

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
June 29, 2025
Third Sunday after Pentecost



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.

We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus' call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us.
This is the path of life.

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

In the day of our trouble we seek you, O Lord.

**We call to mind your deeds
and remember your wonders of old.**

**We meditate on all your work
and muse on your mighty deeds.**

Your way, O God, is holy.

What god is so great as our God?

**You are the God who works wonders;
you have displayed your might among the peoples.**

Your way was through the sea,
your path, through the mighty waters;
yet your footprints were unseen.

Make your path clear this day.

Let us worship God this day with joy and hope,
as 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 793

"Be Thou My Vision"



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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.

Canticle of Praise

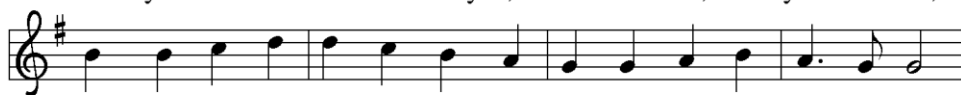
ELW Page 204



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.

2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:

Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;

Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.

Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.

For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you,
and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the
ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we
may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

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

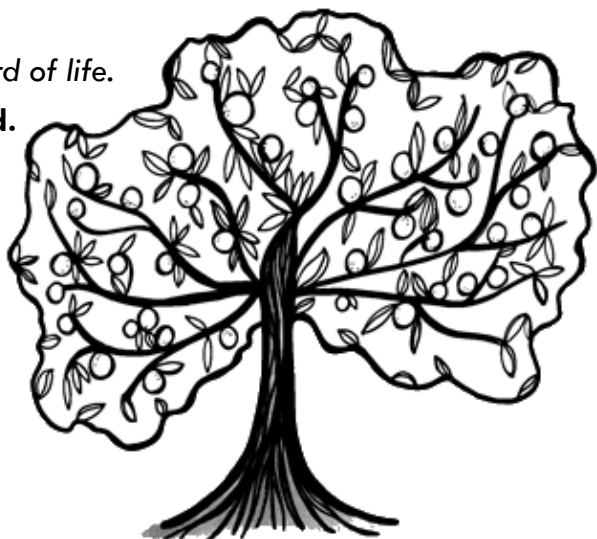
First Reading Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Pew Bible: NT Page 190

For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ's Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.

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"

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring. 4

Gospel Reading

Luke 9:51-62

Pew Bible: NT Page 70

Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.

The gospel is introduced:

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion:

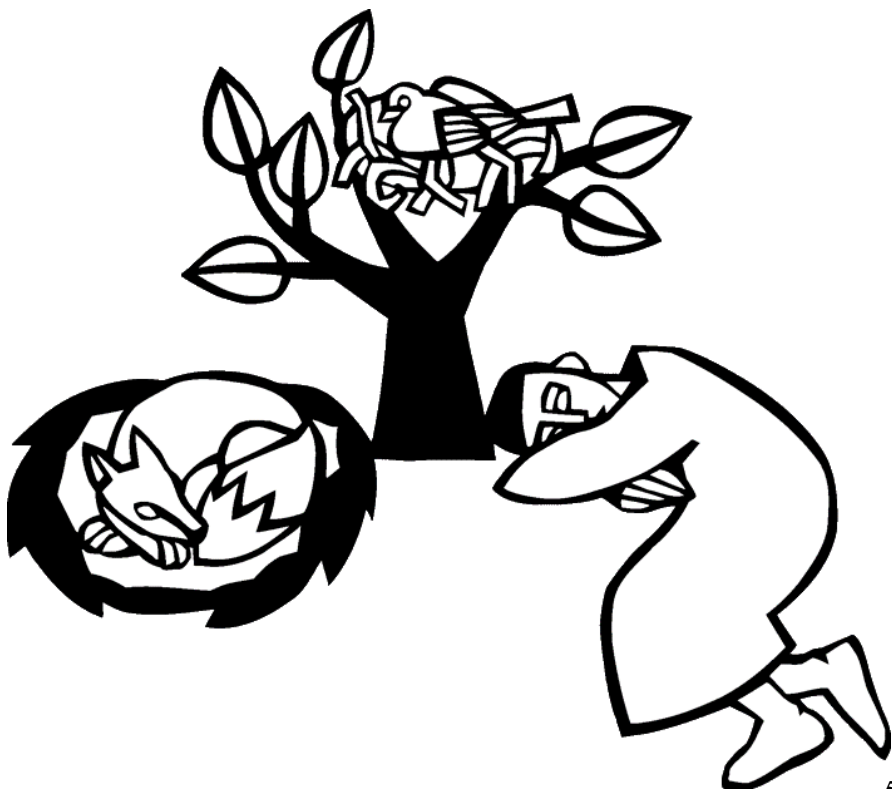
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor John Omans

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.



Hymn of the Day

ELW Hymn 798

"Will You Come and Follow Me"



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
your name? Will you quell the fear in -
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



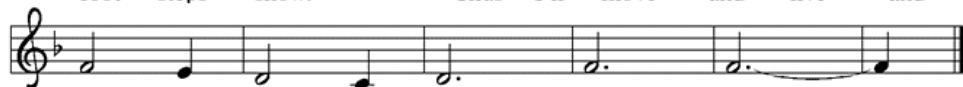
know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
world a - round, through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
pray'r in you and you in me?"
mean in you and you in me?"
sound in you and you in me?"
grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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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.

(Continued on the next page.) 7

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

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

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.

Blessing of The Youth Mission and Service Trip Participants

Johnny Isaacson
Kamel Benyahia
Hannah Bell
Sabrina Bell
Ashton Bell

Katie Peterson

Henry Lundquist
Zac Thompson
Jenny Brelje
Julian Galvin
Elijah Mack



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.

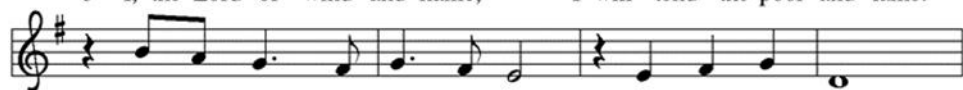
Sending Song

ELW Hymn 574

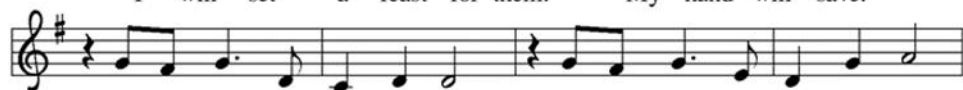
"Here I Am, Lord"



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Moving in Love

Participating in divisive discourse has become pervasive in this culture, particularly on social media platforms. Conversations regarding religion and politics can swiftly escalate into full-blown battles, and it can be challenging to remain cordial and reflective when confronted with false dichotomies and personal attacks around social issues.

In today's gospel reading, the siblings James and John quickly want to retaliate with violence and aggression against the village that rejects Jesus. However, he rebukes them for their fury. The brothers appear to have disregarded the fact that when Jesus commissioned them earlier with the other disciples to spread the good news, he instructed them that if they encountered rejection, they should merely "shake the dust off [their] feet as a testimony against [the rejectors]" and move on (Luke 9:5). Dusting off their feet was not only for the sake of nonengagement but also for their safety. What good would the news be if every rejection led to violence and war?

It's not easy to dust off our feet and move on when we are engaged in passionate debates. But how do we translate this action into a life-giving practice of discipleship? We practice this spirit of reconciliation during worship when extending peace to our neighbor. We engage in loving discourse when we pray and share a meal around Jesus' table.

Our engagement as disciples is steeped in the reminder that Jesus came to bring abundant life and love into the world. Finding ways to stay connected to one another while balancing the moments that call for dusting off one's feet and moving on is not simple or easy. Gatherings and connections within and outside of worship allow us to practice God's abundant grace and mercy, whether by stepping away or by moving in close for the sake of care and love for neighbor and self.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Peter and Paul, Apostles

Sunday, June 29, 2025

These two strong-willed apostles are the pillars of the church in the first generation after Christ. Peter was one of the Twelve, one who both offered a glorious confession of faith and later denied knowing Jesus. Paul once led the persecution of Christians, then was converted and helped bring the faith to non-Jewish people.

Catherine Winkworth, died 1878;

John Mason Neale, died 1866;

hymn translators

Tuesday, July 1, 2025

Neale was an English priest who specialized in the translation of Latin and Greek hymns into English. Winkworth lived in Manchester, England, and devoted herself to translating German hymns. Almost all English-speaking hymnals include many of their translations.

Thomas, Apostle

Thursday, July 3, 2025

Though frequently remembered as "doubting Thomas," this apostle also demonstrated a willingness to suffer and die with Jesus (John 11:16), and finally claimed the risen Christ as "my Lord and my God!" By tradition, he later worked as a missionary in India. Long commemorated on December 21, Thomas's celebration is moved to July 3 in agreement with ecumenical calendars.