



AUGUST 3, 2025
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

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

Prelude in C major

J.S. Bach

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

In Christ There Is No East or West

ELW 650 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:

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

A reading from Ecclesiastes.

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174

GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

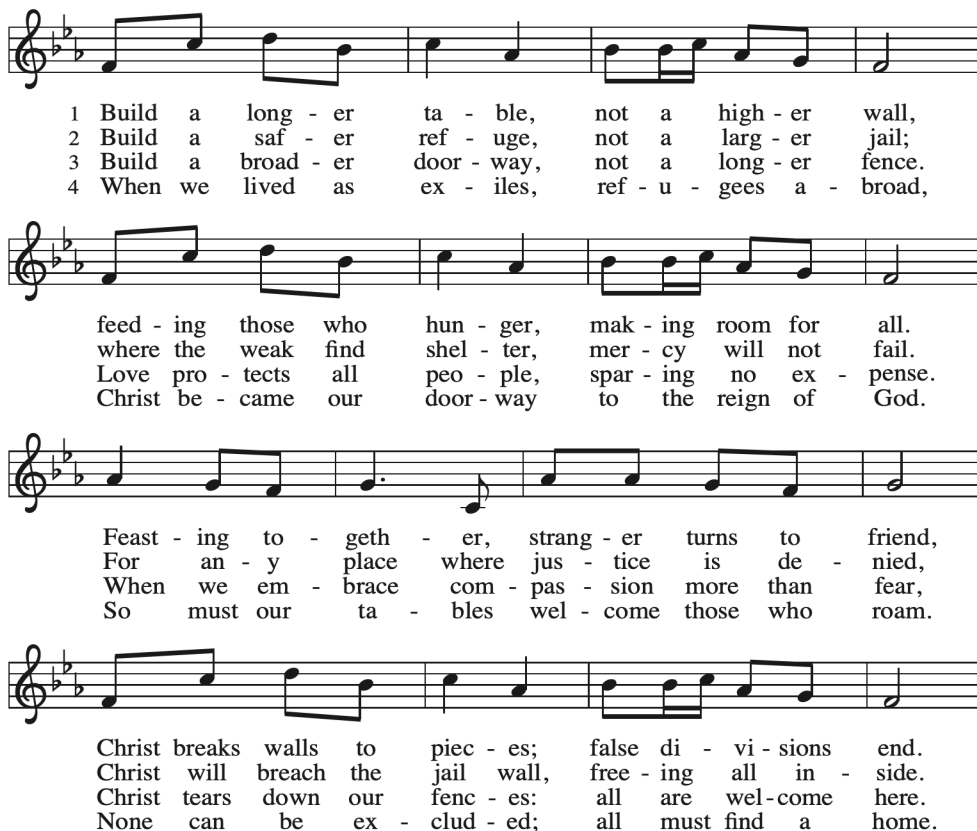
SERMON

Pr. Robin Brown

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,

feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.

Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.

Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world

A brief silence.

A: Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

PM: Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Clothe all people in your image, and establish equity and peace. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

PM: Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear especially those on our prayer list and those we pray for either silently or aloud (*pause*). Give strength to those who give care, and equip them with compassion as they make your love known. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: Store up in this congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity. Guide the work of treasurers and all who attend to financial matters. Support those whose work in our community is difficult and demanding; make us mindful of the toil that goes unnoticed. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

PM: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

PEACE

PM: 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

There is a Balm in Gilead

arr. Mark Hayes

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 (YOU ARE HOLY)

ELW 525

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!**

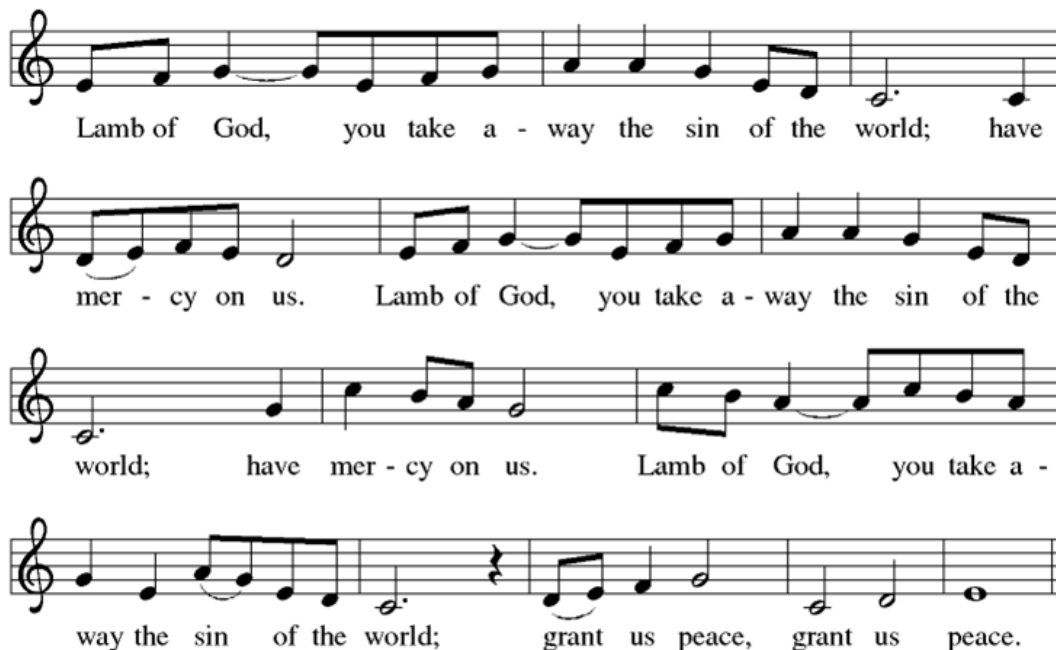


DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

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.

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

The Spirit Sends Us Forth To Serve

ELW 551

v. 1-3

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Gigue

G.P. Telemann

THANK YOU

To our musicians, Nicholas Marotta and Trudy Nelson.

To Harvey Wolf for donating altar flowers in memory of Chuck Hewitt's birthday.

To Carol Garrett 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.

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

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



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.

BURNING QUESTIONS

It is not too late to submit your burning questions! Pastor Robin will be exploring our burning questions in her sermons.

Burning Questions for August. When the sun's heating up our sanctuary, why not address what's heating up our hearts? Do you have doubts, wanderings, or wonderings? Do you have questions about faith or the Bible? Is anything "burning" at the back of your mind or deep in your soul? In August, we will explore your "Burning Questions" in our sermons, seeking to discern God's word working in our lives.

Please email your questions to office@stpaulevanston.org. If you would rather be more anonymous, you can write your question on a slip of paper and drop it under the door to the office. I will compile the questions and give them to Pastor Robin.



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."