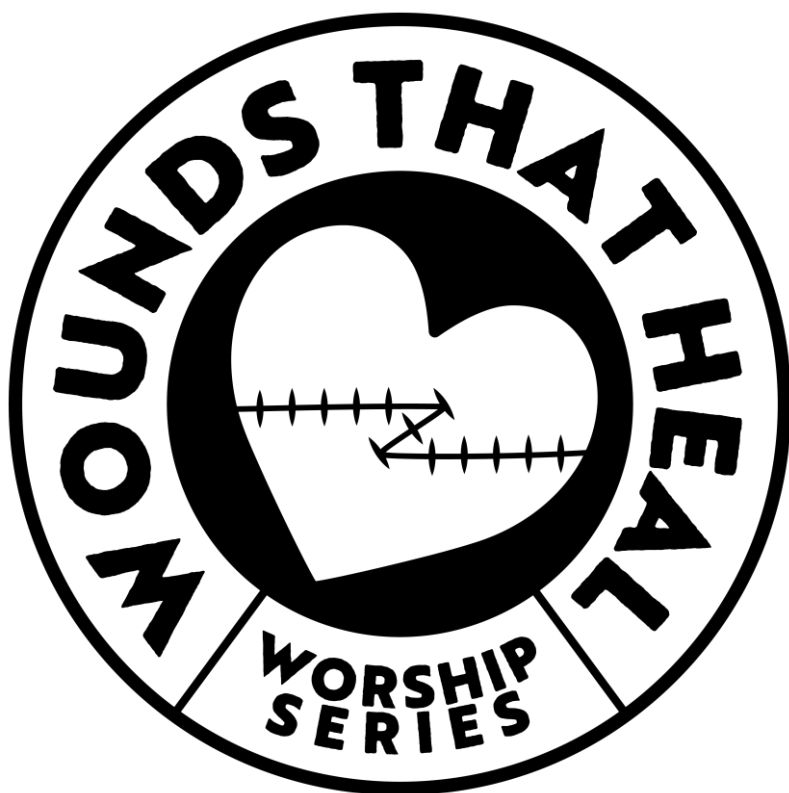


Sunday & Monday Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025



**COUNT THE COST**



**ST. PAUL**

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LUTHERAN MINISTRIES



# ST. PAUL

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## LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

*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.
  - Out of respect for all who worship today, please silence all electronic devices.
  - Children's Activity Bags are available in the narthex. Please return them to the 'used' bin after service.
- 

### **Note to our Guests about the Lord's Supper:**

We are glad you have come to hear God's Word today with us. Through his Word, the Lord speaks of Jesus' forgiveness to us and his peace fills our hearts.

Today we also celebrate the Lord's Supper, which God describes as a unified joint confession of faith in Jesus. Therefore, we ask that only those who have confessed a unified faith with us through membership in a WELS or ELS congregation come up to receive the Lord's Supper. Thank you for respecting our beliefs based on God's Word.

If you would like to receive the Lord's Supper with us in the future, please speak with one of our pastors.

## COUNT THE COST

*This week Jesus' sharp words expose our desire to pursue comfort and avoid pain at all costs. Jesus explains that following him will be hard. Jesus' disciples will be called to let go of things they love and embrace things we naturally loathe. Jesus promises that discipleship comes with crosses—a unique type of pain. So, Jesus tells us that we must count the cost of following him. He wants us to do that now, ahead of time, rather than waiting until we are in the heat of the moment and emotions are running high. However, our calculations must not only consider what we might give up for Jesus. They also entail calculating what we get through him! When we perceive the infinite blessings we find in Christ, the decisions we just make, while difficult, will be clear. Whatever is lost as we follow Jesus pales in comparison to what we gain.*

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Service Setting 3, CW p. 188

### **Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

CW 730

*Stand*

### **Invocation**

In the name of the Father and of the ✚ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### **Confession**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

**Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

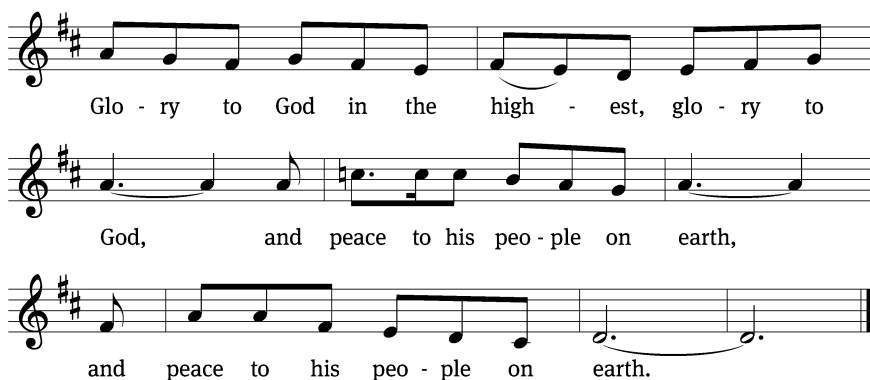
## Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff is an instrumental introduction. The second staff begins the lyrics: 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to'. The third staff continues: 'God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,'. The fourth staff continues: 'and peace to his peo - ple on earth.' and ends with a double bar line. The fifth staff continues: 'Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and'.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to  
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,  
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.  
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
 praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly  
 Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
 us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the  
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For  
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the  
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus  
 Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Tune: William Gokelman; David Kauffman

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## The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O merciful Lord, you did not spare your only Son but delivered him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Deuteronomy 30:15–20*

*Prior to settling within the Promised Land, the LORD wants his people to calculate carefully the choice between life and death.*

<sup>15</sup>See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. <sup>16</sup>For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

<sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

<sup>19</sup>This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live <sup>20</sup>and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

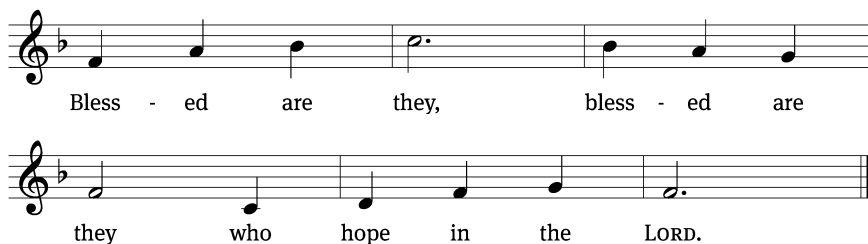
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Blessed Are They

*Psalm 1A*

*Refrain*



*Tone*



Blessed is the one who / does not walk  
in step with the / wicked  
or stand in the way that / sinners take  
or sit in the company of / mockers,  
but whose delight is in the law / of the LORD,  
and who meditates on his law / day and night.  
That person is like a tree planted by streams of / water,  
which yields its fruit in / season  
and whose leaf does not / wither—  
whatever they do / prospers. *Refrain*

Not so the / wicked!

They are like chaff that the wind / blows away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the / judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the / righteous. *Refrain*

For the LORD watches over the way of the / righteous,  
 but the way of the wicked leads to de- / struction.  
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son**  
**and to the Holy / Spirit,**  
**as it was in the be- / ginning,**  
**is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

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Tune: Michel Guimont

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## Second Reading

*Philemon 1,7–21*

*The case of the escaped slave, Onesimus, returning to his owner, Philemon, is a perfect example of the cost in following Jesus. Paul encourages Philemon to free Onesimus and embrace him as a brother.*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
 To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—

<sup>7</sup>Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you,  
 brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do  
 what you ought to do, <sup>9</sup>yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of  
 love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a  
 prisoner of Christ Jesus— <sup>10</sup>that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus,  
 who became my son while I was in chains. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to  
 you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

<sup>12</sup>I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. <sup>13</sup>I would  
 have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in  
 helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. <sup>14</sup>But I did not want to  
 do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not  
 seem forced but would be voluntary. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps the reason he was  
 separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back  
 forever— <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear  
 brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow  
 man and as a brother in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would  
 welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything,  
 charge it to me. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay  
 it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. <sup>20</sup>I do wish,  
 brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my  
 heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing  
 that you will do even more than I ask.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Gospel Acclamation

John 6:68



### Refrain



### Tone



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

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## Gospel & Sermon Text

Luke 14:25–35

*Jesus teaches us that following him closely will come at a cost.*

<sup>25</sup>Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: <sup>26</sup>“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

<sup>28</sup>“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup>For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

<sup>31</sup>“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

<sup>34</sup>“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? <sup>35</sup>It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## **Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken**

CW 694

**Sermon**

**Pastor Matt Holtz**

*Stand*

### **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 truly 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.**

*Be seated*

## Prayer of the Church

## Offering

## Sunday School Teacher Installation (8am service)

## The Sacrament

Stand

## Preface

CW 199

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 200



heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## 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.

## Words of Institution

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  $\dagger$  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  $\dagger$  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."

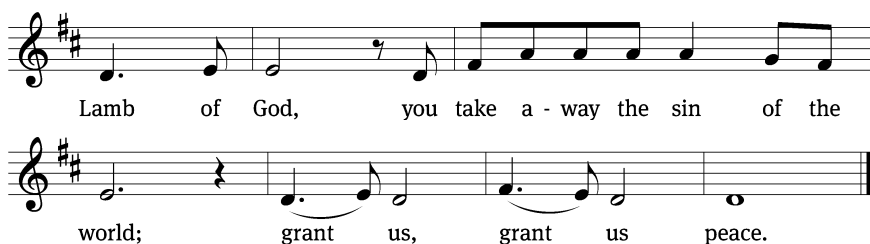
The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**Amen.**

## Lamb of God

CW 202

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.



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*Be seated*

## Distribution

### Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

CW 831

### What Is This Bread

CW 665

*Stand*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

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.

**Amen.**

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## Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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## **WORSHIP NOTES**

Preacher: Matt Holtz

Presiding Minister: Justin Shrum

Accompanist: Dan Vogel/Elliot Feidt

## Service Teams:

8:00 a.m. Team Blob; AV: P. Tiedt

10:30 a.m. Team Paulson; AV: To. Falck

6:00 p.m. Team Waack

# Welcome

**In an age of anxiety** we still believe that peace comes from Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

**In an age of confusion** we still believe that the Bible is the word of God, inerrant and infallible.

**In an age of doubt** we still believe that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.

**In an age of guilt** we still believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay for the sins of the world, bringing complete pardon and joy to all believers.

**In an age of reason** we still believe that God is at work in the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

**In an age of change** we still believe in one unchanging God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Whether you are a first time visitor or returning guest, we are delighted to share our worship with you. Please come back and worship with us again.

Scan the QR code below for access to the Church Center App.



## St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

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**Worship Broadcast at 8:00 on  
WNAM radio, 1280 AM**

Videos of our service today can be found on our YouTube page or our website:

[www.stpaulappletonwi.com](http://www.stpaulappletonwi.com)