



**AUGUST 31, 2025**  
**TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

*If you are visiting, please sign the guest registry in the Narthex or fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate.*

This worship service is recorded and live-streamed on St. Paul's YouTube channel. Tell your friends!

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

PM: Welcome to those who are joining us online. Welcome to worship at St. Paul's.

**PRELUDE**

*I Danced in the Morning*

**Wilbur Held**

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God,

All: **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✙ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

All: **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Gather Us In*

**ELW 532, v. 1 - 3**

**GREETING**

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray:

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

*The assembly is invited to be seated*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

A reading from Proverbs.

<sup>6</sup> Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
or stand in the place of the great,

<sup>7a</sup> for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

### SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>1</sup> Let mutual affection continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>15</sup> Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

*The assembly is invited to stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174

### GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup> “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, <sup>9</sup> and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

<sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

**Pr. Robin Brown**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*As We Gather At Your Table*

**ELW 522**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

*A brief silence.*

A: For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

A: For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

A: For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

A: For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

A: For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

A: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

**All: Amen.**

## PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## THE OFFERING

*An offering is gathered and the Table is set.*

## MUSICAL OFFERING

*Sometime I Feel Like A Motherless Child*

Nicholas Marotta, mezzo-soprano

**Spiritual**  
**arr. Harry T. Burleigh**

## THE OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**All: Amen.**

*Please stand.*

## 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.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Together as one body, we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.

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: The kingdom of God is set before you.  
Eat and rejoice.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

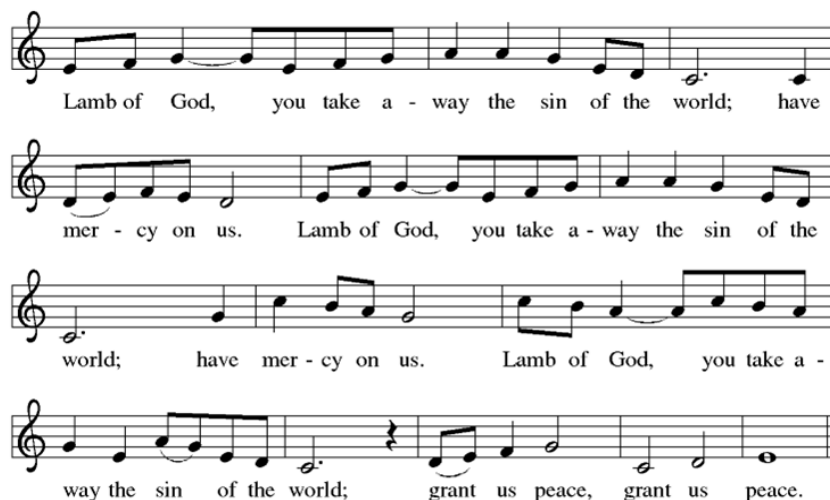


**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*We will commune one side of the church at a time. Please come forward to receive the bread first.  
Gluten free wafers are available. You may choose a cup of red wine or white grape juice.  
Move to the side eat and drink. Place your empty cup in the tray provided.*

*We believe Jesus is the host and the gifts of God are for everyone.  
Children will be offered communion unless otherwise indicated by parents.*

LAMB OF GOD



## COMMUNION HYMN

*In The Singing*

ELW 466

*Please stand as you are able.*

## TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace.

Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

*Please be seated for the announcements.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

## SENDING BLESSING

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.

All: Amen.

## SENDING SONG

*To Be Your Presence*

ELW 546, v. 1-3

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE

*Down By The Riverside*

arr. Kurt Westerberg

## THANK YOU

To our musician, Nicholas Marotta, mezzo-soprano.

To Anne Humphrey for donating altar flowers in honor of her father,  
Barry Humphrey.

To for hosting coffee fellowship.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

For Roger Nordstrom, as he undergoes cancer treatment.

For the family of Diane Mues, as they mourn the loss of Diane's mother.

For the family of Teresa Pangan, as they mourn the loss of her nephew, Riley Rashka.

Send your prayer requests to Debbie via email ([office@stpaulevanston.org](mailto:office@stpaulevanston.org)), voice mail (847-475-3403). Send your prayer requests to Debbie via email ([office@stpaulevanston.org](mailto:office@stpaulevanston.org)), voice mail (847-475-3403).



To donate via Zelle, aim your device's camera at the code on the left, click on the link and follow the instructions. Or you can go to your bank's website, go to Zelle [payments](#) and look for "office@stpaulevanston.org."



PASTORAL FELLOW THROUGH AUGUST:

PR. ROBIN BROWN

Pastor Robin was baptized at St. Luke's in Park Ridge and confirmed at St. Timothy's in Skokie. After a first career as a sales and marketing VP, she earned her M.Div at LSTC. Then, while serving as a full-time called pastor to congregations in the Northeastern Iowa and Metropolitan Chicago synods, she earned her D.Min in Preaching. In 2014 Pastor Robin was invited to join the ELCA World Hunger Team, then served as ELCA Director of Congregational Generosity. Since "retiring" in June of 2022, Pastor Robin has served as an Interim Pastor for Holy Trinity in Lombard, written two seasons of sermon starters for ELCA World Hunger, and in the last few months alone, led 11 congregations in worship on 15 Sundays.

Last year, Pastor Robin led worship at St. Paul's during part of Pentecost as well as the Season of Creation.

In her spare time Pr. Robin serves on Metro Chicago's Candidacy Committee and loves puzzles, books, needlepoint and planting gardens.