

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
July 20, 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.

Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, and Mary and Martha. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word 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.



Invocation

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart.**

In Jesus Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

We are grateful to know this embodied God.

In Christ all things hold together.

We celebrate him as head of the church.

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

“I’ll Fly Away”

Some glad morning, when my life is over, I’ll fly away. To a
home on God’s celestial shore, I’ll fly away.

I’ll fly away, oh glory, I’ll fly away. When I die, Hallelujah, by
and by, I’ll fly away.

Just a few more weary days and then I’ll fly away. To a land
where joy shall never end, I’ll fly away.

I’ll fly away, oh glory, I’ll fly away. When I die, Hallelujah, by
and by, I’ll fly away.

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

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

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

First Reading

Pew Bible: Old Testament Page 14

Genesis 18:1-10a

The LORD visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

"Do Lord"

I've got a home in Glory land that outshines the sun,
I've got a home in Glory land that outshines the sun,
I've got a home in Glory land that outshines the sun,
Look away beyond the blue.

Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Do Lord, oh do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Look away beyond the blue.

I took Jesus as my Savior, you take him too,
I took Jesus as my Savior, you take him too,
I took Jesus as my Savior, you take him too,
While he's calling you.

Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Look away beyond the blue.

Gospel Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Page 72

Luke 10:38-42

During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.

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 Marla Amborn

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day

"Take my Life"



Take my life, that I may be con-se-crated, Lord
da más; to thee; take my mo-ments and my days;
let them flow in cease-less praise. less praise.

1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil-ver and my gold,
3 Take my voice and let me sing
4 Take my will and make it thine;

at the im-pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with-hold;
al-ways, on-ly for my King;
it shall be no lon-ger mine;

take my feet and let them be swift and
take my in-tel-lect and use ev-'ry
take my lips and let them be filled with
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

beau-ti-ful for thee.
pow'r as thou shalt choose.
mes-sag-es from thee.
be thy roy-al throne.

Prayers of Intercession

After each prayer:

God of grace,

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

"The Old Account was Settled"

Mark Zempel

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

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.

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation
you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.



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.

Communion Song *"He Turned the Water into Wine"*

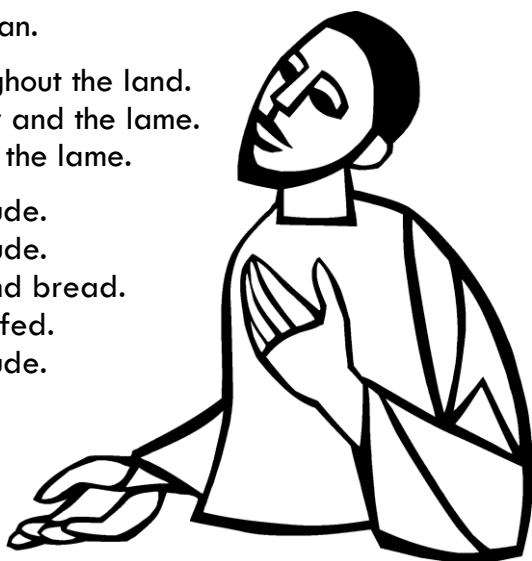
He turned the water into wine.
He turned the water into wine.
In the little Canan town the word went all.
Around that He turned the water into wine.

Well he walked upon the Sea of Galilee.
He walked upon the Sea of Galilee.
Shouted far and wide He calmed the raging tide.
And walked upon the Sea of Galilee.

He healed the leper and the lame.
He healed the leper and the lame.
He said go and tell no man.

But they shouted it throughout the land.
That He healed the leper and the lame.
He healed the leper and the lame.

He fed the hungry multitude.
He fed the hungry multitude.
With a little bit of fish and bread.
They said everyone was fed.
He fed the hungry multitude.



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 Lifted Me"

I'll write myself a simple song,

Get the whole world to sing along.

I'll call it a love song for you.

And who knows, I'm liable to take a song from the Bible

And then when I'm through; I'll just sing:

Love lifted me; love lifted me.

When nothing else would do;

You know, love lifted me.

Everybody's looking for a way to say something nobody said.

But that's hard to do.

They're searchin' their minds trying to find

the one-of-a-kind way that they could

say something new; I just say:

Love lifted me; love lifted me.

When nothing else would do;

You know, love lifted me.

Songwriters: Howard E. Smith / James Rowe / Michael T. Smith

Love Lifted Me lyrics © O/B/O DistroKid

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Paying Attention in a Distracted World

Our attention is a valuable thing, and what we pay attention to matters. The tech industry employs more than 12 million people in the United States and generates over 10 percent of the total US GDP. While we might think their innovative apps, devices, and software are the industry's biggest money-makers, the truth is that human attention is the real cash cow. The attention economy knows how valuable our attention really is, and social media and tech companies work hard to glean as much of it as possible, mostly for advertisers, setting the stage for overwhelming distraction.

Martha, after inviting Jesus into her home, becomes distracted by her many tasks. She has her attention diverted from the presence and preaching of Jesus right in front of her. The experience of distraction is certainly one we can relate to, especially living in an attention economy. Like Martha, we can have our attention diverted at a moment's notice by seemingly endless and urgent checklists, projects, social media, and more. And like Martha, we can become so ensnared by our distractions that we simply accept them as priorities despite the better parts in front of us.

But Jesus speaks a word of grace to Martha and to us, reminding us that worry and distraction need not consume us. That the saving love of Jesus casts out all fear and sets us free to pay attention to the kingdom of God breaking in all around us. With the assurance of God's love, we can embrace a posture of attention, setting down needless distractions in favor of "the better part" (Luke 10:42), the presence of God in our daily lives. We can devote our valuable attention to a conversation with our neighbor, to prayer and spiritual practice, to the beauty of table fellowship, and to being fully present in worship. Most importantly, we can pay attention to the love of God, which raises us to new life every day.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Mary Magdalene, Apostle

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial.

Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.

James, Apostle

Friday, July 25, 2025

James and his brother John were the sons of Zebedee, fishermen by trade before their call from Jesus. He was the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred, and his death is the only one recorded in scripture (Acts 12:1-2).