

“Landmark of the Gospel Since 1834”

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Our Purpose: Led by the Word of God, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is a family who lives and shares the gospel of Jesus Christ through love and service to all.

September 13, 2026

10:30 AM

Pentecost 16

After the ringing of the bell...

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

HYMN

All Creatures of Our God and King

LBW # 527, vs. 1,5,&7

**1 All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice with us and sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam
And silver moon with softer gleam:**

Refrain:

**Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**5 O ev'ryone of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
All you who pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and lay on him your care. [Refrain]**

**7 Let all things their Creator bless
And worship God in humbleness.
Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One, [Refrain]**

GREETING

WOV P.46

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

(2 Corinthians 13:13)

And also with you.

You are the treasured people of the LORD,

a people holy to the LORD our God.

Keep the words of the LORD in your heart; teach them to your children.

Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. *(Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)*

SCRIPTURE SONG

WOV P.47



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.



☐ Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O God of the u-ni-verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul-er of all the na-tions.



Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and sing the glo-ry of your name?



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.



☐ For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One. All



na-tions will draw near and wor-ship be-fore you,



for your just and ho-ly works have been re-vealed.



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

PSALM: Psalm 103: 8-13

- ⁸ LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
⁹ **you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.**
¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
¹¹ **For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**
¹² As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
¹³ **As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

WOV P.48

☞ Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn with - in us while you o- pen to us the Scrip- tures.

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

PROCLAMATION

HYMN

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

LBW #343, vs. 1&2

**1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
Hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.**

**2 Open now the crystal fountain
Where the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
Shield me with your mighty arm,
Shield me with your mighty arm.**

RALLY SUNDAY CONFESSION AND COMMITMENT

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

(Ephesians 1:13-14)

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

WOV p. 49

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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**

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Cor. 12: 4,7)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (*Prov. 3:5-6*)

May you have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (*Eph. 3:18-19*)

We are called to a life lived in joyful response to God's saving love found in Jesus Christ.

In Jesus Christ we are loved by a gracious God who frees us to love our neighbor and promote the common good. This is our baptismal vocation. We live it out in our homes, in this congregation, in our work places, in our neighborhoods, in our nation and in life shared across our globe.

Education in faith is a vital part of living out our vocation. We are invited on this Sunday School Rally Day to invest ourselves in all manner of Christian Education this coming year.

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, for Jesus' sake, empower us. Help us to teach and learn, listen and respond, receive and give as we enter into Christian Education this year. Stir up in us the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, graciously give you the strength and compassion to learn and grow, becoming all you are created to be, and allowing Christ to grow in you. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

I pray that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through God's Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. (Ephesians 3:16)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Share Christ's peace with one another...

OFFERTORY HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

LBW 408 v.2

Skills and Time are ours for pressing Toward the goals of Christ, your Son:

All at peace in health and freedom, Races joined, the Church made one.

Now direct our daily labor, Lest we strive for self alone;

Born with talents, make us servants Fit to answer your throne.

THE PRAYERS

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

LORD'S PRAYER

LBW p. 52

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

**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.**

BLESSING

WOV p. 53

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing.

Amen

May the God of faithfulness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

(Romans 15)

HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LBW 543, vs. 1,3-4

**1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
 O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
 Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
 Joining in glad adoration!**

**3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
 Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
 Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
 If with his love he befriend you.**

**4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
 All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
 Let the amen sound from his people again.
 Gladly forever adore him!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ through love and service to all.

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