

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
of Stillwater, Minnesota  
May 10, 2026  
Sixth Sunday of Easter

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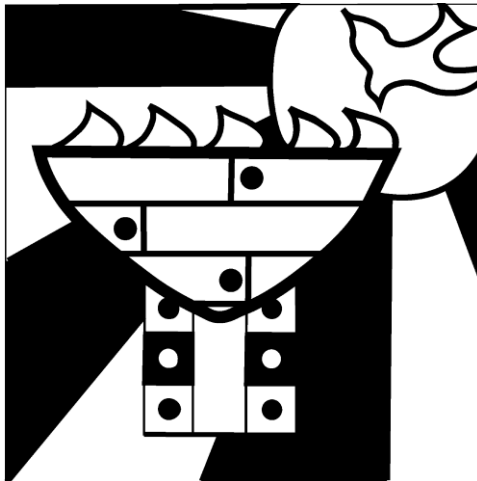
Your presence at worship is important to God and to us! Whether you are a first-time visitor, frequent participant, neighbor, member, or friend, please take a moment as you prepare for worship to share some information on the "Welcome to Worship" card included with your bulletin. Place it in the offering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

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

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

### GATHERING

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



Prelude

Thanksgiving for Baptism

ELW page 97

Gathering Song

ELW page 149

*"This Is the Feast"*

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 ever-living God, you hold together all things  
in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the  
prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the  
Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **WORD**

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

First Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Pages 137-138

Acts 17:22-31

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to  
Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition.  
He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the  
true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with  
justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

*At the conclusion:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 66:8-20

*A soloist sings the first verse, then all sing verses 1 through 3.*

Come all you peo - ple, come and praise your Mak - er,  
Come all you peo - ple, come and praise your Mak - er,  
Come all you peo - ple, come and praise your Mak - er,  
Come now and wor - ship the Lord.

**Come, all you people, come praise the Savior. . .  
. . . come now and worship the Lord.**

**Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit . .  
. . . come now and worship the Lord.**



Second Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Page 233

1 Peter 3:13-22

*The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.*

*At the conclusion:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Children's and Outreach Message

Jenny Brelje, CYF Director

Gospel Acclamation

ELW hymn 388

*A quartet sings the acclamation first, then all are invited to sing.*

*“Be Not Afraid”*

Gospel Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Page 109

John 14:15-21

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

*The gospel is introduced:*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Nathan Baker Trinity

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

Hymn of the Day

ELW hymn 613

*“Thy Holy Wings”*

Apostles' Creed

ELW page 105

Prayers of Intercession

*After each prayer:*

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*At the conclusion:*

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen 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 Hymn

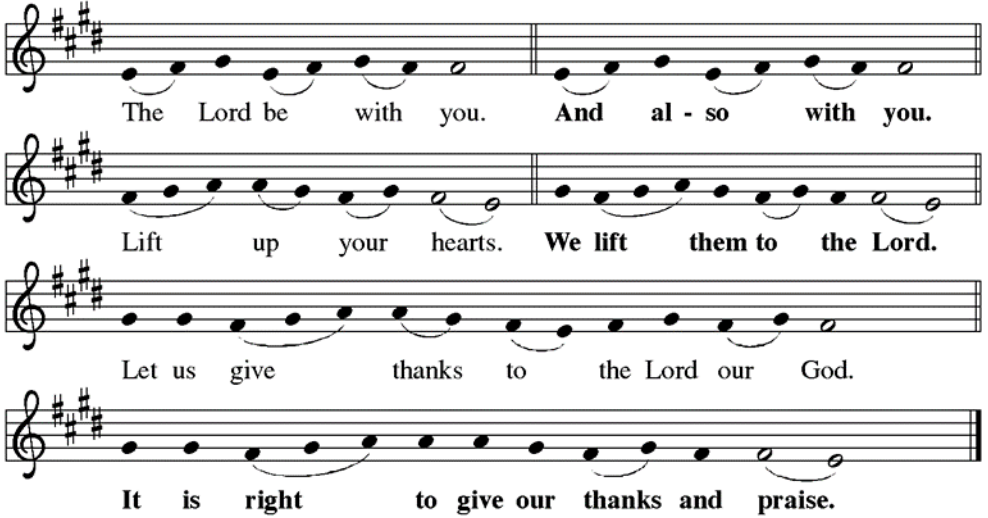
ELW hymn 379

*"Now the Green Blade Rises"*

## Offering Prayer

Merciful God,  
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.  
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
when we will hunger and thirst no more.  
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,  
that goodness and mercy may follow us  
and bless the world you love.  
In the name of Jesus,  
**Amen.**

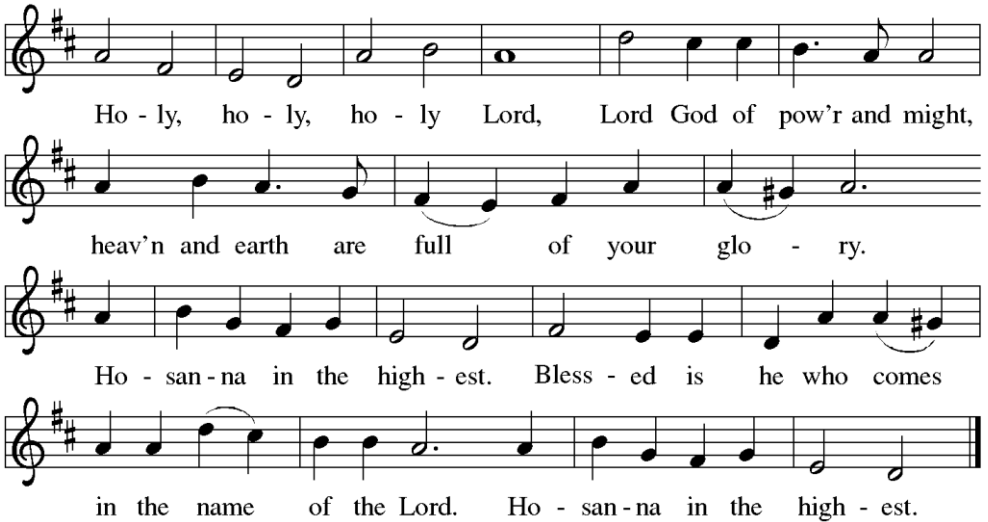
# Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

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

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n 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.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord . . .

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .

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

(Continued on the next page.) 6

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord . . .  
. . . to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
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.*

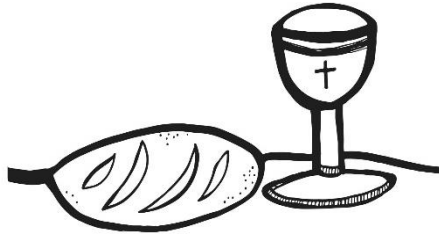
*and each person may respond:*

**Amen.**

## Communion Song

ELW hymn 471

*"Let Us Break Bread Together"*



## Prayer After Communion

Holy One,  
through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.  
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,  
and to bring your healing to the nations.  
In the name of Jesus,

**Amen.**

## SENDING

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

### Announcements

### Charge and Blessing

Go out into the world in peace;  
have courage;  
hold on to what is good;  
return no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted;  
support the weak, and help the suffering;  
honor all people;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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 638

*"Blessed Assurance"*

### Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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**DAILY PRAYER**  
**For A Synod Assembly**

O God, open the hearts of your faithful people  
by sending into them your Holy Spirit.  
Direct us them the light of that Spirit,  
that they may have a right judgment in all things  
and rejoice at all times in your peace,  
through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

**CONNECTIONS WITH THE LITURGY**  
**Noah's Flood**

In the Thanksgiving for Baptism and Martin Luther's "Flood Prayer" for Holy Baptism (ELW page 230), the thanksgiving over the font likens the water in the font to the waters of the flood, through which God delivered Noah and his family. The reading from First Peter today proclaims that Noah's flood pre-figures our own baptism in Gods' cleansing waters. 19th century hymn writer Carolina Sandell Berg (also the author of "Children of the Heavenly Father" and "Day by Day") carries on this traditional image for baptism in her hymn, "Thy Holy Wings."

**LIFE ON EARTH**  
**A Higher Obligation**

In today's first reading, Paul's sermon at the Areopagus in Athens is important for our time. It asserts that God is the creator, from whom comes life for all, and it goes further to claim that humans are in some way the offspring of God. In the past, most Christians assumed that as God's offspring they enjoyed such a unique place on earth that they could use the rest of creation however they chose. In the wake of the Industrial Revolution, some Christians began pointing out that being God's offspring laid on humans a higher obligation to guard the well-being of the whole creation, a view now held by mainstream Christian leaders around the world.

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Matthias, Apostle**

**Thursday, May 14, 2026**

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.

### **GOSPEL MESSAGE** **The Perspective of Love**

It has been said that, on our journey of discipleship, each of us receives new eyeglasses. These glasses have a prescription that filters out all the cobwebs and distractions, giving us the ability to see everything through love. If we wonder what a particular scripture passage means, we read and interpret it through love. If we wonder how to make a big decision, we discern it through love. If we wonder how to respond to a challenging person or situation, we consider responses through the perspective of love.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments,” Jesus says to his disciples (John 14:15). Loving Jesus means keeping his commandments, and keeping his commandments means loving: loving God, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and seeing our neighbors and ourselves in the same way our God of grace and forgiveness sees us.

We are not left on our own to maintain this perspective of love in all that we see, think, say, and do. Jesus promises that he and the Holy Spirit will not only be alongside us but will also live in us forever.

## **Church Staff**

Sr. Pastor	Rev. Nathan Baker-Trinity
Visitation Pastor	Rev. Laurel Halvorson Bernard
Director of Music	Andy Peterson
Casual Worship Leader	Karen Hillmann
Office Coordinator	Kristin Nelson
CYF & Outreach Director	Jenny Brelje
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. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Stillwater, MN 55082  
(651) 439-5970

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

Email: [spkc@stpaulc.org](mailto:spkc@stpaulc.org) Website: [stpaulc.org](http://stpaulc.org)

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