



Compelling and inspiring portrayal by Gayle Haas of the Nazi concentration camp survivor and Dutch resistance fighter Corrie ten Boom

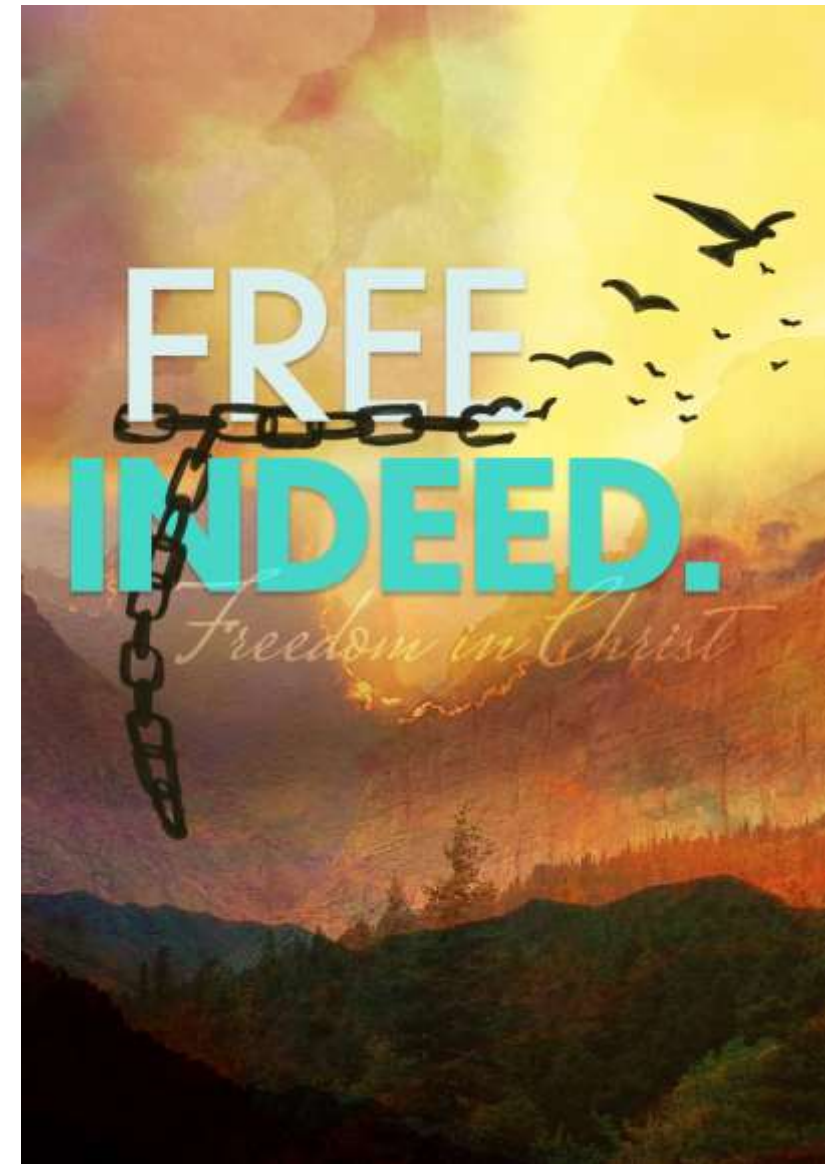
Saturday, November 1 at 1:00 p.m.

Free admission | Reception after performance

Registration appreciated, please scan the QR code
Trinity Lutheran Church | 308 E. Brayton Rd., Mt. Morris



Donations will be accepted for national and global women's ministries of the N.I. Synod Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America



**Sunday, October 26, 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

During the month of October, our children's offering at worship is going toward Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) Holiday Hope Chest. LSSI offers children and their families gifts for Christmas through the purchase of gift cards to specific vendors. Thank you for helping young people served by LSSI have gifts for Christmas this year! More information will be coming in regards to purchasing gift cards/gifts on your own.

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim

pastormark@stpaulsterling.com

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815-625-3069

Church email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net

www.stpaulsterling.com

Reformation Sunday

Prelude

"Our God"

Reeves, Tomlin, Redman, Myrin

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,

All: 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. 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
“A Mighty Fortress”
ELW # 504



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. 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: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 46

R: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

All: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

R: though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

All: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

R: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

All: The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.

R: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

All: Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

R: behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

All: “Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

R: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

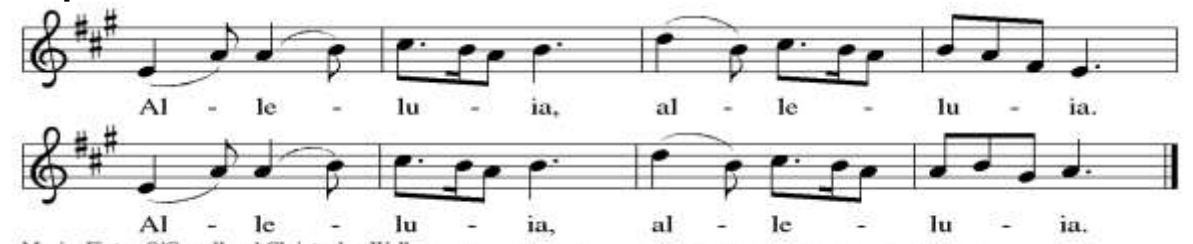
²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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.
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Gospel: John 8:31-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon

“What Difference Does the Gospel Message Make?”

Hymn of the Day
“By Grace We Have Been Saved”



1 By grace we have been saved through faith and
2 For all have sinned and fall - en short. God's
3 God gave to earth a per - fect love through
4 We know the wage of sin is death; thank
5 Set free, we now have peace with God. Sal -



not by keep - ing law. God's saints be - lieved by
plan, not one o - beyed. Christ has for all ful -
Je - sus on the cross. While we were foes, Christ
God, we shall re - vive. For just as Je - sus
va - tion is se - cured. How beau - ti - ful the



what they heard and not by what they saw.
filled the law. Be - lieve, con - fess, be saved.
died for us. We gained by God's own loss.
rose a - gain, we too are made a - live.
feet of those who share this gos - pel word.

Refrain



Oh, how I love Je - sus! Oh, how I love Je - sus!



Oh, how I love Je - sus, be - cause he first loved me!

Text: Rusty Edwards, stanzas; Frederick Whitfield, refrain
Music: OH, HOW I LOVE JESUS, North American traditional
Text © 1997 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved.

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: Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.
P: God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.
P: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

"The Stand"

Joel Houston

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.

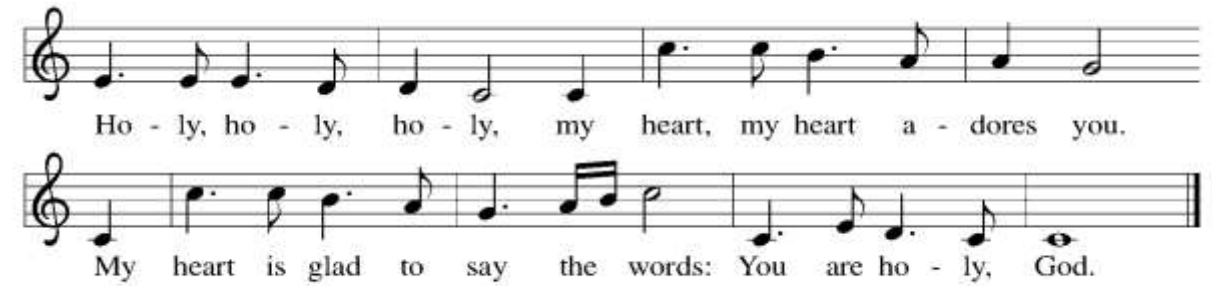
All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving



P: 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”

1 Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

2 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

3 Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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

“That Priceless Grace”

Larry Dalton

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.

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.

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

“Listen, God Is Calling”

ELW #513

Children rhythm instruments on refrain

Refrain
Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

1 2
ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.
1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All Refrain

Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.
that he came to save us and set us free.
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922
Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune
Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

stg. Anne Krentz Organ

Coffee Fellowship will be served this morning following worship in the Fellowship Hall hosted by Bev Graunke and Carolyn Duncan. All are welcome!

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

Worship Assistants:

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Dan Bartel

Acolytes – Bartel family

Greeters – Bartel family

Ushers – Gary Fields, Janie Billings

Reader – Marilyn Geiger

Sound – Bradyn Arians

Communion Assistant – Janie Billings

Altar Guild – Audrey & Cathy Cox

Musicians:

Live:

Julie Woessner DeJonge

Recorded:

Dawn Zeigler

Next Week – November 2

Worship Assistants

Opener/Head Usher – Chrissy Zollinger

Closer – Gabby Law

Acolytes – Altar Guild

Greeters – John Renner, Susan Kuehl

Ushers – Tim Zollinger, Nancy Beck

Reader – Tim Zollinger

Sound – David Carrillo

Communion Assistant – Nancy Beck

Altar Guild – Janie Billings, Susan Kuehl

Coffee Fellowship – David Carrillo