

COME      GROW      SERVE

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026**

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

*Words printed in **bold** are spoken by all. Visitors are invited to sign the guest registry in the Narthex or fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate.*

***THIS SERVICE IS LIVE STREAMED. TELL YOUR FRIENDS!***

GATHERING

**WELCOME**

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

**PRELUDE**

*Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand*

**Kenyan melody  
arr. Kurt Westerberg**

***The assembly is invited to stand.***

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

**All: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Compassionate God,

**All: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

**All: Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

**ELW 645, 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, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

*The assembly is invited to be seated.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,  
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

<sup>2</sup> Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah, who bore you,  
for he was but one when I called him,  
but I blessed him and made him many.

<sup>3</sup> For the LORD will comfort Zion;  
he will comfort all her waste places  
and will make her wilderness like Eden,  
her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

<sup>4</sup> Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation,  
for a teaching will go out from me  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;  
my salvation has gone out,  
and my arms will rule the peoples;  
the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.

<sup>6</sup> Lift up your eyes to the heavens  
and look at the earth beneath,  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats,

but my salvation will be forever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

<sup>1</sup> I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

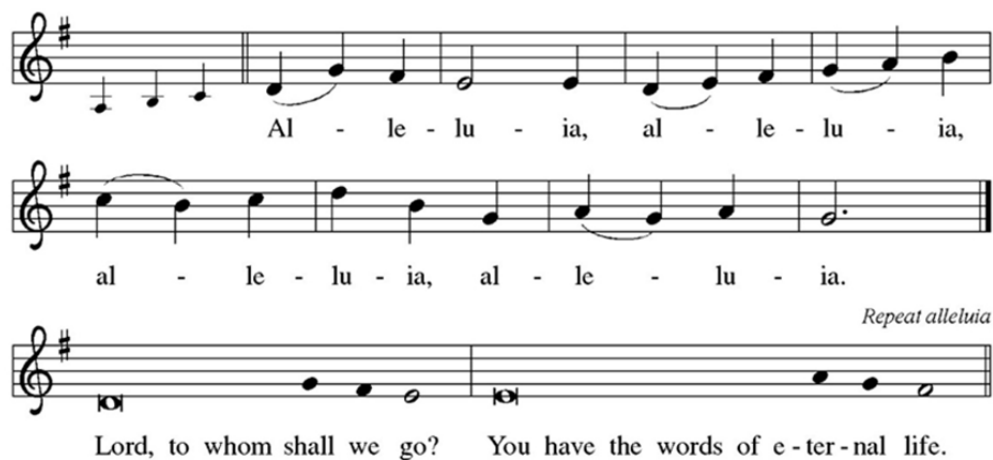
<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup> We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup> ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup> And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

**Pr. Matt Holmes**

*Please stand as you are able*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**insert**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

*A brief silence.*

A: God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

A: You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

PA: You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

A: You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day, especially those on our prayer list or those we say either silently or aloud (*pause*). Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

A: You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God,  
**All: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. Merciful God,  
**All: receive our prayer.**

A: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**All: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**All: And also with you.**

*The assembly is invited to be seated.*

## *MEAL*

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

**MUSICAL OFFERING** *There is a Balm in Gilead* **arr. Mark Hayes**  
Nicholas Marotta, mezzo-soprano

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray.  
Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.  
**All: Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**

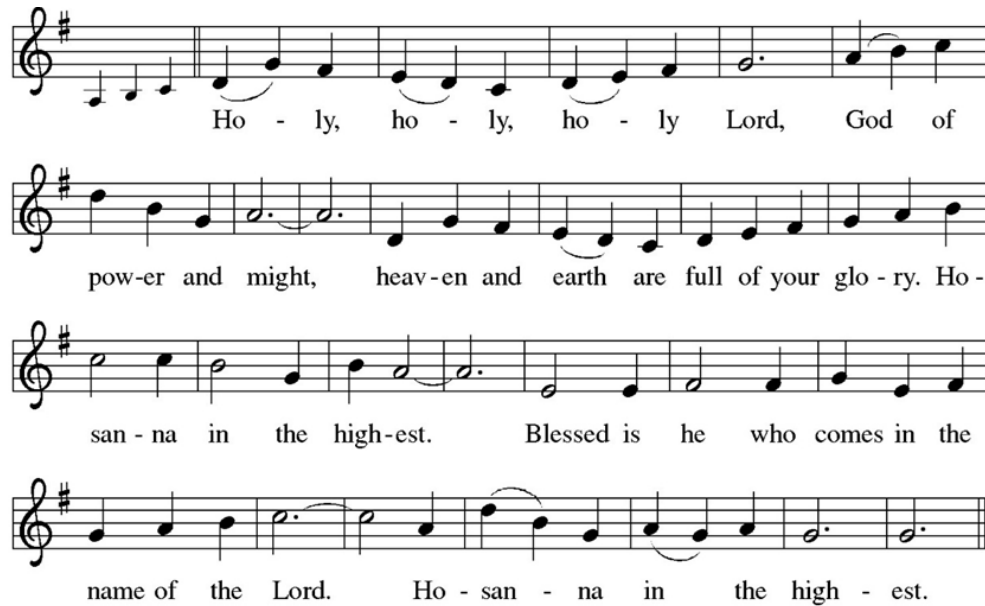
P: Lift up your hearts.  
**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and

archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P:** Together as one body, we pray the prayer 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNE

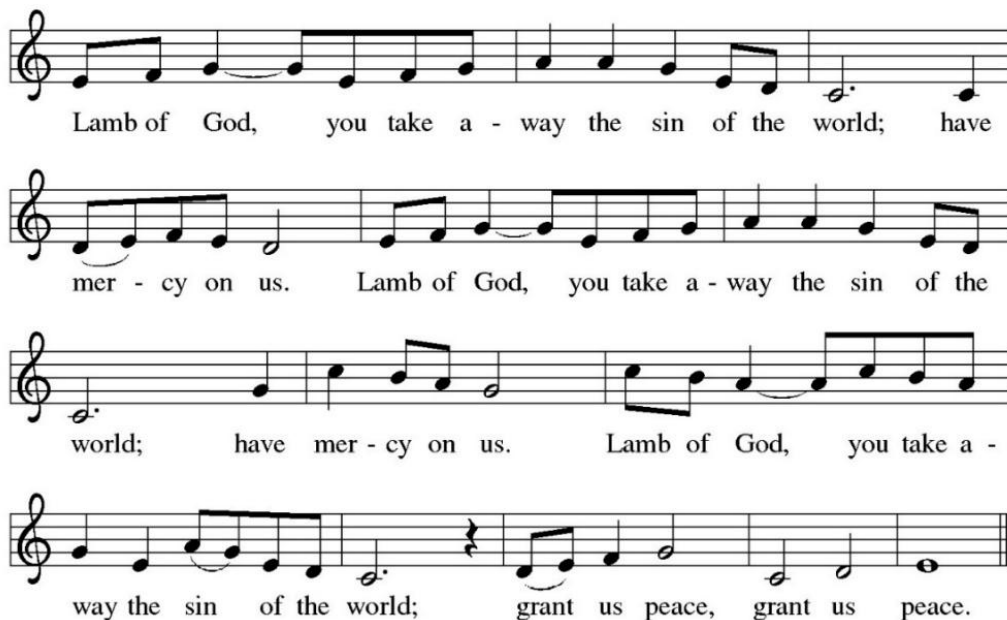
**P:** Heaven has come near. Come share in the feast!



**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.*

*All are welcome at Christ's Table. We believe Jesus is the host and the gifts of God are for everyone. Children will be offered communion unless otherwise indicated by parents. The wine is red and grape juice is white.*

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**TABLE BLESSING**

P: Now may the power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind, and your body to heal your wounds and, through your healing to all the earth.  
In Jesus' name,

All: Amen.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray.  
Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

All: Amen.

*SENDING*

*Please be seated for the announcements.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

**SENDING BLESSING**

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

All: Amen.

**SENDING HYMN**

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

ELW 873, v. 1-3

**DISMISSAL**

A: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

All: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

*Gigue from Suite No. 3*  
Diane Mues, viola

J. S. Bach



