

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
September 28, 2025
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

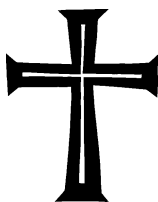


Your presence at worship is important to God and to us! Whether you are a first-time visitor, frequent participant, neighbor, member, or friend, please take a moment as you prepare for worship to share some information on the "Welcome to Worship" card included with your bulletin. Place it in the offering plate at the time the offering is received.

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those "at our gate," visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

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

Invocation

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

Gathering Song

"Blessed Be Your Name"

**Blessed be Your name, in the land that is plentiful. Where
Your streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your name.**

**Blessed be Your name, when I'm found in the desert place.
Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your name.**

**Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in Lord
Still I will say.**

***Blessed be the name of the Lord.
Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord.
Blessed be Your glorious name.***

**Blessed be Your name, when the sun's shining down on me.
When the world's all as it should be, blessed be Your name.**

**Blessed be Your name, on the road marked with suffering.
Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name.**

**You give and take away.
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
Lord blessed be Your name.
You give and take away.
You give and take away,
My heart will choose to say,(Continued on the next page.)
Lord blessed be Your name.**

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, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Prayer for Illumination

As we continue our "Forward in Faith" initiative, we enter into a time of deep listening to God and one another. This morning we pray for ourselves as we seek deeper knowledge of God

All sing together:

O - pen our eyes, Lord, we want to see Je -
sus, to reach out and touch Him, and say that we
love Him. O - pen our ears, Lord, and
help us to lis - ten. O - pen our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Je - - - sus.



Gracious and holy God,
give us diligence to seek you;
come to us, O God.
Give us wisdom to perceive you;
come to us, O God.
Give us patience to wait for you;
come to us, O God.

Grant us, dear Jesus, a mind to meditate on you;
open our minds, Lord.
Grant us eyes to behold you;
open our eyes, Lord.
Grant us ears to listen for your word;
open our ears, Lord.

Give us, Creative Spirit, a heart to love you;
awaken our hearts, Holy Spirit.
Give us a life to proclaim you;
awaken our bodies, Holy Spirit.
Give us a voice to praise you;
awaken our song, Holy Spirit.

First Reading

Pew Bible: Old Testament Pages 854-855

Amos 6:1 a, 4-7

The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Psalm 146 *"Praise the Lord! Sing Hallelujah!"*

Praise the LORD! Sing hallelujah!
Come, our great Redeemer praise.
I will sing the glorious praises
of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes,
nor on human help depend.
They shall die, to dust returning;
all their thoughts and plans shall end.

Happy are the ones professing
Jacob's God to be their aid.
They are blest whose hope of blessing
on the LORD their God is stayed.
Heav'n and earth the LORD created,
seas and all that they contain.
He delivers from oppression;
righteousness he will maintain.

Food he daily gives the hungry,
sets the mourning pris'ner free,
raises those bowed down with anguish,
makes the sightless eyes to see.
God our Savior loves the righteous,
and the stranger he befriends,
helps the orphan and the widow,
judgment on the wicked sends.

Praise the LORD! Sing hallelujah!
Come, our great Redeemer praise.
I will sing the glorious praises
of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever;
through all ages he is King.
Unto him, your God, O Zion,
joyful hallelujahs sing.



1 Timothy 6:6-19

Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Children's and Outreach Message

Jenny Brelje

Gospel Acclamation *"How Majestic Is Your Name"*

**Oh Lord our Lord how majestic is
Your name in all the earth.**

**Oh Lord our Lord how majestic is
Your name in all the earth.**

Oh Lord we praise Your name.

Oh Lord we magnify Your name.

Prince of Peace Mighty God.

Oh Lord God Almighty.

Gospel Reading

Pew Bible: New Testament Page 79

Luke 16:19-31

Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is "lifted up" and the rich one is "sent away empty." Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.

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.



Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day

"Bless the Lord, O My Soul"

**The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes.**

***Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name***

**You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.**

**And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore.**

Prayers of Intercession

After each prayer:

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

At the conclusion:

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the
name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

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

Mark Zempel, Soloist

"When Storms Are Raging, Stand By Me"

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

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our 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.

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth . . .

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 . . .

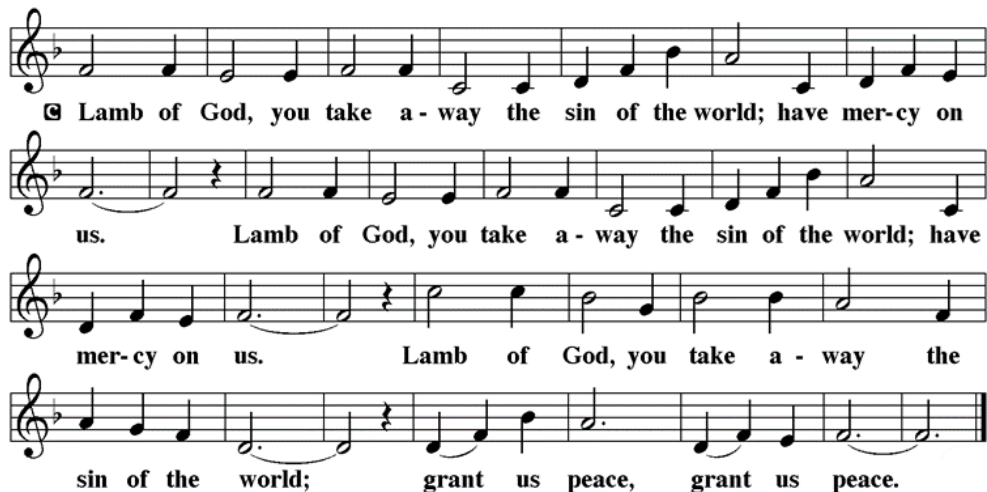
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks . . .

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.

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.

Prayer After Communion

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

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

"Go Now With God"

vs. 1 Filled with the Ho - ly Spir - it
vs. 2 Of - fer - ing a hand to a stran - ger go now with God,
vs. 3 Wa - ters of mer - cy have found us
vs. 4 Cross - ing ev' - ry boundry, ev' - ry na - tion

go now with God. In - to the world as a serv - ant
Trust - ing in the ris - en sav - ior
Grace on the jour - ney sur - rounds us
Danc - ing in the gift of lib - er - a - tion

go now with God, go now with God. Go now

go now go now with God.

Go now go now go now with God.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Portions of the liturgy, service music and hymns not otherwise noted below are from sundaysandseasons.com. Reprinted by permission through Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License number SAS028225. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

For "Blessed Be Your Name" CCLI Song # 3798438, CCLI License # 11083314, Beth Redman | Matt Redman © 2002 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capital CMG Publishing) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com. CCLI License # 11083314

For "Open Our Eyes"© 1976 CCM Music; Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com. CCLI License # 11083314

For "Praise the Lord! Sing Hallelujah!" Words: Psalter, 1887, alt., P.D., Music (8.7.8.7D): Darwin Jordan © Darwin Jordan Music; arr. Marcus Hong. Reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-714175. All rights reserved.

For "How Majestic Is Your Name" CCLI Song # 26007, Michael W. Smith, © 1981 Meadowgreen Music Company. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com. CCLI License # 11083314

For "Bless the Lord, O My Soul" © 2011 Atlas Mountain Songs; sixsteps Music; Thankyou Music Ltd; worshiptogether.com songs For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com. CCLI License # 11083314

For "Go Now With God" Words and Music by Hans Peterson and Larry Olson ©2006 Dakota Road Music. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission. Reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-714175. All rights reserved

DAILY PRAYER

Commitment



Almighty and eternal God, so draw my heart to you, so guide my mind, so fill my imagination, so control my will, that I may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use me, I pray, as you will, but always to your glory and the welfare of your people, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

CONNECTIONS WITH THE LITURGY

Offering



One of the earliest descriptions of the Sunday offering among Christians dates to the second century. Testifying before the Roman Senate, Justin Martyr wrote that on Sunday the worshiping community collected money and goods for the needy, and each Sunday worshiping assemblies respond to the call in 1 Timothy to be generous and ready to share with others.

CATECHISM CONNECTION

The Ten Commandments



When Jesus says in our gospel today, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them," he is referring to the Ten Commandments and the prophets of the Old Testament who, like Amos, interpret and help us understand them. Martin Luther divides the commandments into two parts: how to love God (the "First Table") and how to love our neighbors (the "Second Table"). Like Amos, Luther in the Small Catechism teaches that "You shall not steal" (the Seventh Commandment) means more than taking stuff that is not ours. We steal whenever we fail to help our neighbors in need.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

A Tale of Two Worlds



The only thing the rich man and Lazarus have in common is that they both have died. Death, after all, doesn't respect income. We can imagine that Lazarus succumbed to his hunger and the rich man perhaps choked on his own abundance. But despite their differing statuses on earth, it is poor Lazarus who gets a first-class ticket to the loving embrace of father Abraham.

The rich man, stripped of his money, prestige, and influence, is flung down into the filth and rot he had long avoided in life. The rich man's failure was not that he had money, owned possessions, or enjoyed a good meal; it was that he was not attentive to the suffering at his doorstep. And when he did at last see Lazarus—finally acknowledging his existence—all he could think about was himself.

Through this provocative story, Jesus is teaching his disciples and us to pay attention to the needs of the people around us. He is urging us to look and see Lazarus in our own world.

Who is Lazarus among us? Who are the hungry people at our own doorstep? Who are the ones we can name but perhaps cannot see? They might be a person with no reliable shelter or food, someone of a different race or religion, or a neighbor alone and lonely. They may even be a rich individual with all the means in the world but no real substance. What would our world look like if we truly acknowledged and embraced them?

When we recognize and serve the Lazaruses of our world, we not only extend compassion; we also encounter Jesus. His healing presence is in the midst of human suffering. Once we start looking for Lazarus, we start finding Jesus too.

Upcoming Commemorations

Michael and All Angels

Monday, September 29, 2025

Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word "angel" means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.

Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly-spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate.

Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226

Saturday, October 4, 2025

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864

Saturday, October 4, 2025

Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.