



**JULY 6, 2025**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat . . . take and drink" is a repeated one. In holy communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.

*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**

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

**PRELUDE**

*Prelude II*

**George Gershwin**

*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. Amen.

**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**

*Come All You People*

**ELW 819**

## 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, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

*The assembly is invited to be seated*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: 2 Kings 5:1-14.

A reading from Second Kings.

<sup>1</sup> Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. <sup>2</sup> Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. <sup>3</sup> She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease." <sup>4</sup> So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. <sup>5</sup> And the king of Aram said, "Go, then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. <sup>6</sup> He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his skin disease." <sup>7</sup> When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

<sup>8</sup> But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." <sup>9</sup> So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. <sup>10</sup> Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." <sup>11</sup> But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! <sup>12</sup> Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup> But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean?'" <sup>14</sup> So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING: Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16

A reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians..

[<sup>1</sup> My brothers and sisters, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. <sup>4</sup> All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. <sup>5</sup> For all must carry their own loads.

<sup>6</sup> Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.]

<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. <sup>8</sup> If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. <sup>9</sup> So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.

<sup>11</sup> See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! <sup>12</sup> It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup> Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. <sup>14</sup> May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. <sup>15</sup> For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything, but a new creation is everything! <sup>16</sup> As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of 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:10:1-11, 16-20

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

<sup>1</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

<sup>3</sup> Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. <sup>4</sup> Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. <sup>5</sup> Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!'

<sup>6</sup> And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. <sup>8</sup> Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; <sup>9</sup> cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' <sup>10</sup> But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'

<sup>16</sup> "Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

<sup>17</sup> The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" <sup>18</sup> He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. <sup>19</sup> Indeed, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you. <sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are

written in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly may be seated.*

**SERMON**

**Pr. Matt Holmes**

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Bind Us Together*

**Blue Hymnal**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**A:** Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

*A brief silence.*

**A:** You send your church into the world with a message of peace. Center the whole church in this peace, and strengthen our faith by the example of all those who creatively and faithfully proclaim your good news. God of grace,

**All: hear our prayer.**

**P:** All the earth sings out your name. Inspire your people to drink deeply from the beauty of all your creation. When ecosystems are wounded, bring your healing. When our actions endanger the survival of other species, curb our greed and waste. God of grace,

**All: hear our prayer.**

**A:** You call us to work for the good of all. Give resolve to those who lead, that they do not grow weary in doing what is right. Guide them to seek peace between nations and freedom for all people. God of grace,

**All: hear our prayer.**

P: As a mother comforts her child, so you comfort us. Bring this comfort to those in any pain, especially those on our prayer list and those we name either silently or aloud (*pause*). Carry your people when grief is heavy, and lift burdens of shame and self-doubt. God of grace,

**All: hear our prayer.**

A: Your harvest is plentiful, O God. Make us laborers and companions with one another in this assembly. Send your peace to rest upon us, heal divisions among us, and open our hearts to receive one another as gifts from you. God of grace,

**All: hear our prayer.**

P: You have written our names in heaven, O God, and we rejoice. We thank you for those who have lived and died in your love. Accompany us on our life's journey and draw us at last to life forever in you. God of grace,

**All: hear our prayer.**

A: Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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

*Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*

**spiritual, arr. Harry T. Burleigh**

Nicholas Marotta, mezzo-soprano

## 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.  
You reveal your glory  
as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:  
equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God,  
ever to be adored in your eternal glory.  
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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW 525

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, you alone are holy you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

**All: We praise you, O God.**

P: Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**All: We bless you, O God.**

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**All: We thank you, O God.**

P: 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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

**All: Amen.**

## 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!

*The assembly may be seated.*



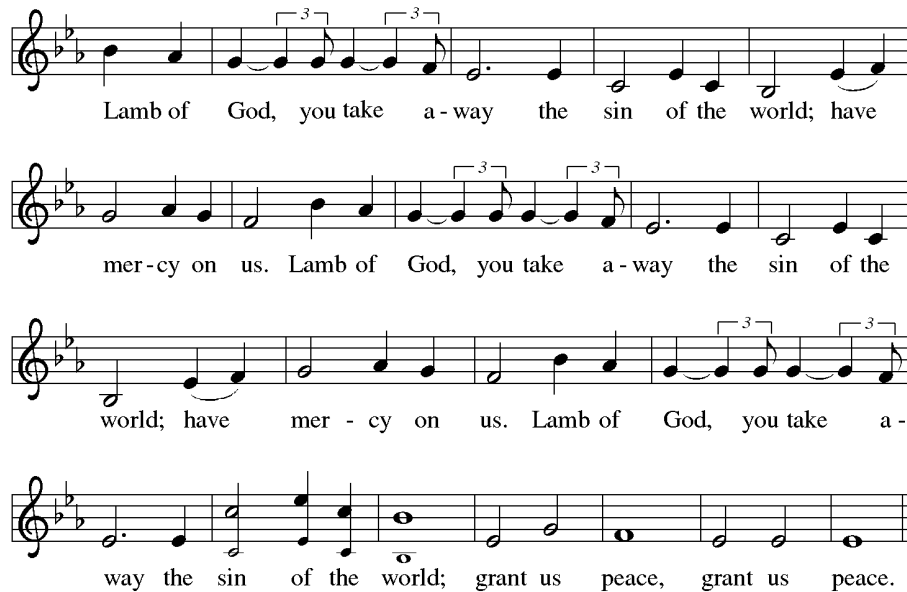
## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*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.*

## LAMB OF GOD



## COMMUNION HYMN

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

ELW 471

*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.

## SENDING

*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

*This Is My Song*

ELW 887, v. 1-2

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Live by the spirit!

All: Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE

*Elite Syncopations*

Scott Joplin

### THANK YOU

To our musician, Nicholas Marotta, mezzo-soprano.

To Michele Kruse for donating the altar flowers in memory of her nephew, David Fettiplace.

To Diane Mues for hosting coffee fellowship.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

For Roger Nordstrom, as he undergoes cancer treatment.

For John Sciandra, cousin of DD, in long-term care recovering from GBS.

For Olivia Young, granddaughter of DD and Anita, recovering from back surgery.

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



Rev. Matthew J. Holmes, our new Pastor of Care & Engagement at St. Paul's, is currently serving as an Emergency Department Chaplain at Loyola University Hospital. Until recently, Pr. Matt served as a Chaplain and Grief Support Specialist with Advocate Hospice. Pr. Matt is a 2010 graduate of The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and is ordained to Word & Sacrament in the ELCA. Though he's chaplain in the healthcare ministry setting, Pr. Matt loves to preach and lead worship, and he's frequently invited to be a guest pastor around the Chicago area. We have been blessed to hear Matt preach these last three Sundays.

Matt is married to Rachel Wind, a former St. Paul's MIC student and another graduate of LSTC who works in development for the ELCA. They have two children, Hugh (12) and Louisa (10). In his free time, Matt is a paid-on-call Firefighter/EMT for the village of LaGrange Park, and a prolific if rarely published writer. Matt is the author of two published books *Breath: 52 Reflections for those who Care for the Dying* (Avenida Books, 2017). and coauthor with Rev. Thomas Gaulke of *Everyday Armageddons: Stories and Reflections on Death, Dying, God and Waste* (Cascade Books, 2023).

Formerly, Matt has worked as a commercial fisherman, nervous bouncer, short order cook, carny and plenty more.