

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
August 31, 2025**

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to the house of the living Lord!

If you are visiting with us today, we extend a warm welcome and invite you to return often. One of our core values at St. Paul's is to help people find a place where they belong. We have been doing it for 127 years and we pray that one of these worship services will bless you on your journey.

St. Paul's has chosen as its theme verse to guide us in 2025 – Psalm 51:10

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

It is the prayer of our congregation that we will connect people to the love of Jesus through our teaching, serving, caring, and telling.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

Entrance Hymn God Himself Is Present

LSB 907

- 1 God Himself is present:
 Let us now adore Him
 And with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple;
 All within keep silence;
 Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.
He alone
On His throne
 Is our God and Savior;
 Praise His name forever!

- 2 God Himself is present:
 Hear the harps resounding;
 See the hosts the throne surrounding.
 "Holy, holy, holy!"
 Hear the hymn ascending,
 Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow Your ear
To us here:

Hear, O Christ, the praises
That Your Church now raises.

- 3 Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Purify my spirit,
Trusting only in Your merit.
Like the holy angels,
Worshiping before You,
May I ceaselessly adore You.
Let Your will
Ever still
Rule Your Church terrestrial
As the hosts celestial.

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

Psalm 149:1–4

- P Praise the LORD! Sing to the Lord a new song,
C **His praise in the assembly of the godly!**
- P Let Israel be glad in his Maker;
C **let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!**
- P Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to Him with tambourine and lyre!
C **For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation.**

Confession and Absolution

- P It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins. The section on confession in Luther's catechism instructs us with these words: "Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven." Humble yourselves, then, before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.
- C **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature, I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your**

Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all of my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

P God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen.**

P As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Kyrie - sing

LSB 204

C **Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

Hymn of Praise Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

LSB 940

Psalm 75:1–2, 6, 9; antiphon: v. 7

- 1 Holy God, we praise Thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee.
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in heav'n above adore Thee.
Infinite Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign.
- 2 Hark! The glad celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy Lord!
- 3 Lo, the _apostles' holy train
Join Thy sacred name to hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain,
And the white-robed martyrs follow,
And from morn to set of sun
Through the Church the song goes on.
- 4 Thou art King of Glory, Christ;
Son of God, yet born of Mary.
For us sinners sacrificed,
As to death a Tributary,

First to break the bars of death,
Thou hast opened heav'n to faith.

- 5 Holy Father, holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name Thee;
Though in essence only one,
Undivided God we claim Thee
And, adoring, bend the knee
While we own the mystery.

Salutation

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P Let us pray.
O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading – Gary Nagy

Proverbs 25:2–10

- ²It is the glory of God to conceal things,
but the glory of kings is to search things out.
³As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,
so the heart of kings is unsearchable.
⁴Take away the dross from the silver,
and the smith has material for a vessel;
⁵take away the wicked from the presence of the king,
and his throne will be established in righteousness.
⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.
What your eyes have seen
⁸do not hastily bring into court,
for what will you do in the end,
when your neighbor puts you to shame?
⁹Argue your case with your neighbor himself,
and do not reveal another's secret,

¹⁰lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,
and your ill repute have no end.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual – Gary Nagy

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

Fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Epistle – Gary Nagy

Hebrews 13:1–17

¹Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. ⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁶So we can confidently say,

“The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;
what can man do to me?”

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. ¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹²So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. ¹⁴For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

¹⁷Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

C Alleluia.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel*Luke 14:1–14*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. ²And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. ³And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” ⁴But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵And he said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” ⁶And they could not reply to these things.

⁷Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

¹²He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children and Youth Message**Hymn of the Day Son of God, Eternal Savior****LSB 842**

1 Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory,
For Your own will ever plead:

Fill us with Your love and pity,
Heal our wrongs, and help our need.

- 2 As You, Lord, have lived for others,
So may we for others live.
Freely have Your gifts been granted;
Freely may Your servants give.
Yours the gold and Yours the silver,
Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of Your bounty
Held in solemn trust will be.
- 3 Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion,
Bid its cruel discords cease.
By Your patient years of toiling,
By Your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
Stem our selfish greed of gain.
- 4 Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race:
By Your praying, by Your willing
That Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition:
Here on earth Your will be done.

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

- C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

- P God, our Savior, wants all people to come to know the truth. Let us pray for ourselves and for the church everywhere, that we may persevere in grace, and for all people, that we may share with them the joy we have in the unity of Christ.
- For the church, the gathering of God's people; for the clergy of the church that the Holy Spirit confirm then in their apostolic mission; for all Christians, that persevering in grace, we may proclaim the kingdom of heaven in our lives, let us pray:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For all public servants, that they zealously promote justice and the common good; for industrial workers, that their productivity provide blessing for all; for favorable weather, that we may give thanks for a good harvest, let us pray:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For the homeless and the hungry; for the physically and mentally ill and the aged and infirm, that we cherish Christ in them and surround them with our care, [especially . . .], and that each of us would be graced with holy humility that we may find our joy in humble service in Jesus' name in every situation, let us pray:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of our missionaries, missionary teachers, medical personnel, and all Christian aid workers, that their work be unhindered and be a continuing source of blessings in Jesus' name, let us pray:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P With thanks for the faithful examples set by those whose earthly journeys are complete and whose witness to Christ still inspires us, and also for this holy assembly here and now, that sealed with the promised Spirit, we may witness to the fullness of God's love, let us pray:

- C Be merciful, Lord God, and hear our prayers; grant Your Holy Spirit to plead for us and guide Your church into all truth and holiness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

Offering

Hymn We Give Thee But Thine Own

LSB 781 sts. 1–2

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
- 2 May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blestest us,
To Thee our firstfruits give!

Lord's Prayer

- C 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.**

Benediction

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.**
- C Amen.**

Hymn to Depart Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

LSB 660

- 1 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross.
Lift high His royal banner;
It must not suffer loss.

From vict'ry unto vict'ry
His army He shall lead
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished,
And Christ is Lord indeed.

- 2 Stand up, stand up for Jesus;
The trumpet call obey;
Stand forth in mighty conflict
In this His glorious day.
Let all His faithful serve Him
Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger
And strength to strength oppose.

- 3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus;
Stand in His strength alone.
The arm of flesh will fail you,
Ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armor;
Each piece put on with prayer.
Where duty calls or danger,
Be never wanting there.

- 4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus;
The strife will not be long;
This day the din of battle,
The next the victor's song.
The soldiers, overcoming,
Their crown of life shall see
And with the King of Glory
Shall reign eternally.

Sending

P Our Sunday worship is now ended,

C Our daily service now begins

P We now depart, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit,

C to joyfully serve our risen Lord, Amen.

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