

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
August 3, 2025
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

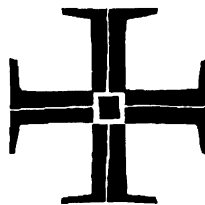


Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are grateful to God you are here. We pray that you will feel the Spirit and warm welcome of this faith community.

Today's readings offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." (Colossians 3:1) To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

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

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

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.

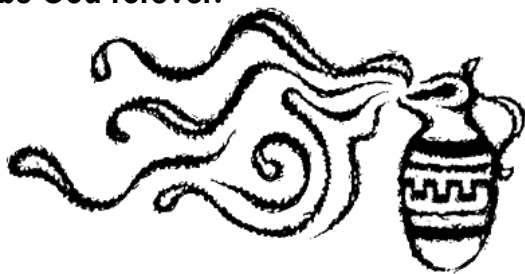
As tender as parent to child,
so deep is God's compassion for you.

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

"Put Your Hand in the Hand"

*Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water.
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea.
Take a look at yourself and you can look at others differently.
By putting your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee.*

**Every time I look into the holy book I wanna tremble.
When I read about the part where the carpenter cleared the temple.
For the buyers and the sellers were no different folks than what I
profess to be. And it causes me shame to know I'm not the one
that I should be.**

**Momma taught me how to pray before I reached the age of
seven. When I'm down on my knees, that's when I'm close to
heaven. Jesus lived his life with love and sacrifice, you do what
you must do. But He showed me enough of what it takes to get
you through.**

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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

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal
of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject
what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in
your sight, 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 Pages 614-615

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a "vanity of vanities." Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one's work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Children's and Outreach Message

Jenny Brelje



Gospel Acclamation

"The Spirit of the Lord"

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
Because He has anointed me,
To preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release of the captives,
And recovery of sight to the blind.
To set at liberty those who are oppressed,
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.**

Luke 12:13-21

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with 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 Nathan Baker-Trinity

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day

ELW Hymn 793

"Be Thou My Vision"

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

Tom Franks & Mark Zempel

"Why Me, Lord"

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

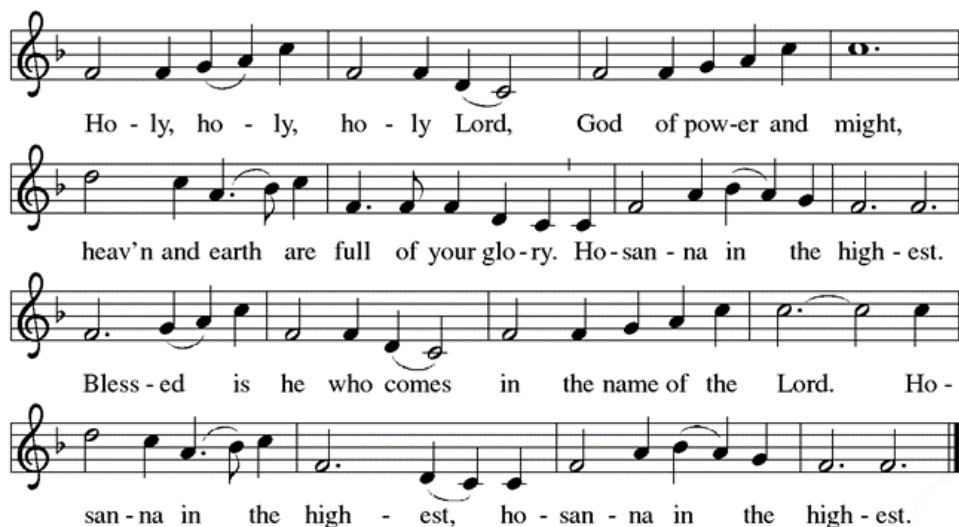
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

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

(Continued on the next page.) 6



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.

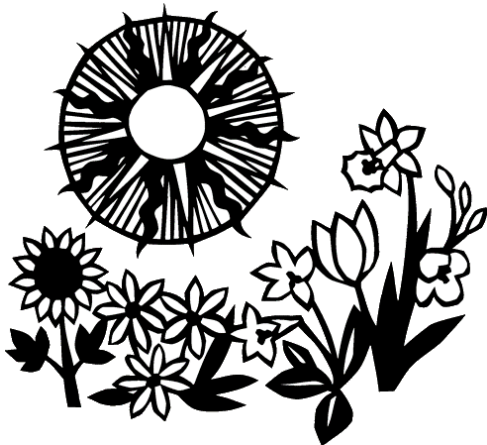
SENDING

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

“I’m a Believer”

**I thought love was only true in fairy tales.
Meant for someone else but not for me.
Love was out to get me.
That's the way it seemed.
Disappointment haunted all of my dreams.**

***And I saw His face, now I'm a believer.
Not a trace of doubt in my mind.
I will serve and love. He has the glory,
Go tell the story, to humankind.***

**I thought love was more or less a giving thing.
Seems the more I gave the less I got.
What's the use in tryin'.
All you get is pain?
When I needed sunshine, I got rain.**

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Dismissal

**Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans),
died 1221**

Friday, August 8, 2025

Dominic was a Spanish priest who saw the wealth of the clergy as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Challenge of Money

Jesus' parables about money continue to trouble his listeners to this day. In fact, they may seem even more challenging to today's Christians in North America, a culture so saturated with wealth and consumerism, than they were to our first-century counterparts. It can be easy to approach these parables by attempting to justify our behavior, to try to determine the exact point where desire becomes greed or where consumption becomes gluttony, often in an effort to retain what we already have. But this attitude transforms generosity and simplicity into a law rather than an act of true freedom initiated in the love of Jesus.

The parable of the rich fool reveals the absurdity of greed and its justification. Tomorrow is not promised, and the pathological accumulation of wealth and material goods seems silly, even cruel, in a world as unpredictable and challenging as ours. Freedom in Jesus releases us from the belief that we can secure our own future with wealth and possessions. It opens us to the radical generosity of God's neighborhood, where the security of our future lies in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and in the practice of self-emptying love for our neighbor.

It's fair to say that Jesus would make for a very challenging church treasurer. The fundamental economic posture of the gospel is one of redistribution and radical trust that, in community, God will provide everything we need. Parables like this one about the rich fool are meant to stretch and challenge our assumptions and actions. If the choices we make about money seem to come easily, that just may be an invitation to reflect on the grounds of our own economic practices. The self-emptying generosity Jesus invites us into will always feel risky, but we can take comfort in the assurance that God, who makes all things new, will care and provide for the common good and the flourishing of true community. Thanks be to God.