

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**of Stillwater, Minnesota**  
**June 22, 2025**  
**Second Sunday after Pentecost**

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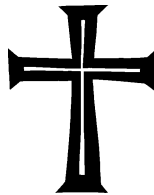


Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are grateful to God you are here. We pray that you will feel the Spirit and warm welcome of this faith community.

This Sunday's gospel paints a startling picture of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

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.*

**Opening Sentences**

You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

**Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.**

(Continued on the next page.) 1

For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;

**but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

**I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.**

We begin in the name we are born children of God,  
in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Gathering Song**

ELW Hymn 886

*“Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

## **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.**

## **Kyrie**

ELW Page 203

## **Canticle of Praise**

ELW Page 204

## **Prayer of the Day**

O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**



## WORD

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

**First Reading** Galatians 3:23-29 Pew Bible: NT Page 189

*In the Bible, wisdom is portrayed in terms sometimes human and sometimes divine. Often, wisdom is personified as feminine. In this passage, Woman Wisdom is depicted not only as the first creation of God, but also as God's helper, rejoicing in God's creation, especially in human beings.*

*At the conclusion:*

*Word of God, word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Children's and Outreach Message**

Jenny Brelje

**Gospel Acclamation**

ELW Page 205

*"Alleluia! Lord and Savior"*

**Gospel Reading** Luke 8:26-39 Pew Bible: NT Page 68

*Jesus' mission includes foreigners and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony to God's mercy and power.*

*The gospel is introduced:*

*The holy gospel according to Luke.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion:*

*Word of God, word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity

# Hymn of the Day

## "Cast Out, O Christ"

1 Cast out, O Christ, cast far a - way the  
2 Our rag - ing griefs, our jeal - ous fears are  
3 Once long a - go, from Gal - i - lee, you  
4 Your word breathes life and health and hope that  
5 So come, O Christ, and cast a - way the

de - mons that de - stroy: the haunt - ing dreads that  
Le - gion in their name. Our shack - led hearts im -  
sailed to storm - tossed shores. And still in pow'r, you  
break through e - vil's thrall. You send us, strength - ened,  
de - mons that de - stroy. Trans - form our lives to

choke our souls, the hates that sti - fle joy.  
plore your grace to loose our bind - ing shame.  
brave new paths to breach our bolt - ed doors.  
home in peace to live your gos - pel call.  
sense your love and spread a - broad your joy.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816  
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## Prayers of Intercession

ELW Page 105

## Peace

ELW Page 106

## Announcements

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## Peace

ELW Page 106



## 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

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

ELW Pages 206-208



## 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**      "Lamb of God"      ELW Page 208

### **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.*

### **Welcome New Members**

#### **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 860

*"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"*

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

### **Real Healing**

Today we resume our journey through the Gospel of Luke. Luke has a clear agenda: to share the gospel to the ends of the earth—to whomever, however, and whenever the opportunity presents itself! Luke boldly declares that the gospel is the gift of healing offered for all creation.

It is with this evangelical and healing bias that we approach this scripture passage. The nakedness, the tombs, and the swine speak to a reality of a lack of ritual purity. The world is not perfect. Demons in turn remind us of the various pressures and temptations that surround and distract us from God's presence and holiness. The swineherds are confused. On one hand, a man is healed; on the other, they lose their livelihood when the swine throw themselves over a cliff. And all of this happens in Gentile land: Jesus shares the good news in non-Jewish lands and to non-Jewish people. Jesus is willing to enter the reality of life. Jesus is willing to enter the reality of our lives.

What better message for Luke to share than that Jesus meets this broken human being right where he is. No need to clean up beforehand. No need to be someone he is not. No need to play any games or wear different hats. He simply gets to be himself. Jesus meets him and shows him that he is seen, not only in his truth of the moment, but also in the fullness of his humanity.

Demons, be gone. Confusion, be gone. Peace enters. Love enters. God enters and envelops each of us in true healing. To know we are enough with God is the heart of healing. Then comes an invitation to share news of the healing Jesus does each day.

What has Jesus done for you today?

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

### **John the Baptist**

**Tuesday, June 24, 2025**

John said, "[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease." And so his birth is celebrated half a year before Jesus', just as the daylight in the northern hemisphere begins to wane. Jesus honored John as being the greatest prophet.

### **Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530**

**Wednesday, June 25, 2025**

On this day in 1530 the German and Latin editions of the Augsburg Confession were presented to the Emperor Charles of the Holy Roman Empire. The Augsburg Confession was written by Philipp Melanchthon and endorsed by Martin Luther, and consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.

### **Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the church, died 1560**

**Wednesday, June 25, 2025**

Though he died on April 19, Philipp Melanchthon is commemorated today because of his connection with the Augsburg Confession. Colleague and co-reformer with Martin Luther, Melanchthon was a brilliant scholar, known as "the teacher of Germany."

### **Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, died 444**

**Friday, June 27, 2025**

Cyril defended the orthodox teachings about the person of Christ. After a conflict involving all of the major Christian leaders of the time, it was decided that Cyril's interpretation, that Christ's person included both divine and human natures, was correct.

### **Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202**

**Saturday, June 28, 2025**

This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as gnosticism, Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as catholic, or linked together.