

HOLY CROSS DAY



SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

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DIVINE SERVICE SETTING IV P. 203-212

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS- “Sir, we wish to see Jesus” (John 12:21). Then look to His holy cross. For just as Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness, so Jesus, when He is “lifted up from the earth, will draw all people” to Himself (John 12:32). “He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” to save us (Phil. 2:8). “Everyone who is bitten” by the ancient serpent’s venom of sin, “when he sees” Christ “shall live” (Num. 21:8). The true holy cross is lost to history, and we cannot return to Calvary to find our salvation. So, Christ brings the New Testament in His blood to us. “We preach Christ crucified the power of God and the wisdom of God,” though foolishness to the unbelieving world (1 Cor. 1:23-24). It pleases God, “through the folly” of the cross we preach, “to save those who believe” (1 Cor. 1:21). We find the fruit and benefit of this holy cross poured out in Holy Baptism, spoken in the preaching of Holy Absolution, and delivered in the body and blood given and shed there for us. Thus are we strengthened to take up our crosses, sanctified by His (John 12:25-26).

OPENING HYMN “WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS” 425

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠ P. 203

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT PSALM 98:1,4,6; ANTIPHON: V. 2

The Lord has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Lord has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the
nations.

KYRIE, GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

P. 204

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBERS 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

ISAIAH 49:22A; JOHN 3:14B-15

“Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples,” [says the Lord.] So must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

EPISTLE

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P. 205

HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 12:20-33

P The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. ²⁷“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this

purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

P. 206

HYMN OF THE DAY

“THE TREE OF LIFE”

561

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in your Mercy,

C Hear our Prayer.

In Our Prayers:

+ Pam Barlau

+ Dan Gueningsman

+ Jeremy Radtke

+ Chad Feltmann

+ Maxine Almquist

+ Darian Litzau

OFFERING

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠ P. 208-210

The Sacrament is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His true body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation, to repentant, reconciled believers in Christ. Our Lord Jesus invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us (Matt. 26:26-28; 1Cor. 11:23-29; Matt.6:15).

We practice closed communion. Why? (1 Cor. 10:16-17). Because our Lord says those who eat and drink His body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. If not yet instructed, in doubt, or holding a confession differing from that of the LCMS, you are lovingly asked not to commune at this time. Pastor is happy to make an appointment to discuss adult

catechesis or questions you have regarding the Sacrament of the Altar.

Examination Questions: Please prepare by asking yourself — Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior from sin? Do I believe that I am receiving the body and blood of Christ along with the bread and wine? Will I try, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live a more God-pleasing life?

Prayers for “Before communing” and “Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament” are printed on the front cover of the hymnal.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“CROSS OF JESUS, CROSS OF SORROW”	428
“SING, MY TONGUE, THE GLORIOUS BATTLE”	454
“UPON THE CROSS EXTENDED”	453
NUNC DIMITTIS	P. 211
BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION	P. 212
CLOSING HYMN	837

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Attendance Last Week
Sunday: 198

Organist:
Lynn Mueller
Scripture Reader:
Evelyn Dial

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. DARTBALL-** Anyone interested in playing Dartball this year is invited to attend a team practice on Sunday, September 21st at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome! Game schedule TBD.
- 2. ACT:** All high school students are welcome to come to Big Stone Mini Golf on Sunday, September 28. Big Stone has mini golf, a sculpture garden, yard games, and a few animals grazing. There will be a cost of \$5, so please bring cash. We will leave from church at 3:00. Email Ellie, text her at 712-299-4656, or sign up on the youth bulletin board if you want to come!

3. CHURCH DIRECTORY ONLINE SCHEDULING: The photo appointment scheduling process has begun for our church directory project. Simply go to the Universal website, www.ucdir.com, click on the box that says "**photography appointment scheduling login**", enter **MN592** in the church code field and enter the word **photos** (in lowercase letters) in the church password field. If you choose to use your cellphone; simply access the website using the QR code on the back page and follow the same steps on your phone. If you need further assistance we will have a sign-up table before and after each Sunday morning church service. Remember, this is a terrific opportunity for a FREE professional portrait.

4. SANDWICH MINISTRY IS BACK! We have finally gotten in touch with the Marie Sandvick Center, and they want our sandwiches again! Praise the Lord! We will be operating on the same schedule, making the same sandwiches as we did prior to April. So, our first event will be the third Thursday in September, the 18th, at 8:30 a.m. Please come back and serve our Lord as we feed the homeless!

5. LWML - LWML will continue to collect school items. Most in need of light weight backpacks. Pick up the list on the table in the Narthex for other items. Thank you.

6. LWML PICTURE- TWO opportunities to be in a picture for the new directory: (we will submit 2) Immediately after first service on LWML Sunday, October 5th or at the monthly gathering at Grand Meadows in September. So, please plan to be at one of these to be in our picture of our members!

7. HELP NEEDED-The crew that runs the cameras for the livestream of our services needs your help! If you feel comfortable using a computer for easy tasks, you have skills that the Lord can use! Please consider serving our congregation by joining our group of servants. We will train you, and you don't work alone. Very flexible scheduling. Contact Jane Holasek or Ellie Schulteis if you want to find out more!

8. 2025 Fall Session Music Classes will be on ALL THURSDAYS in October - 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the education wing music room. Please join us for some music-making fun, and invite a family from the area to join us too! Babies through age 5 are welcome!!

9. CONFIRMATION STUDENTS/PARENTS- Please check your emails! An email was sent out last week (to whatever email address was listed on the sign-up sheet) with the link to sign-up for Acolyting. Deadline to sign-up is September 17th, otherwise you will be scheduled by the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact Admin. Assistant Amanda (stpaulslp@embarqmail.com, 320-395-2573).

10. SCHEDULE- *September 21:* Ushers: 1st Service- Adam Birkholz, Todd Ruschmeyer, Jacob Ross, Fred Holasek; 2nd Service: Mike Lee, Gary Kosek, Ben Schulteis, Mavrik Kosek; Acolytes: 1st Service- B. Peterson, B. Herrmann 2nd Service: H. Thompson, M. Barlau Greeters- 1st Service: John & Julie Lange; 2nd Service: Brett & Darlene Schmidt; Scripture Reader: Darlene Schmidt; Flowers: Patsy Schauer; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

Calendar of Events

Sun. Sept. 14	8:00 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM.
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM.
Mon. Sept. 15	Noon	Deadline for Lamplighter Release Time Classes
Wed. Sept. 17	Noon	Deadline for Bulletin
	3:05 p.m.	6 th Grade Release Time
	5:30 p.m.	7 th Grade Confirmation
	7:00 p.m.	8 th Grade Confirmation
Thur. Sept. 18	8:30 a.m.	Sandwich Ministry Release Time Classes Admin. Assist Amanda out of office
Sun. Sept. 21	8:00 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION
	9:15 a.m.	Sun. School/Bible Study/ACT
	10:30 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION
	7:00 p.m.	Dartball meeting



QR Code to schedule Directory Session