



**Sunday, October 4, 2026
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

1701 16th Ave. Sterling, IL 61081

815-625-3069

Church email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net

www.stpaulsterling.com

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

Prelude

"Cornerstone (My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less)"

arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome/Announcements

Opening Dialogue - Pastor

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.

P: Let us bless God, who created heaven and earth.

All: Our Creator's name be praised.

P: God blessed them, and God said to them,

All: "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

(Genesis 1:28)

Hymn
“God of the Sparrow”
ELW #740

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing
2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet
3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the emp - ty
4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the prod - i -

stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
gal How does the crea - ture say Care

How does the crea - ture say Praise
How does the crea - ture cry Save
How does the crea - ture say Thanks
How does the crea - ture say Life

5 God of the neighbor God of the ages
God of the foe God near at hand
God of the pruning hook God of the loving heart
How does the creature say Love How do your children say Joy
How does the creature say Peace How do your children say Home

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919
Music: ROEDER, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
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Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358.
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Prayer
P: Holy Spirit, you move through all creation with sighs too deep for words. Open our hearts to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Speak through your church to rebuke the forces that seek to exploit your planet. Join our human prayers with the voices of all creation and move us to honor you by preserving the gifts of nature that reveal your glory.
All: Amen.
(Creation, the Earth, ACS, p. 47)

Dialogue
R: But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
All: the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
R: ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you,
All: and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
R: Who among all these does not know
All: that the hand of the LORD has done this?
R: In his hand is the life of every living thing
All: and the breath of every human being.
(Job 12:7-10)

Hymn
“Praise and Thanksgiving”
ELW #689

1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -

liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will

or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune
Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

Prayer

P: Let us pray

God, creator of all living things, you fashioned a world in which lands and waterways, plants and animals, together meet the needs of all that you made. We pray that such vitality may flourish around the globe. Bless those who work the soil and who manage animals. Uphold their towns and villages. Nurture bees and other pollinators. Protect farmlands and ranches from drought and flood. Grant sustenance to those families who treasure a rural life. Teach us how to share with everyone the benefits of each harvest, and accept our gratitude for all sustenance you provide, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

(Creation, the Earth, ACS, p. 47)

Dialogue

R: You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

All: You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth. You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

R: You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

All: May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.

R: May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;

All: let them shout for joy and sing.

(Psalm 65:9-13, ELW)

Pet Blessing

P: Blessed are you, Lord God, who made every living thing with which the water teems, and every winged bird, the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, and called it all “good.”

All: Thank you for these animals, for their life that comes from you, and for the love and joy they bring. Please bless these creatures and

let our loving care for them be a reflection of your loving nature. We praise you for all your beauty in creation, and especially for this expression of your love. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.

(adapted from Bob Hostetler’s A Blessing for a Beloved Animal)

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

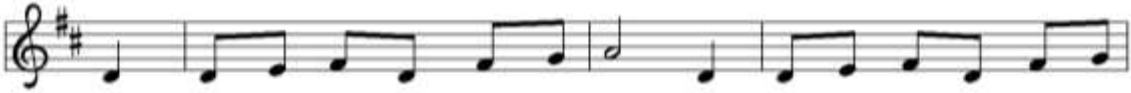
⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

P: The Gospel of the Lord,
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day
“All Creatures, Worship God Most High”
ELW #835 (vs. 1 & 6)



1

All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and

2

Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and

3

Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the

4

All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor

grain: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear sis-ter wa-ter, use-ful,

throng: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in

grieve: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis-ter moon and stars of night:

clear, make mu-sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-

care, praise God in col-ors bright and rare:

fears; still make your song a-mid the tears:



lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

- 5

And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.
- 6

O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

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: Reminded of God’s gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

P: Hear us, God.
All: Your mercy is great.

P: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus’ name.
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.

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.

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: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Communion

“Lamb of God”

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

Communion Music

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.

Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;
Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;
It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,

where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;
where there is dark - ness, on - ly light;
in giv - ing of our - selves that we re -

and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.

2

3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so

much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be

un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be

loved as to love with all my soul.

⊕ Coda

ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

Text: Sebastian Temple
Music: PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS, Sebastian Temple
Text and music © 1967 OCP Publications

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.
Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

All: Amen.

Blessing

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

All: Amen.

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

Sending Song

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW #733



1 Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum-mer and win - ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -
stars in their cours-es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need - ed thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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Dismissal

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise”

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Coffee Fellowship will be served following worship this morning, hosted by Greg & Dawn Zeigler. Grab a cup of coffee and join the discussion with Pastor Jana, who will answering any questions anyone would have about the call process.

We Remember in Prayer; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Mary Ann DeJonge, Craig Green, Tricia M., Ken & Stephanie, Richard J., Callahan McCallister, Brock Woessner, Lori Dewey, Michelle Klinger, Matt Friel, Sandy Julifs, Mike, and Phyllis Jacobson.

Worship Assistants:

Presider – Pastor Jana Howson

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean

Acolytes – Ordean family

Greeters – Audrey & Cathy Cox

Ushers – Donna Kendall, John Renner

Reader – JoAnn Garcia

Sound – Greg Zeigler

Communion Assistant – John Renner

Altar Guild – Ann Beswick, JoAnn Garcia

Musicians:

Julie Woessner DeJonge

Dawn Zeigler

Next Week – October 11

Worship Assistants:

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – *Volunteer Needed*

Acolytes – Arians family

Greeters – Dan Dir, Carolyn Duncan

Ushers – Diane Yoeckel, Nancy Beck

Reader – Not needed

Sound – Bradyn Arians

Communion Assistant – Nancy Beck

Altar Guild – Ann Beswick, JoAnn Garcia

Coffee Fellowship – Duncans