

**“Be opened.”
And immediately his
ears were opened,
his tongue was released ...
Mark 7:34-35, NRSV**



**Sunday, September 8, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

It is a joy to gather together for worship!

St. Paul Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. In-person worship with Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. In-person Sunday School – September – May

Communion

We celebrate Jesus' presence each week in Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Supper and Jesus invites us: whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, or just considering Christianity; if you are an infant or elderly; if your family has been in the United States for generations, or has only recently arrived; if you are LGBTQIA+ or straight; if you live with disabilities, chronic illness, or are able-bodied and currently healthy; if you are home-blessed or homeless; ... YOU are welcome at God's meal of grace at St. Paul.

Accessibility

Handicap parking, entrance, wheelchair, and restrooms are available. Sound amplifiers and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Children's Offering

The September Children's offering will go to World Hunger.

Prelude

"Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"

Paul Baloche

Welcome/Announcements

GATHER

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

All: Amen.

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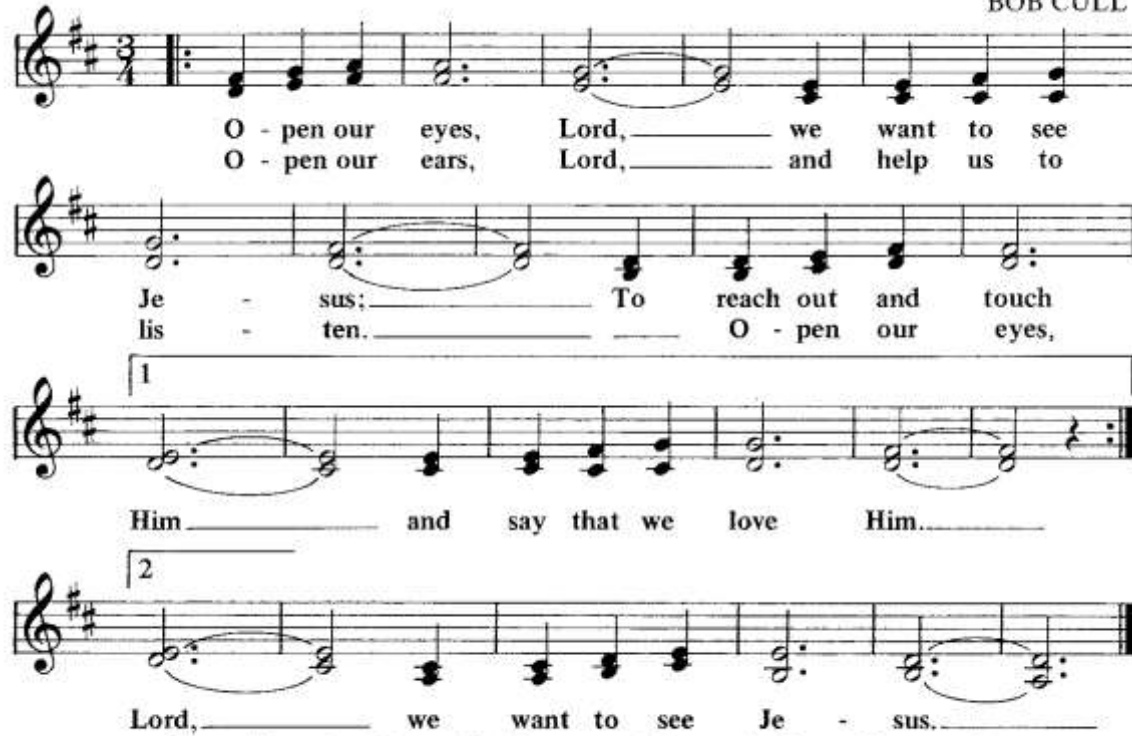
Church email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net

www.stpaulsterling.com

Gathering Hymn

“Open My Eyes, Lord”

BOB CULL



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

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GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

All: Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

R: Word of God, Word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 146

R: I will praise the LORD as long as I live.

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

All: I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

R: Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

All: When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

R: Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

All: who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;

R: who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

All: The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

R: The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

All: The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 7th chapter

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus

ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

ELW #612



Refrain
Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,
give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.
1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your
Refrain
peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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Prayers of Intercession

P: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

Each petition ends with these words:

P: Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you!

P: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace in whatever way you are comfortable.

MEAL

Offering

"He Who Began a Good Work in You"

Jon Mohr

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: 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-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

Communion Music

“In This Feast of Love”

1 In this feast of love, in this
2 In this bread and wine, in this
3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

feast of love, Lord, you share your
bread and wine, you have prom - ised,
peace, O Lord; fill us with the

blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.
Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.
joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

Text: Jarkko Maukonen; tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Music: TÄSSÄ PÖYDÄSSÄ, Jarkko Maukonen; arr. Mark Sedio
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“If We Live, We Live in the Lord”

Rolf Vegdahl

Prayer after Communion

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace.

All: Amen.

P: Let us pray

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Blessing

P: God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

All: Amen.

Sending Song

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

ELW #886

1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er’s praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis-t’ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;

the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner’s ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv’n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav’n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”

Graham Kendrick

We Remember in Prayer; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Bev Julien, Phyllis Jacobson, Lee Eilers, JoAnn Garcia, Barb Lenn, Lori Dewey, Shirley Graftaas, Betty Steinke, Michael Harting, Larry Wahler, JoDell Cruz, Sandy Julifs, Lila Edeus, and Berta Beyer.

Worship Assistants:

Presider: Pastor Carol Soderholm

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Stacey Avelar

Acolytes – Avelar family

Greeters/Ushers – Gary Fields, John Renner

Reader – Stacey Avelar

Sound – David Carrillo

Musicians:

In person:

Julie Woessner

Recorded:

Lori Attig

Mont Cessna

Gerad VonHolten

Gabe Zeigler

Dawn Zeigler

Next week – September 15

Presider: Pastor Mark Luepke

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Chad Arians

Acolytes – Arians family

Greeters/Ushers – JoAnn & Ruben Garcia

Reader – JoAnn Garcia

Sound – Braydn Arians

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer needed*