

Sunday, August 3, 2025 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 10:15 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 August Children's offering will go to towards the shipping of the LWR School Kits that have been collected.

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim pastormark@stpaulsterling.com 1701 16th Ave. Sterling, IL 61081 815-625-3069

Church email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net www.stpaulsterling.com

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me" arr. J. Bert Carlson

Welcome/Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God

All: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of \oplus Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn



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: 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.

Psalm 49:1-12

R: Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all you who dwell in the world,

All: you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.

R: My mouth shall speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

All: I will incline my ear to a proverb and set forth my riddle upon the harp.

R: Why should I be afraid in evil days, when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,

All: the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess, and boast of their great riches?

R: One can never redeem another, or give to God the ransom for another's life;

All: for the ransom of a life is so great that there would never be enough to pay it,

R: in order to live forever and ever and never see the grave.

All: For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.

R: Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, though they had named lands after themselves.

All: Even though honored, they cannot live forever; they are like the beasts that perish.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

¹So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³for you have

died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 12th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

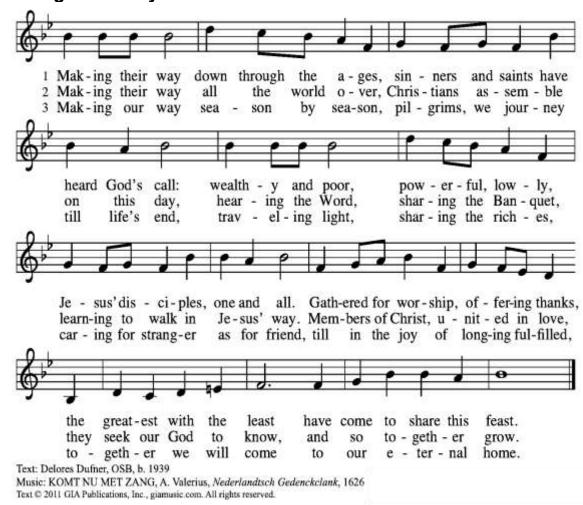
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon

"Planning for the Future"

Hymn of the Day "Making Their Way"



Apostles Creed

P: Trusting in Christ's life, death, and resurrection, let us profess our faith through the words of the Apostles Creed:

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Prayers of Intercession

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

P: God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

P: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

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

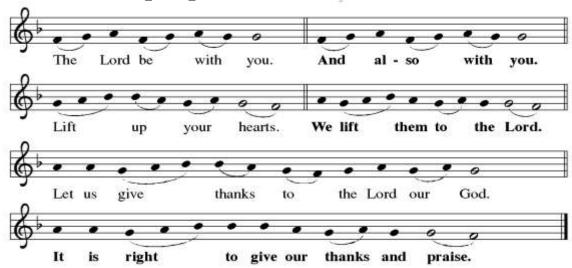
"Prayer for God's Leading" arr. James Michael Stevens

Offering Prayer

P: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

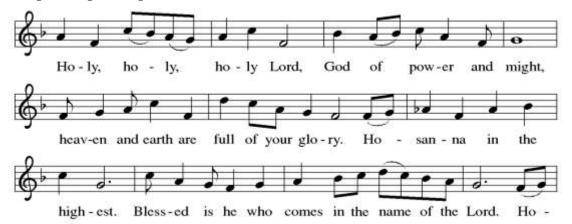
All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

"Holy, Holy, Holy"





The 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.

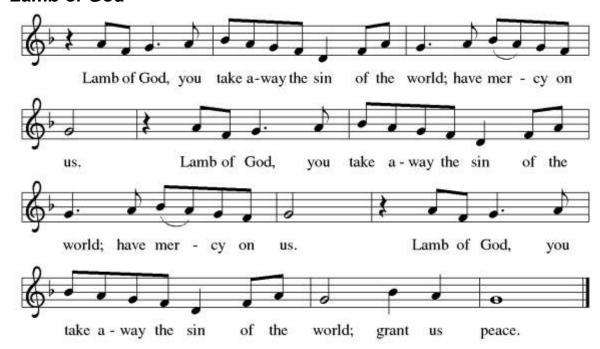
Invitation to Communion

P: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

Communion

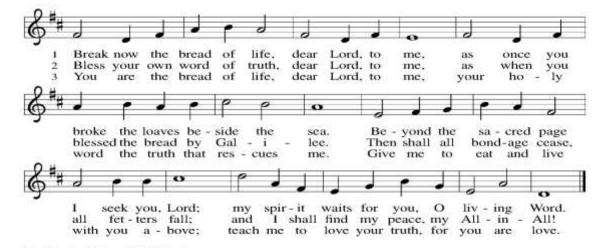
Communion Music

"Lamb of God"



"Break Now the Bread of Life"

ELW #515



Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841-1913, alt. Music: BREAD OF LIFE, William F. Sherwin, 1826-1888

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.

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

All: Amen

Blessing

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace.

All: Amen.

Sending Song

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

ELW #650



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- ! In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis ci ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man-kind.

All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Hallelujah, We Sing Your Praises"

Traditional South African

We Remember in Prayer; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Sandy Julifs, Mike, Lori Dewey, Dylan Wescott, Dianne Miller, Ken & Sharon Mager, Phyllis Jacobson, JoAnn Garcia, Betty Steinke, Larry Wahler, and Lila Edeus.

Coffee Fellowship will be served following worship this morning hosted by Audrey & Cathy Cox and John Renner and Fran Kolling.

Worship Assistants:

Opener/Head Usher/Closer - David Carrillo

Acolytes – Arians family

Greeters - Bob & Judy Bartel

Ushers – John Renner, Gary Fields

Reader – Marilyn Geiger

Sound - Bradyn Arians

Communion Assistant - Diane Yoeckel

Altar Guild - Debbie O'Brien, Diane Yoeckel

Musicians:

Live:

Julie Woessner

Recorded:

Mont Cessna

Virginia Schumaker

Dawn Zeigler

Next Week – August 3 Worship Assistants

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean

Acolytes - Ordean family

Greeters – Audrey & Cathy Cox

Ushers – Mel Johnson, Carolyn Duncan

Reader – Carolyn Duncan

Sound – David Carrillo

Communion Assistant – Lily Segura

Altar Guild - Debbie O'Brien, Diane Yoeckel

Coffee Fellowship - Volunteer Needed

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