

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
August 10, 2025
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

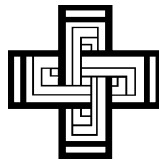


Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are grateful to God you are here. We pray that you will feel the Spirit and warm welcome of this faith community.

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning - to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

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

Thanksgiving for Baptism

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✚ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

(Continued on the next page.) 1

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God . . .

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life . . .

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathering Song

ELW Hymn 870

"We Praise You, O God"

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 God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and
light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your
grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you
appear, 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 12

Genesis 15:1-6

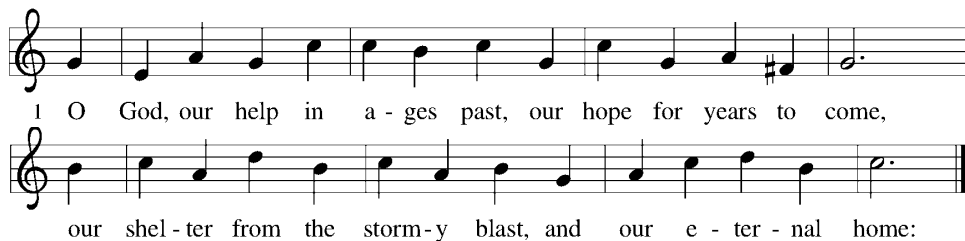
God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 33:12-22



Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

**The LORD looks down from heaven,
and sees all humankind.**

God sits firmly enthroned and watches
all who dwell on the earth.

**God fashions all their hearts
and observes all their deeds. Refrain**

A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

The horse gives vain hope for victory;

(Continued on the next page.)

despite its great strength it cannot save.

Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

to deliver their lives from death,

and to keep them alive in time of famine. Refrain

Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,
our helper and our shield.

Surely, our heart rejoices in you,

for in your holy name we put our trust.

Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we place our hope in you. *Refrain*

Second Reading Pew Bible: New Testament Pages 225-226

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Children's and Outreach Message

Jenny Brelje

Gospel Acclamation



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. 4

Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

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 764

"Have No Fear, Little Flock"



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

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.

(Continued on the next page.) 6

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.**

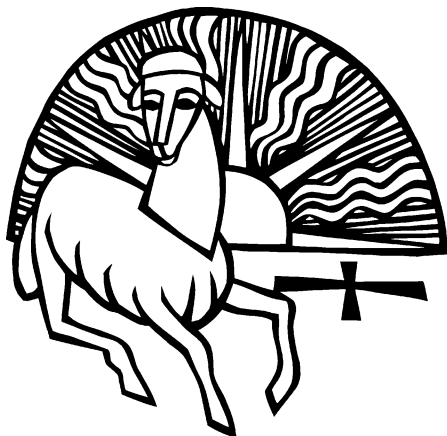
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**



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-fere'd 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 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 Songs

ELW Hymn 471

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

"Eat This Bread"

ELW Hymn 472

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 618

"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died 258

Sunday, August 10, 2025

As one of the seven deacons of the church at Rome, Lawrence was responsible for the church's financial matters and for the care of the poor. Asked by the emperor to gather the church's treasure, he presented a collection of orphans, lepers, and the like. The enraged emperor had him put to death.

Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, died 1253

Monday, August 11, 2025

A contemporary of Francis of Assisi, Clare and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She inspired other women to pursue spiritual goals.

Florence Nightingale, died 1910; Clara Maass, died 1901; renewers of society

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Nightingale was born in England, and horrified her wealthy family by deciding to become a nurse. She led a group of nurses in ministering in the midst of the Crimean War, and worked for hospital reform. Maass, a native of New Jersey, was also a war nurse, and volunteered as a subject for research on yellow fever. She died of the disease.

Maximilian Kolbe, died 1941; Kaj Munk, died 1944; martyrs

Thursday, August 14, 2025

Father Kolbe was a Franciscan priest arrested by the Nazis and confined in Auschwitz. Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources, and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man. A Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, Munk strongly denounced the Nazis who occupied Denmark in the Second World War. His sermons and articles helped to show the anti-Christian nature of the movement.

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

Friday, August 15, 2025

The church (including Martin Luther) honored Mary with the title the *otokos*, meaning "God-bearer," for her role in giving birth to the Son of God. Her song, the Magnificat, speaks eloquently of God's lifting the lowly and feeding the hungry.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Always Ready

For which events are you always prepared? Perhaps the coffee is always on in your house, awaiting the unannounced guest at any hour. Or perhaps you always have your passport up to date, ready to take advantage of that spur-of-the-moment vacation deal that arrives in your inbox. Being prepared for what life brings us, knowing we're ready to tackle whatever comes our way, can give us a sense of security.

Today's gospel reading takes the idea of readiness to divine proportions as Jesus reminds the disciples to be prepared for God's inbreaking at any moment. How are we prepared for God to show up in our everyday life? How are we prepared to encounter God being at work, even now?

God's kingdom is like a grand wedding party where everyone is invited and has a light to shine. God's realm is like a gigantic feast where all are fed and no one goes away empty. God's reign is one in which humanity can invest in things that last, instead of hoarding for lean times, because in the community of God there is enough for all so we never need to be afraid.

While many people might hear this reading as referring only to Christ's final coming, in our liturgy we are reminded that Christ arrives in many and various ways all the time. We are blessed by the Holy Spirit in the waters of baptism, in the bread and wine of the eucharist, in the face of our neighbors as we greet one another with God's overwhelming peace.

The kingdom of God is always at hand, breaking through the ordinary and mundane in extraordinary ways. Today we are reminded to be ready for it, to look for it, to anticipate it with fearless expectation. So, how are we ready to encounter Christ today?