

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
July 13, 2025
Fifth 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.

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to 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.



Invocation

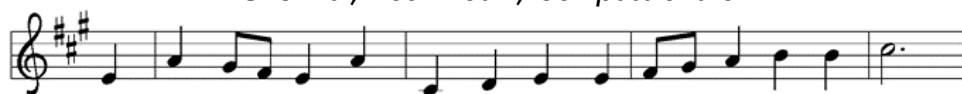
We begin in the name we are washed and forgiven,
in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of
the Holy Spirit

Amen.



Gathering Song

“O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate”



1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.
so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.
that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.
whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,
We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield
come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.
and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.
that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.
whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

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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 Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for
your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and
turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your
Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

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

First Reading

Pew Bible: Old Testament Pages 185-186

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

*Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised
land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors.
Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience.
God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off,
but dwells in the people's hearts.*

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Psalm 25:1-10

"Lord, I Gladly Trust"

1 LORD, I glad - ly trust in you: let me not be
 2 In your hands I place my past: all my sins you
 3 Teach me what is true and good; let me hear and
 4 When my trou - bles mul - ti - ply you a - lone can

put to shame. As I look up toward your throne
 know so well. Your for - give - ness, LORD, I need,
 un - der - stand! In the choic - es I must make
 bring me through: so with all your saints I say,

make your gra - cious pro - mise known: God my ref - uge
 for my guilt is great in - deed; ev - en great - er
 show my heart the way to take, so that I may
 "Be my strength and shield to - day." Since I know you

and my hope, your pro - tect - ive care I claim.
 is your love—mer - cy more than I can tell.
 al - ways tread on the path which you have planned.
 hear my prayer, LORD, I glad - ly trust in you.

Second Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Pages 199-200

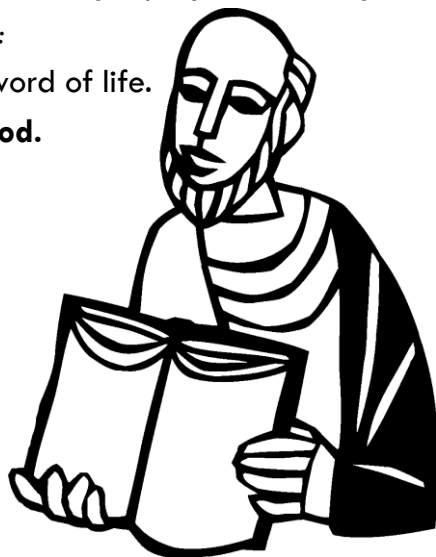
Colossians 1:1-14

The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.

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.

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Gospel Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Pages 71-72

Luke 10:25-37

Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.

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 Jonathan Zielske

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day

ELW Hymn 740

"God of the Sparrow"

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing
2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet
3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the emp - ty
4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the prod - i -

stars
blast
grave
gal

How does the crea - ture say Awe
How does the crea - ture cry Woe
How does the crea - ture say Grace
How does the crea - ture say Care

How does the crea - ture say Praise
How does the crea - ture cry Save
How does the crea - ture say Thanks
How does the crea - ture say Life

5 God of the neighbor
God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

Prayers of Intercession

After each prayer:
Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

At the conclusion:

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

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.

Announcements

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

"Spirit, Open My Heart"

The congregation sings the refrain.

Refrain

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

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"



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

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

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-
let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
more thy tem-ple leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Who Is the Good Samaritan?

The story of the good Samaritan is well known, even outside Christian communities. Some ministries are even named after it. However, showing love and care to others, especially strangers, can be complex. Like the lawyer who comes to Jesus in today's gospel, many seek to learn how to live a life of integrity. Answering the call to love God with all one's heart, mind, and soul, however, often leads to questions about what that means in the real world. This parable calls listeners to generosity in extending care beyond charity and helps expand the definition of neighbor. There continues to be a steady increase in homelessness and poverty in our country, and loving a neighbor as a "good Samaritan" can often feel impossible. Nevertheless, we are still called to care for the most vulnerable.

Alongside care, another dynamic emerges from this encounter between Jesus and the lawyer. This is also a story about Jesus expanding the notion of who is capable and "good." By highlighting an unlikely character who does the good thing, Jesus' answer to the lawyer's question, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29), gives the lawyer a chance to think about the stranger as just as capable of love as he is. Loving is not exclusive to a specific type of person; we are all capable of it.

The invitation, then, is not just to love the stranger who walks through the church doors, but to see them as just as capable of bringing love with them. Loving God with one's entire being also means trusting that everything God has made, especially our neighbor, has the potential to be an extension of divine love. Seeing others as just as capable of being the good Samaritan as we are diminishes the societal hierarchies and judgments that keep us from sharing in the splendor of God's love with one another. So, like the lawyer, may we be surprised by the generous care of a stranger as we seek to do the same.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, died 1566 Thursday, July 17, 2025

A native of Spain, Las Casas first came to the Western hemisphere while serving in the military. Upon arriving in the West, Las Casas was granted a large estate with Indigenous enslaved people whom he freed after he was ordained a priest. He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.