

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
July 6, 2025
Fourth 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.

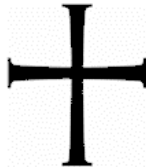
God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat . . . take and drink" is a repeated one. In holy communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.

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.



Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.

Amen.

(Continued on the next page.) 1

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Have mercy, O God,

**against you, you alone,
we have sinned.**

**In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.**

**Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.**

**Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.**

Amen.

As tender as parent to child,
so deep is God's compassion for you.

As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.

As far as east is from west,
so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

Blessed be God forever.



Gathering Song

ELW Hymn 824

"This Is My Father's World"

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav-en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901

Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

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 God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that
shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit
accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your
peace in all the world, 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 697

Isaiah 66:10-14

Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem and a mothering God remind the community how they are sustained and supported.

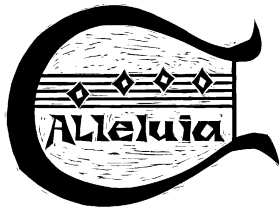
At the conclusion:

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"

Musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation "Alleluia! Lord and Savior". The notation is written on three staves in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the melody for "Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word." The second staff contains the melody for "Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred." The third staff contains the melody for "Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring." The lyrics are written below the corresponding staves.

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 10:1-11, 16-20

Jesus commissions harvesters and laborers to go where he would go and do what he would do. Risking hardship and danger in exchange for the experience of great joy, they offer peace and healing as signs that the reign of God is near.

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 Marla Amborn

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day

ELW Hymn 659

"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953

Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard

Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song (c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music)/ASCAP,
 c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Coady Road, Mobile AL 36695.

Prayers of Intercession

ELW Page 105

Peace

ELW Page 106



Announcements

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 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.



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

ELW Hymn 890

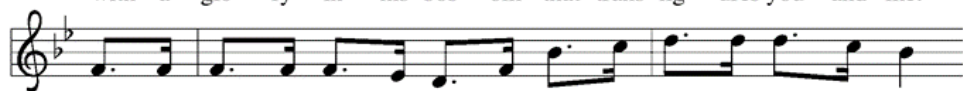
"Battle Hymn Of The Republic"



1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;
3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.
with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:
Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!
As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,



his truth is march - ing on.
Our God is march - ing on.
while God is march - ing on.



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.

Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819–1910

Music: BATTLE HYMN, North American, 19th cent

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Gift of Vulnerability

A familiar adage says, “It’s better to deal with the devil you know than the one you don’t know.” The idea is that it’s safer to deal with something you’re familiar with than to take a risk with something new. This new thing can be scary, disarming, even harmful. On the other hand, although it takes work to let go of things that provide security and support self-reliance, vulnerability can also lead to connection, openness, and love.

Jesus asked the seventy disciples to enter the towns ahead of him to proclaim the good news that God’s kin-dom was coming near, to care for the sick, to stand with the weak and defenseless, and to love the brokenhearted. He knew he was asking them to make themselves vulnerable to the villagers they would encounter on their mission and that they’d likely receive both negative and positive responses. Although they might face rejection, hate, or dismissiveness, they might also be met with care, appreciation, and affirmation.

Gathering around God’s table in memory of Jesus’ full embodiment of love is also a vulnerable and tender moment together. The gift of free grace we receive in the holy sacrament of bread and wine is worth the risk to stand close to our neighbor. The gift doesn’t require perfection, but it allows for a moment to let go of whatever proverbial baggage and deep-rooted brokenness we live with. Jesus meant for all to be fed and welcomed with gracious hospitality at the table. And when the time comes to leave the gathering spaces, God’s hope is that all who gathered feel filled and affirmed so they can go out again into the world of unknowns.

May each one find the courage to embrace the gift of vulnerability as we enter both places of worship and living spaces, remaining in a state of holy wonder about the unknown.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415

Sunday, July 6, 2025

Hus was a Bohemian (present-day Czech Republic) priest who spoke against abuses in the church, and was seen by Martin Luther as his predecessor in the reforming movement. He was found guilty of heresy by a council of the church, and burned at the stake.

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

Friday, July 11, 2025

Benedict is known as the father of the Western monastic movement. Educated in Rome, he went to live as a hermit, and eventually gathered a community of monks around him. He wrote a rule for living in monasteries that is used by Benedictines and adapted by others.

Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931

Saturday, July 12, 2025

A winner of the Nobel Prize for peace for his efforts to unite peoples after the First World War, Söderblom also called attention to the revival of early church worship principles, and helped to lay the groundwork for the World Council of Churches.