

“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.

August 16, 2026

10:30 AM

Pentecost 12

After the ringing of the bell...

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.**

Show us your lovingkindness.

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.**

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In ✠ Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

HYMN

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

LBW #559, vs. 1,4-5

**1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise.**

**The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!**

**4 He breaks the power of canceled sin;
He sets the prisoner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.**

**5 To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heav'n.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

God has gathered us to this place,
where we hear those stories which show us what the kingdom of God is like.
God summons us to this place,
where we can learn how to serve our God without reservation, or hesitation.
God will send us from this place,
to tell others of God's hopes and dreams, so they, too, can choose to follow God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you have given great and precious promises to those who believe. Grant us the perfect faith which overcomes all doubts, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 45:1-15

[After Judah offered himself in place of his brother Benjamin,] 1 Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. 3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8 So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. 10 You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11 I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' 12 And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. 13 You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." 14 Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. 15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

PSALM: Psalm 133

How good and how pleasant it is,
 when kindred live together in unity!
It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down up- on the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.
 It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
 For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.
How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

SECOND LESSON: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

VERSE

Alleluia. The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword,
able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. *Alleluia. (Heb. 4:12)*

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:21-28

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 15th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**PRAYER FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS**

Let us pray for all who are beginning a new school year,
 that both students and teachers
 will be blessed in their academic endeavors:
 Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge.
 Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight,
 and students the gift of diligence and openness,
 that all may grow in what is good and honest and true.

Support all who teach and all who learn,
that together we may know and follow your ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Dear God,
as we have started another year in school,
we ask your blessing on our backpacks and bags and lunchboxes,
They help us be students and teachers.
We ask that you would protect us
Watch over us and keep us safe
as we travel to and from school.
Help us grow in faith,
reminding us that Jesus is our best teacher
And our closest friend.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

PROCLAMATION

HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

LBW #370

**1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.**

**2 Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.**

**3 We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.**

**4 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin, we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.**

APOSTLES' CREED

LBW p. 85)

**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

Christ's peace is shared....

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

Take My Life, That I May Be

LBW 406, vs. 4

4 Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
 Take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

THE PRAYERS

Each petition ends "God of grace, **hear our prayer.**"

LORD'S PRAYER

LBW p. 91

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

The Spirit of the triune God
 ✠ bless you with joy,
 anoint you with compassion,
 and send you in love.
Amen.

HYMN*Bind Us Together**WOV #748***Refrain:**

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord;
Bind us together in love.**

**1 There is only one God. There is only one King.
There is only one Body; that is why we sing: [Refrain]**

**2 You are the fam'ly of God. You are the promise divine.
You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine. [Refrain]**

DISMISSAL

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

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