

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
July 27, 2025
Seventh 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.

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own.
“When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.”

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.

Prelude

Pastor Nathan, Trombone

"Variations on Beach Spring"



Gathering Song

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886



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 are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through 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 14-15

Genesis 18:20-32

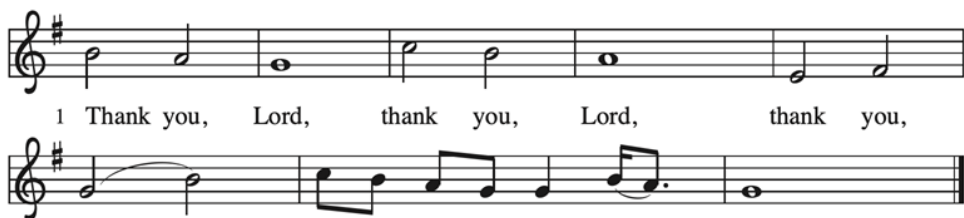
In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 138



Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord.
I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;

before the gods I will sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,

because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

When I called, you answered me;

you increased my strength within me. Refrain

The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,

perceiving the haughty from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;

you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

You will make good your purpose for me;

do not abandon the works of your hands. Refrain



Colossians 2:6-15

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Children's and Outreach Message

Jenny Brelje



Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia!”

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.

Luke 11:1-13

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

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 Nathan Baker-Trinity

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day

ELW Hymn 790

"Day By Day"

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 “How Great Thou Art” Mark Zempel, Soloist

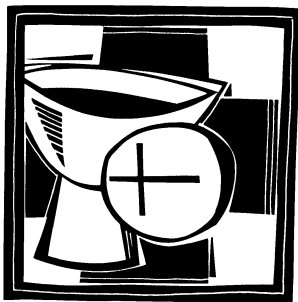
Our offering is a collection of money for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, as a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. Your offering and "Welcome to Worship" card may be placed in the offering plate. The QR code on the right may be used 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

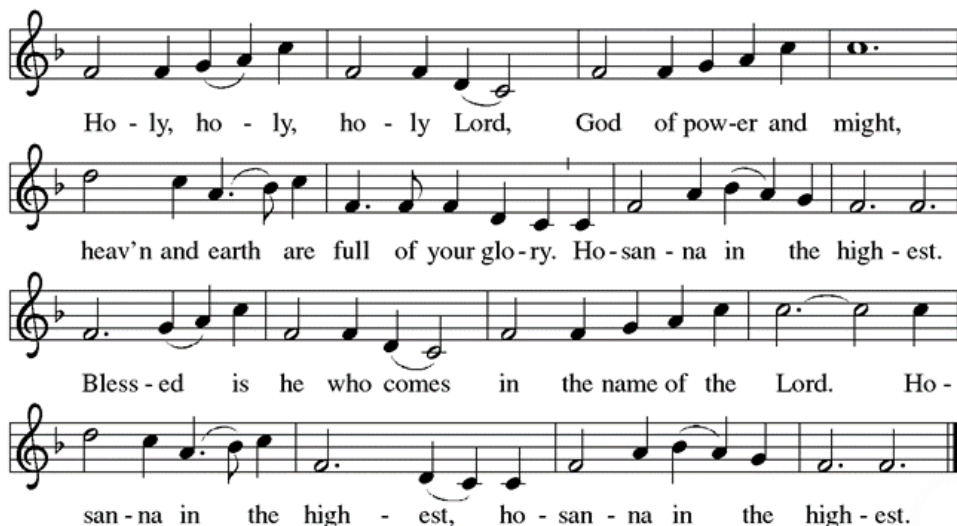
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Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God . . .

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .

Again, after supper . . .

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit . . .

Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life,
Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, 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.**



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.

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

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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 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

"Lord of Light"

ELW Hymn 688

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672;
George Frederick Handel, died 1759; musicians
Monday, July 28, 2025**

These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. Handel's great work, *Messiah*, is a setting of scriptural texts.

**Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany
Tuesday, July 29, 2025**

Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him—Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him. Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.

**Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, died 1030
Tuesday, July 29, 2025**

Considered the patron saint of Norway, Olaf went from a life of piracy to becoming Christian and declaring himself king of Norway. He revised the laws and tried to administer them fairly. Driven from Norway in a rebellion, he was killed in battle trying to regain his kingdom.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Our Prayer

The disciples' request that Jesus teach them to pray reveals a touching vulnerability. Jesus responds with an invitation into a prayer brimming with gratitude and expectation for the care and intimacy of the divine Parent. While the Lord's Prayer may be familiar, each time we pray it, it still possesses the grace to speak a new word to us and draw forth a desire we were not aware of. Martin Luther felt that Christians who prayed the Lord's Prayer each day, or even portions of it, could be certain their prayer would be more than adequate.

The Lord's Prayer is not the prayer of an individual but of a collective. The prayer begins with "Our Father," not "My Father," and petitions God to address our hunger, our sins, and our practice of forgiveness. Prayer of all kinds, including the Lord's Prayer, is not simply a private conversation between God and an individual, but a unique harmony in the immense choir of those set free in Jesus. Every time we turn our hearts to God in prayer, we do so with and alongside the entire body of Christ.

It's easy in our culture today to dismiss prayer or to trivialize it as empty wishes. And when prayer is offered as a cynical gesture in response to real pain and suffering, such dismissal seems understandable. But the truly countercultural nature of our prayer is our trust that God receives and responds to our praise, petition, and lament, that our persistence and perseverance in prayer are not in vain. The God who gives us our daily bread, forgives us our sins, and saves us from the time of trial hears our prayers animated by the trust that God will be faithful and will keep God's promises. This prayer then becomes for us a spark of hope that guides our daily action and our faith that God is making all things new and inviting us into this redemptive work.