

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota**

July 5, 2026

6th Sunday after 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.

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise
and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that
contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and
freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious
community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament
flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We
gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation:
"Come to me, all you that are weary." Here we find rest for
our souls and hope for life in beloved community.

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

GATHERING

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



Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

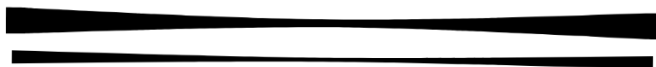
God of all mercy,

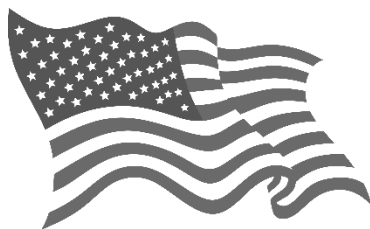
**we have sinned against you,
our neighbors, and your creation.
Within ourselves and our communities,
our desire to do what is good
is at war with the evil that dwells in us.
We lament the evil that holds us captive.
We repent of the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Rescue us, forgive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





Gathering Song

ELW hymn 888

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

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

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You
have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until
they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call
upon you, know you, and serve you, 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 Page 884

Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148 (paraphrase)

ELW hymn 876

Stanzas 1 and 3.

"Let the Whole Creation Cry"

Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Pages 11-12

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

The gospel is introduced:

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

"Come to Me, O Weary Traveler"



1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to
2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not
3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my
4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in
me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -
fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -
yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -
me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is
bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
fore you; do not run from me in fright."
side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

Prayers of Intercession

After each prayer:

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

At the conclusion:

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our 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 Hymn

ELW hymn 887

Stanzas 1 and 2 are sung by a trio, all join to sing stanza 3.

"This Is My Song"

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. . .

(Continued on the next page.) 6

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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
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 . . .

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks . . .

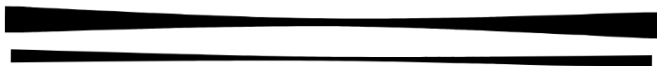
Remembering, therefore,
Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime,
Christ's resurrection that buries death,
Christ's ascension to rule with love forever,
we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith:

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 wholeness of being that you have first shown to us.

Faithful God, loving God:
Your Majesty shines forth in weakness.
Your Excellency is revealed in 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.**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.)

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

ELW hymn 477

"I Received the Living God"



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

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

ELW hymn 890

"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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DAILY PRAYER

The Nation



Holy Trinity, one God, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. Make us, who came from many nations with many languages, a united people that delights in our many different gifts. Defend our liberties, and give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our sovereign and our Savior. Amen.

CATECHISM CONNECTION

Your Kingdom Come



As Martin Luther teaches in the theological concept of two kingdoms, Christians are called to live fully in this world but also called to place their ultimate trust in a better world. This begins, Luther teaches in the Small Catechism, by praying for God's kingdom and the Holy Spirit whenever we pray the Lord's Prayer. God's kingdom comes "whenever our heavenly Father gives us his Holy Spirit, so that through the Holy Spirit's grace we believe God's holy word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity.

CONNECTIONS WITH THE LITURGY



The prayer of the day, newly composed in the current century for Evangelical Lutheran Worship, cites the famous passage at the beginning of the Confessions, Augustine's memoir from the fifth century: "You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." In today's gospel, Christ promises us rest.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415

Monday, July 6, 2026

Jan Hus was a Bohemian priest who spoke against abuses in the church of his day in many of the same ways Luther would a century later. He spoke against the withholding of the cup at the eucharist and because of this stance was excommunicated, not for heresy but for insubordination toward his archbishop. He preached against the selling of indulgences and was particularly mortified by the indulgence trade of two rival claimants to the papacy who were raising money for war against each other. He was found guilty of heresy by the Council of Constance and burned at the stake. The followers of Jan Hus became known as the Czech Brethren and eventually continued as the Moravian Church.

Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540

Saturday, July 11, 2026

Benedict is known as the father of Western monasticism. He was educated in Rome but was appalled by the decline of life around him. He went to live as a hermit, and a community of monks came to gather around him. In the prologue of his rule for monasteries he wrote that his intent in drawing up his regulations was “to set down nothing harsh, nothing burdensome.” It is that moderate spirit that characterizes his rule and the monastic communities that are formed by it. Benedict encourages a generous spirit of hospitality, saying that visitors to Benedictine communities are to be welcomed as Christ himself. The most well-known Benedictine communities in our area founded St. John's University and College of St. Benedict in Collegeville, Minnesota. Here in Stillwater, Benedictine brothers oversaw St. Mary's Catholic Church for many decades.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Invited

Jesus offers a comforting invitation, “Come to me,” amid a reflection on the mystery of God’s wisdom and the failure by some to recognize it. Instead of making the search for wisdom into a game of hide-and-seek, Jesus sheds any presumption that God’s wisdom belongs only to the elite or adventurous. He declares that the gift of wisdom is accessible and available not just for the smart or those who have earned it in some way; it is for the willing, the burdened, and the heavy-laden. Do not worry about going to find secret knowledge. No need to try harder to figure it out. Just receive his invitation to come.

But in our culture, with so much energy and attention devoted to what we can earn, how do we hear this simple invitation from Jesus? When we find that the wise and intelligent are no closer to obtaining this gift from God, does that give us pause? Is all the effort to find the hidden things Jesus is speaking about part of the burden he asks us to lay down? How can we experience the rest Jesus gives?

The expression “come to Jesus” has varied usage in the broader culture, but our gatherings for the Lord’s supper reveal something about Jesus’ invitation and God’s gifts. When we receive the sacrament, we acknowledge a gift given—one that we need. When we come forward, we may not fully understand exactly how receiving those elements is “coming to Jesus,” but the space is made. We can accept Jesus’ invitation without knowing its full implications. And while the invitation is personal, it also helps us recognize that the community is united in a common response.