the night, tend - ing our
 joins us as one. Born through our



soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 plac - es where once there was none.
 lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

Prayers of Intercession

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.

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 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.

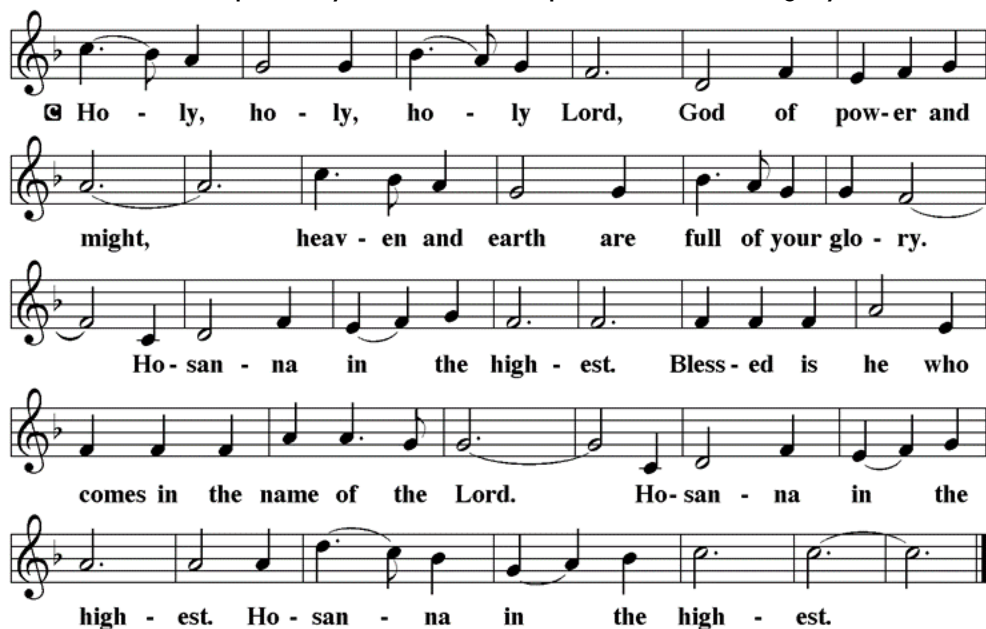
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . .

. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes, aligned with the syllables. The text of the lyrics is: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est."

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

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord . .

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .

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

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord .
... be all honor and glory, 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.**



☪ 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.

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.

Please sing during communion:

Communion Song

ELW Hymn 596

"My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"

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



Sending of Communion

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those homebound and unable to be with us in person. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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 759

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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DAILY PRAYER

For Our Divided Nation

Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within a divisive society even as he spoke truth to those in power on all sides. Empower us to be of good courage and hold fast to all that is good. Grant that our lives be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable in our midst, and respect for the common life we share, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CONNECTIONS WITH THE LITURGY

The Timothy reading speaks of the “laying on of hands.” Christians continue the ancient practice of the laying on of hands, first described in the Bible when the dying Isaac blesses his sons (Gen. 48:14). Lutheran worship practices suggest the laying on of hands in Baptism, the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation), Individual Confession and Forgiveness (pp. 241, 244), and Marriage, as well as in several of the occasional services, such as ordination. The gesture evolved from the natural human sign of affection and usually symbolizes a prayer for God to bless the recipient, such as when parents bless their children each morning when they leave for school. Historically especially in ordination, it came also to denote a transfer of power.

CATECHISM CONNECTION

Jesus appears to take a harsh tone toward his disciples in today's gospel by calling them "worthless slaves" and implying that they are owed nothing whenever they do God's will. The inverse and larger truth, however, is that all of our life is a gift from a gracious God. Martin Luther speaks positively of our acceptance by God when teaching about the First Article of the Apostles' Creed: God creates, provides, protects and preserves us "out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true."

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Faith beyond Measure

Matters of faith are sometimes tricky to comprehend. Faith is a relationship of trust in God. But how do we measure it? It is, by definition, unquantifiable. Of course, that does not stop us from trying. We want to grade our faith, and we look on the outside for signs of a high faith score.

How often do we mistake material success for God's blessing? It is tempting to look at other people and think they must be more faithful than we are because they have or do more than we do. But there is a flaw in that logic. Quite often, looks can be deceiving. We have all suffered disappointment a time or two (or ten!). Life sometimes deals us more than we can handle. We could have faith the size of a bowling ball, but sometimes things just don't work out.

Jesus' understanding of faith seems different from his disciples' or our own. He teaches the apostles that even the tiniest amount of faith possesses transformative power capable of altering entire realities. The "size" of faith is irrelevant.

God gives every one of us a seed of faith. It is a gift freely given, nurtured through baptism and communion. We build confidence in that faith through worship, prayer, and community. While we struggle to measure our faith, we can increase our confidence and willingness to act on it. When that confidence is low, we can lean on those around us. When it is high, we can strive to build up others, encouraging them in their own relationship with God.

God is calling all of us to be willing and confident servants, sending us out into the world to act on our faith. Like a giant, wild bush that grows from the tiniest seed, our faith can grow, spread, and thrive beyond measure.

Upcoming Commemorations

William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536

Monday, October 6, 2025

Tyndale was ordained a priest in England, and wished to translate the Bible into English. He was opposed in this by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany. He completed the New Testament in 1525, but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work.

Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.

Massie L. Kennard, renewer of the church, died 1986 (TFF)

Friday, October 10, 2025

A native of Chicago, Kennard was a major figure in supporting and working toward ethnic and racial inclusiveness in the former Lutheran Church in America. Ordained in 1958, he served in positions including Director for Minority Concerns of the Division for Mission in North America.