



“And if you have not been  
**FAITHFUL**  
with what belongs to another,  
who will give you  
what is your own?”



LUKE 16:12, NRSV

**Sunday, September 21, 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 September Children's offering will go to towards The Buddy Bag program. Last year they saw a big increase in participation and were able to meet the need thanks to generous donations. Last spring they were packing and distributing 160 bags each week! At a cost of approximately \$3.44 per bag currently, the costs add up quickly. Be assured that every penny donated goes only to the cost of purchasing the food. All administrative costs are covered separately.

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim

[pastormark@stpaulsterling.com](mailto:pastormark@stpaulsterling.com)

1701 16th Ave. Sterling, IL 61081

815-625-3069

Church email: [stpaulsterling@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulsterling@comcast.net)

[www.stpaulsterling.com](http://www.stpaulsterling.com)

## Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Prelude

*"Knowing You, Jesus (All I Once Held Dear)"*

Graham Kendrick

### 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: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**All: Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful and loving God, we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.

**All: Amen.**

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**All: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn  
“Take My Life That I May Be”  
ELW #583

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,  
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;  
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.

To stanzas Last time

1 Take my hands and let them move  
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,  
3 Take my voice and let me sing  
4 Take my will and make it thine;

at the im - pulse of thy love;  
not a mite would I with - hold;  
al - ways, on - ly for my King;  
it shall be no lon - ger mine;

take my feet and let them be swift and  
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry  
take my lips and let them be filled with  
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

Refrain

beau - ti - ful for thee.  
pow'r as thou shalt choose.  
mes - sag - es from thee.  
be thy roy - al throne.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, adapt.; Spanish text: Vincent Mendoza, 1875–1955  
Music: TOMA MI VOLUNTAD, William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956  
Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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: God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7  
4 Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, 5 saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, 6 buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat.” 7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,  
All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 113  
R: Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.  
All: Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.

R: From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the LORD be praised.  
All: The LORD is high above all nations; God’s glory above the heavens.  
R: Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high,  
All: but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

R: The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

**All: enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.**

R: The LORD makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

### **Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time.<sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**



Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker  
Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin, OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### **Gospel: Luke 16:1-13**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup>So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' <sup>3</sup>Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup>He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' <sup>7</sup>Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' <sup>8</sup>And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup>"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup>If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup>No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children's Message  
Sermon**

Hymn of the Day  
“All to Jesus, I Surrender”

1 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, all to him I free - ly give;  
2 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, hum - bly at his feet I bow;  
3 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, Lord, I give my - self to thee;

I will ev - er love and trust him, in his pres - ence dai - ly live.  
world - ly plea - sures all for - sak - en, take me, Jes - sus, take me now.  
fill me with thy love and pow - er, let thy bless - ings fall on me.

Refrain

I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all,  
all to thee, my bless - ed Sav - ior, I sur - ren - der all.

Text: Judson W. Van DeVenter, 1855–1939  
Music: SURRENDER, Winfield S. Weeden, 1847–1908

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

P: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

P: God of grace,  
All: receive our prayer.

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

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

“I’d Rather Have Jesus”  
arr. John Purifoy

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

All: Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

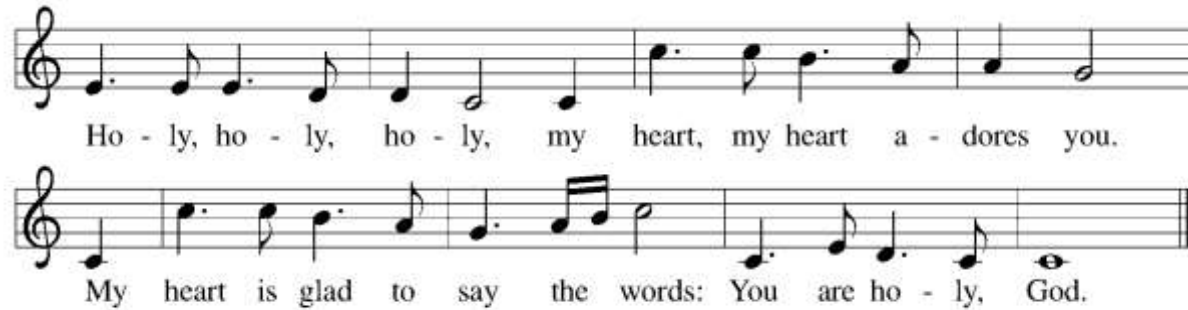
**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

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”*



Text: Argentine traditional  
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

## 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: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.  
Come to this meal of mercy.

## Communion

### Communion Music

#### *“Lamb of God”*



Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music © 1992 CPH Publishing

*“At the Cross (Love Ran Red)”*

Redman, Myrin, Tomlin, Cash, Armstrong

### **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.

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.

**All: Amen**

### **Blessing**

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

### **Sending Song**

*“Let Justice Flow Like Streams*

ELW #717



1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar-ling wa - ter, pure,  
2 Let righ-teous-ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,  
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans-ing, sure.  
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans-lat - ed in - to deed.  
and jus-tice, right, and peace per-vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776

Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

*“We Give Thee but Thine Own”*

arr. Timothy Shaw

**We Remember in Prayer;** those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Raymond Graftaas, Matt Friel, Sandy Julifs, Mike, Lori Dewey, Dylan Wescott, Ken & Sharon Mager, Phyllis Jacobson, Betty Steinke, and Larry Wahler.

**Placing our confidence** in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of our loved ones, we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Lila Edeus. Lila passed away on Monday, September 15. Her service was held here at St. Paul on Friday.

*May God’s presence bring you comfort and peace.*

### **Worship Assistants:**

Presider – Pastor Elizabeth Mascal

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – David Carrillo

Acolytes – Altar Guild

Greeters – Nancy Eilers, Susan Kuehl

Ushers – Nancy Beck, Carolyn Duncan

Reader – Carolyn Duncan

Sound – David Carrillo

Communion Assistants – Nancy Beck, Nancy Eilers

Altar Guild – Judy Bartel, Donna Kendall

### **Musicians:**

Julie Woessner-DeJonge

Dawn Zeigler

### **Next Week – September 28**

#### **Worship Assistants**

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Stacey Avelar

Acolytes – Avelar family

Greeters – Bob & Judy Bartel  
Ushers – Dan Dir, Janie Billings  
Reader – Stacey Avelar  
Sound – Braydn Arians  
Communion Assistant – Janie Billings  
Altar Guild – Judy Bartel, Donna Kendall  
Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.