

_____ Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost _____

WELCOME

Home



OUR NEED FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Oct. 18th & 19th, 2020



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

— MINISTRIES —

CHURCH • SCHOOL • CHILDCARE



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As Christians united in common faith, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to nurture believers and bring the lost to faith in Jesus through God's Holy Word and Sacraments.

Welcome!

- Restrooms are in the church basement located just at the bottom of the front stairs. Changing tables are available to parents.
- An elevator is available on the north side of the church entrance.
- The basement is available to parents needing to quiet small children. The area is equipped with closed circuit TV.
- Hearing assistance devices are also available from the ushers.
- Out of respect for all who worship today, please silence all electronic devices.

Those wishing to attend Holy Communion:

Lutherans understand Holy Communion as, among other things, a statement of agreement with the church's teachings. For this reason, you will not want to commune with us until you have had a chance to compare your beliefs with our church's. Please speak to our pastor about this before receiving communion with us.

If you choose to take a hard-copy bulletin:

please either take it with you or dispose of it after the service. They will not be re-used. Thank you!

Our Worship Series

Read through Scripture and count the times it refers to believers as “brothers and sisters.” You will reach the triple digits quickly. The Holy Spirit is deliberate with his choice of words. If he frequently refers to the Church in those terms, there can be only one explanation. He wants us to think of each other as family. We understand the important roles a mother and father play. We know the joys (and challenges) of having siblings. Do we grasp that it is just as important that we have a spiritual family? Scripture teaches that what unites us to our spiritual family is infinitely more powerful than any biological bond. Moreover, you can lose a blood relative. They can be taken away from you by death. But you will enjoy the companionship of your spiritual family for all eternity. In this worship series, we will look at how our Father knits us together in love and unity into a spiritual family. We will see the benefits of being part of this family. In the Church, Christ has given us a better home.

Welcome Home!

Our Need for Christian Community

The Lost Are Now Found

You Are Free to Be Yourself

You Are Perfectly Safe Here

You Have an Everlasting Family

You are Part of Christ's Glorious Kingdom

Our Theme for Today

“Army of One” was the shortest-lived recruiting slogan in US military history. It was meant to stress the strength of the individual. The Army dropped the slogan relatively quickly because they realized it was contrary to the reality that, in the army, you are completely reliant upon your team. In a stressful situation, the individual can be overwhelmed. He or she needs others. God knows this. The first time God looked at Creation and noticed something was off, the issue was that an individual (Adam) was isolated. “It is not good for the man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18). Humans are hardwired by God to need fellowship, not just with him, but with one another. So, God is determined to bring believers into a loving, nurturing community—the Church.

Perhaps you have been a part of this Christian family for a long time. Perhaps you once belonged to a church, but for whatever reason drifted away. Perhaps you have never belonged to a church. Whatever may be the case for you, may God bless you as you listen to his Word today. May he help us all to realize that this Christian community—this spiritual home—is something we badly need. Welcome home!

Welcome Home: The Need for Christian Community

We pray that God would rule our hearts through Word and sacrament that our repentance might be real and our obedience truly pleasing to God.

HYMN

Love Divine, All Love Excelling – **CW 365**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me a sinner.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

C: ♪ (page 28) O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

Almighty God, merciful Father,

you crown our life with your love.

You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;

you make us pure and holy in your sight.

You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father,

you came to live with us, you made your Father known;

you washed us from our sins in your own blood.

You are the King of Glory; you are the Lord!

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the family of believers with your never-failing mercy. Bind us together with the bond of your love. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *♩ Amen.*

FIRST LESSON

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

Scripture says that people are not wired to be rugged individuals. God created us to need one another. Two are better than one. Even better is having Christ as the third strand within a relationship. He provides the love and grace that keeps that bond strong.

Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: ⁸ There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless—a miserable business! ⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: ¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. ¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? ¹² Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 118

We rejoice in God's salvation

Refrain

This is the day the Lord has made, let us re -
joice and be glad! This is the day the
Lord has made, let us re-joice and be glad!



The LORD is my strength and my song;*
he has become my salvation.

The LORD's right hand is lifted high;*
the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!

I will not die but live,*
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

Refrain

I will give you thanks, for you answered me;*
you have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;*
the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;*
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**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.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON & SERMON TEXT

Hebrews 2:9-18

Jesus became our brother so that by his suffering, death and resurrection he might unite us to himself and knit us together into a spiritual family.

But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹² He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises." ¹³ And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." ¹⁴ Since the children

have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

ECC 3k & 4k SING

The Butterfly Song

*If I were a butterfly I'd thank you, Lord, for giving me wings
And if I were a robin in a tree I'd thank you, Lord, that I could sing
And if I were a fish in the sea I'd wiggle my tail, and I'd giggle with glee
But I'd just thank you Father for making me me*

Refrain:

*'Cause you gave me a heart And you gave me a smile You gave me Jesus
And you made me your child And I just thank you Father for making me me*

*If I were an elephant I'd thank you, Lord, by raising my trunk
And if I were a kangaroo I'd just hop right up to you
And if I were an octopus I'd thank you, Lord, for my good looks
But I'd just thank you Father for making me me (Refrain)*

*If I were a wiggly worm I'd thank you, Lord, that I could squirm
And if I were a crocodile I'd thank you Lord for my big smile
And if I were a fuzzy wuzzy bear I'd thank you Lord for my fuzzy wuzzy hair
But I just thank you Father for making me me (Refrain)*

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus wants us in his family so that he might give us rest and peace.

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. ²⁷ "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

C: ♪ Praise be to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Kenneth Frey

Welcome Home!

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

**your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**



THE SACRAMENT

*Today we offer individual cup distribution of the Lord's Supper. For those unable to drink alcohol, there is white grape juice. **Gluten free** wafers are also available. Please speak to a pastor if you need either one.*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: 🙏 And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: 🙏 We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 🙏 It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *(page 34)*

C: 🙏 Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts,

The whole earth is full of your glory.

You are my God, and I will exalt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts,

The whole earth is full of your glory.

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in

remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: ♪ Amen.

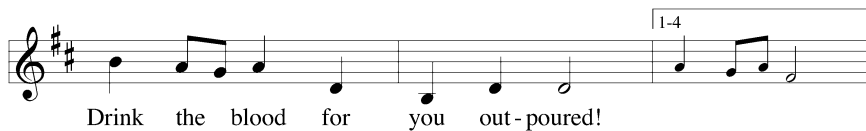
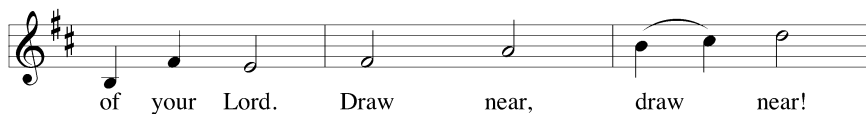
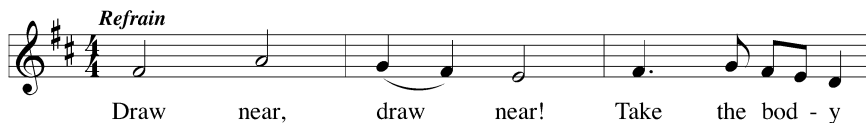
***O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.***

***O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.***

***O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us your peace. Amen.***

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Draw Near – **CWS 740**



- 1 Draw near and take the bod - y of your Lord,
- 2 Christ our Re - deem - er, God's e - ter - nal Son,
- 3 Let us ap - proach with faith - ful hearts sin - cere
- 4 With heav'n - ly bread he makes the hun - gry whole,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out-poured.
Has by his cross and blood the vic - t'ry won.
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.



Saved by his bod - y and his ho - ly blood, With
He gave his life for great - est and for least, Him -
Christ, who in this life all the saints de - fends, Gives
Lord of the na - tions, to whom all must bow, In



souls re - freshed we give our thanks to God.
self the of - f'ring and him - self the Priest.
all be - liev - ers life that nev - er ends.
this great feast of love be with us now.

This paraphrase of an ancient Communion hymn is set in responsorial fashion.

Text: *Sancti, venite, Christi corpus sumite*, 7th century hymn; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Tune: DRAW NEAR (10 10 10 10 and Refrain) Steven R. Janco, b. 1961 © 1992 World Library Publications.
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PRAYER AND BLESSING

P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

Worship Notes

Presiding Minister: Matthew Holtz
Organist: Stacey Kraus / Marilyn McCarthy

Service Teams:

8:00 a.m. D. Paulson (Head Usher), J. Cherney, J. Immel, E. Dvorak, M. Schlueter, K./S./M. Paulson, M./K./C. Runkel, P. Cherney

9:15 a.m. D. Falck, D. Sheldon, C. Woehler

10:30 a.m. B. Holz (Head Usher), J./M. Holz, T. Abitz, B. Casey, A. Malueg, G. Fredericks, M. Fay

6:00 p.m. C. Woehler (Head Usher), T. Falck, A. Ziegler, D. Olson, J. Bork, T. Falck, M. Spaude, D. Falck

Altar Guild: M. Reichel, M. McCarthy