

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
August 31, 2025
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

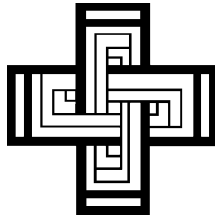


Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are grateful to God you are here. We pray that you will feel the Spirit and warm welcome of this faith community.

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism, we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

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

Opening Sentences

Praise the Lord!

**Happy are those who worship the Lord
and delight in God's commandments.**

(Continued on the next page.) 1

The Lord looks with favor
on those who deal generously
and conduct their affairs with justice.

**The righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever.**

They have distributed freely;
they have shared their goods with the poor.

Their righteousness endures forever.

Gathering Song

"Will the Circle Be Unbroken"

**There are loved ones in the glory,
whose dear forms you often miss.
When you close your earthly story,
will you join them in their bliss?**

*Will the circle be unbroken?
By and by Lord, by and by.
There's a better home awaiting
in the sky Lord, in the sky.*

**In the joyous days of childhood,
oft they told of wondrous love;
pointed to a dying Savior;
now they dwell with Him above. Refrain**

**You remember songs of heaven which
you sang with childish voice.
Do you love the hymns they taught you,
or are songs of earth your choice? Refrain**

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, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of 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 607

Proverbs 25:6-7a

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Children's and Outreach Message

Jenny Brelje



Gospel Acclamation

"Do Lord"

**I've got a home in Glory land that outshines the sun,
I've got a home in Glory land that outshines the sun,
I've got a home in Glory land that outshines the sun,
Look away beyond the blue.**

***Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Do Lord, oh do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Look away beyond the blue.***

**I took Jesus as my Savior, you take him too,
I took Jesus as my Savior, you take him too,
I took Jesus as my Savior, you take him too,
While he's calling you. Refrain**

Gospel Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Page 77

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

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

"Welcome Table"



1 I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble,
2 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
3 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,



I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.



I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble,
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,



I'm goin' - a eat at the wel - come ta - ble, some of these days.
I'm goin' - a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey, some of these days.
I'm goin' - a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WELCOME TABLE, African American spiritual



Prayers of Intercession

After each prayer:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

At the conclusion:

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

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 *"The Old Rugged Cross"* 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

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, Lord God of pow'r 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.

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the
salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .

Again, after supper . . .

Amen.

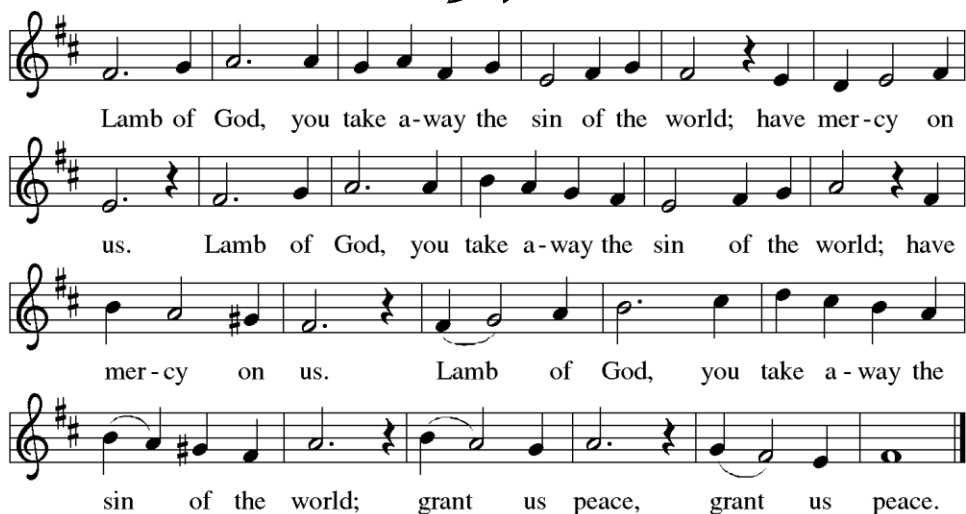
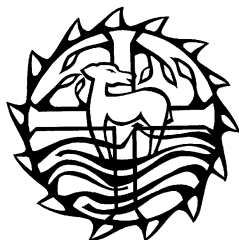
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us.

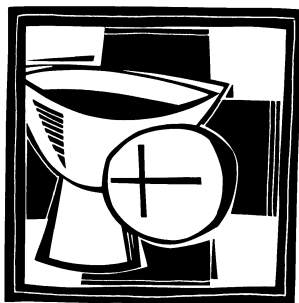
(Continued on the next page.) 7

**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.**





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 661

"I Love to Tell the Story"

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

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CONNECTIONS WITH THE LITURGY

Several of the prayers before and after Holy Communion (see ELW pages 107, 114, 64, 65) make explicit Martin Luther's conviction that "offerings," that is "sacrifices," are given not to God in heaven, but to all in need on earth, "those who hunger in any way." How does receiving the sacrament (the bread and wine or grape juice) move you to "offer your food to the hungry"? (see Isaiah 58:10)

CATECHISM CONNECTION

Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism as a brief and helpful summary of the Christian faith for household members of all ages. In today's gospel, Jesus urges his followers to "invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind" whenever they give a banquet. Luther's table blessing goes even further, reminding us of the hunger of "every living creature." (see ELW page 1167) How do you pray for God to feed every living creature? In your household, speak Luther's prayer and conclude it with your favorite creature noise!

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Did You Get the Invitation?

Choosing the invitation design for an important event can be nerve-wracking. But deciding whom to invite? Whittling down the list of desired attendees can be even more difficult than choosing the invitation itself. So much stress.

In today's gospel reading, Jesus uses a dinner party as a teaching opportunity. In the ancient world, being invited to such an occasion was an honor, but figuring out where to sit once you arrived required a whole other stress-inducing decision. How embarrassing it would be to choose a place of prominence, only to discover you're not that important and have to move down the table. How disappointing it would be to invite someone to your party but not receive an invitation to their next gathering. (Is that why you invited them, anyway?) So many of these social games we continue to play.

You might say that Jesus takes the stress out of party-planning because he encourages us to take an honest and humble view of it all: the view from God's vantage point. In the realm of God, the last in the eyes of the world are first, and the first, last.

In the kingdom of God, roles are reversed, orders are disrupted, and convention is thrown out the window so all may know the grace, peace, and love of God. The divine Host throws amazing parties and desires everyone, especially those overlooked by the party-throwers and powerbrokers of the world, to have a chance to enjoy them.

Today's gospel reading reminds us that at God's table, everyone is invited and no one goes away empty. The party is freely offered and not a setting for social games. The table has no head and no foot but, rather, is a cloud of witnesses gathered around the life of the Crucified and Risen One.

The eucharist is the prime example of this feast. Did you get the invitation? Because you're invited!