

“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 30, 2026

10:30 AM

Pentecost 14

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

Lift High the Cross

LBW # 377, vs. 1-4

Refrain:

**Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**1 Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [Refrain]**

**2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. [Refrain]**

**3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. [Refrain]**

**4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. [Refrain]**

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

God of all creation, you reach out to call people of all nations to your kingdom. As you gather disciples from near and far, count us also among those who boldly confess your Son Jesus Christ as Lord.

Amen

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,

for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you

to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

² **Test me, O LORD and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³ For your love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴ **I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge

yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

VERSE

Alleluia. Your words became to me a joy,
and the delight of my heart. *Alleluia.* (Jer. 15:16)

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

PROCLAMATION

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow

RW #276

**1 Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**2 Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

3 Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
 Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
 Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
 and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

4 Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?
 Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
 Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

5 Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
 Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
 In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
 Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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. 5

5 Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

THE PRAYERS

Each petition ends “Merciful God, **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 Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

HYMN

Rise O Church Like Christ Arisen

RW #191

**1 Rise, O church, like Christ arisen, from this meal of love and grace;
 May we through such love envision whose we are, and whose, our praise.
 Alleluia, alleluia: God, the wonder of our days.**

**2 Rise, transformed, and choose to follow after Christ, though wounded, whole;
 Broken, shared, our lives are hallowed to release and to console.
 Alleluia, alleluia: Christ, our present, past, and goal.**

**3 Rise, remember well the future God has called us to receive;
 Present by God's loving nurture, Spirited then let us live.
 Alleluia, alleluia: Spirit, grace by whom we live.**

**4 Service be our sure vocation; courage be our daily breath;
 Mercy be our destination from this day and unto death.
 Alleluia, alleluia: Rise, O church, a living faith.**

DISMISSAL

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

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