

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
May 24, 2026
Day of 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.

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

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



GATHERING

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

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
source of hope in every nation,
rest for the weary,
glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

Amen.

Let us bring every burden to God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all mercy,

**we have sinned against you,
our neighbors, and your creation.
Within ourselves and our communities,
our desire to do what is good
is at war with the evil that dwells in us.
We lament the evil that holds us captive.
We repent of the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us
for lives of compassion and courage
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

All-merciful, Almighty God
forgive you all your sins
through the grace of + Jesus Christ,
and by the Spirit's power
strengthen you in doing what is good.

Amen.



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

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we 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.

WORD

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

First Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Page 119

Acts 2:1-21

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Psalm 103 (paraphrase)

"Bless the Lord, O My Soul"

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger

Your name is great and Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

And on that day when my strength is failing

The end draws near and my time has come

Still my soul will sing Your praise unending

Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Second Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Page 174

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Children's and Outreach Message

Jenny Brelje, CYF Director



Gospel Acclamation

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

Gospel Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Page 115

John 20:19-23

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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.

"Spirit of Gentleness"

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 Anthem

"I Was Hungry"

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God,
for waves of grain and harvesters,
fruitful vines and winepresses,
for our labor and our rest,
for the gifts of your hand in this land.
Transform us and what we offer
into the banquet of your compassion,
serving your love without limits
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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,
you alone are Majesty,
you alone are Excellency,
you alone are Sovereign.

Within the vast reaches you splashed into being,
you formed our star and this planet:
purple mountains, fruited plains,
crystal waters, towering forests, gleaming mines.
Here you fashioned human beings
in our infinite variety and hue,
yet each one created equal,
to care for one another

(Continued on the next page.) 8

and our earthly home.

In a time of peace
enforced by the cruelty of empire,
you came in Jesus to share our life.
Born under the rule of a merciless king,
Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God.
Moving across borders
to people broken and oppressed,
Jesus brought healing, restoration, and freedom.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime,
Christ's resurrection that buries death,
Christ's ascension to rule with love forever,
we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

God, shed your grace on us.
Shower your Holy Spirit
on these gifts of bread and wine
and on your people gathered this day.
Ignite in us the flame of freedom—
freedom from prejudice, from supremacy, from fear;
freedom for acceptance, for welcome,
for the peace that you have first shown to us.

Faithful God, loving God:
Your Majesty shines forth in weakness.
Your Excellency is revealed to infants.
Your Sovereignty reigns from a cross.
Yours, O God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
is the everlasting kingdom,
the peaceable power,
and the humble 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.**



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

We thank you, God of heaven and earth,
that you fill our deepest need
with the very gift of Jesus Christ,
broken and poured out for us.
Pour us out into a broken world.
Channel our common life
toward the common good,
following the way our Savior leads us
now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

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

Announcements



Remembering Fallen Veterans

Lord of all the worlds, as we remember those who died in service to our country, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Inspired by those who gave their lives, give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Following the prayer, all sing to "Old Hundredth":

**O Lord of Hosts! Almighty King!
Behold the sacrifice we bring!
To every arm thy strength impart,
Thy spirit shed through ev'ry heart!
Wake in our breasts a living fire,
A way of service to inspire;
Thy pow'r has made our nation free;
To die for it is serving thee.**

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

"Lord of Justice"

<i>Lord of justice</i>	To the naked
<i>Lord of life</i>	May we give clothing
<i>Help us to do</i>	To the homeless
<i>What You know is right</i>	A place to lay their head
<i>Oh Oh Oh</i>	
<i>Lord of justice</i>	To the wounded
<i>Lord of life</i>	May we give healing
<i>Guide us through</i>	To the voiceless
<i>The day and night</i>	May we give words
	To the captives
To the stranger	May we give freedom
May we give welcome	To the tortured
To the hungry	Release from all the hurt
May we give bread	

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

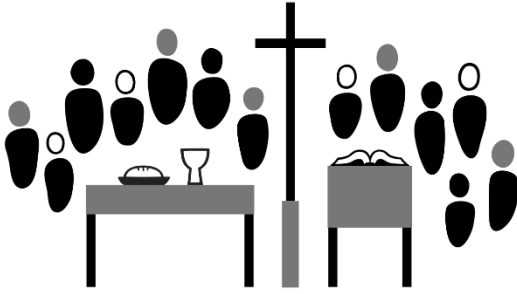
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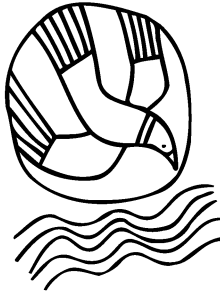
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DAILY PRAYER After Worship



Almighty God, grant that your holy word which has been proclaimed this day may enter into our hearts through your grace, that it may produce in us the fruit of the Spirit for witness and service in the world and to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CONNECTIONS WITH THE LITURGY Day of Pentecost



Fifty days after Passover, Jews kept the Pentecost festival, which originally celebrated the wheat harvest but had become the commemoration of the giving of the law on Mount Sinai. As the fiftieth day of Easter, Christians maintained the festival, altering its focus to a celebration of the Spirit of the risen Christ in the church. In an oblique reference to Sinai, the fire of God's word is now on the foreheads of the faithful. In John, all believers receive the peace of the Lord. In Acts, especially the leaders are lauded.

Pentecost concludes the Easter season.

LIFE ON EARTH
God's Spirit is Everywhere



The church has historically stressed that on Pentecost the Spirit of God came to dwell within the community of believers. Yet since creation, the Spirit of God hovered over the entire earth, giving it life. We pray that we might recognize the Spirit of God hovering over field and forest, mountains and deserts, rivers and seas.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783;
scientists**

Sunday, May 24, 2026

These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God's universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics and contributed to many other fields.

John Calvin, renewer of the church, died 1564

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Gifted both as a systematic theologian and as an interpreter of scriptures, Calvin embraced the Reformation, and as a preacher in Geneva, Switzerland, brought a theocratic government to it. He is regarded as the father of the Reformed churches.

Jiri Tranovský, hymnwriter, died 1637

Friday, May 29, 2026

Tranovský is considered to be the father of Slovak hymnody as well as an important reformer of the Slavic church. He translated the Augsburg Confession (the basis of Lutheran teachings) and published a collection of Slovak hymns.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Perspective of Love

In the world of the Bible, the word breath is synonymous with “life.” Breath is necessary for a creature to be considered alive; where there isn’t breath, there isn’t life. Breath from God animates—brings to life—the creature formed from dust, the first human. When Jesus dies on the cross, three of the four gospels describe the moment using the phrase “breathed his last.”

In today’s gospel reading, Jesus appears to the disciples after the resurrection and offers his body to them for inspection. His scarred hands and side reveal that he is, in fact, Jesus, who was crucified. He is not an impostor. The disciples rejoice at the recognition. Next, Jesus breathes on them, a clear physical and symbolic assurance that he is not just a body but a living body. The breath that was once spent and gone has returned. He is not reanimated; he is resurrected. He has life in him again!

When Jesus breathes on his disciples, he also invites them to receive the Holy Spirit. This moment is extraordinary. Jesus animates the disciples in the same way God animated Adam: by bestowing divine breath, which brings not only physical life but spiritual life as well. Moreover, Jesus reveals that the Holy Spirit he promised to the disciples is, in fact, his own animating Spirit.

The earth-shaking wind of the Spirit at Pentecost is also an intimate breath of life. Through this divine exhale, there is the gift of life—body and spirit—and the enduring promise of resurrection.

Spend a few moments today doing some deep breathing as you give thanks for God’s gift of breath and for the Holy Spirit.

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

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