

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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8th Sunday after Pentecost August 3, 2025

NOTE: Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex for worship services.
Please see an Usher or Greeter if needed.

Presiding Minister	Pastor David Viles
Organist / Keyboard	Zola Finch
Song Leader	Kathy Meller
Acolyte	Lucas Plochberger
Audio / Video Technician	Dan Tschirgi
Reader	Bill Gerth
Council	Kent Nelson
Greeters	Harry & Jana Thompson
Altar Flowers	Marlene Carlson

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Join us today for Fellowship Hour downstairs after service hosted by Kathy and Mark Meller. Thanks to Kathy and Mark! We still have two open months, September and November if you would like to host a fellowship hour.

We will be having children's Sunday School today and then starting in September will go back to twice a month the first and 3rd Sunday of each month.

Annual Buddy Backpack / Back to School Bash –Thank you for your generosity for helping out the school kids and teachers.

Margaret Circle will meet on Tuesday, August 5 at 6:30 in the Church Fellowship Hall. Kathryn Linsenbardt will host and Kay Pascoe will lead the study of God's Holy Word. All women of the congregation and their friends are welcome. Please RSVP to Kathryn at 573-782-4683 or Erika at 573-635-6681.

Hymn History – Our Gathering Song "Lead me, Guide Me" is from the "Trust, Guidance" section of our Hymnal. This gospel hymn was written by Doris M. Akers, who was born in Brookfield, MO in 1922 and lived her early life in Kirksville, MO. Her family attended the Bethel AME Church in Kirksville, where she learned to play piano by ear at age six. She wrote her first song at age 10. In the 1930s she formed a singing gospel group with siblings, Edward, Marian, and Donald, who went by the name "Dot and the Swingsters". In 1938 she moved to Los Angeles, CA and became known for her work with the "Sky Pilot Choir," an integrated group that made recordings and appeared on Radio and TV across the country. Her fresh,

modern arrangements of traditional negro spirituals drew large crowds. She was affectionately known as “Miss Gospel Music”, respected and admired by everyone in the gospel music business. Ms. Akers received many awards over the years, including “Gospel Music Composer of the Year” twice. In 1992 she was honored by the Smithsonian Institution as “The Foremost Gospel Writer in the US”. After passing away in Minnesota in 1995 she was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2001. In 2011 she was inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame. The hymn is an earnest plea for an intimate walk with God, who is the only one that can lead us on the narrow path through all the complexities and challenges of earthly life.

**NOTE: Use Hymnals to read
Music for the Hymns if desired.**

***Gathering Song: Hymn # 768
Lead Me, Guide Me**

Refrain:

**Lead me, guide me along the way;
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**1 I am weak, and I need Thy strength and pow’r.
To help me over my weakest hour;
Help me through the darkness Thy face to see,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

Refrain:

**Lead me, guide me along the way;
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness;
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

Refrain:

**Lead me, guide me along the way;
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind with-out thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Refrain:

Lead me, guide me along the way;
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Remembering that Jesus Christ died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, and was raised on the third day giving us eternal life. We continue Confession and Forgiveness.

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

Silence for Reflection

P: Merciful God,

C: 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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. 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.

C: Amen

*** SHARING THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

GREETING (Please be seated)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Kyrie: Hymnal Page # 184-185

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

Hymn of Praise: Hymnal Page 185-186

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Prayer of the Day:

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.

C: Amen.

Children's Sermon

Children's Sunday School

WORD

The 1st lesson is a reading from Ecclesiastes, the 1st & 2nd chapters.

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. 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. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, 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. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, 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. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? 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.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 49. (Read Responsively)

Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all you who dwell in the world,

you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.

My mouth shall speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

I will incline my ear to a proverb and set forth my riddle upon the harp.

Why should I be afraid in evil days, when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,

the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess, and boast of their great riches?

One can never redeem another, or give to God the ransom for another's life;

for the ransom of a life is so great that there would never be enough to pay it,

in order to live forever and ever and never see the grave.

For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.

Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, though they had named lands after themselves.

Even though honored, they cannot live forever; they are like the beasts that perish.

The 2nd lesson is a reading from Colossians, the 3rd chapter.

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. 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!

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation: Hymnal Page 188**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 12th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” 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.” Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ 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. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ 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?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: Pastor David Viles

“The Dangers of Greed and the Joy of Sharing”

Hymn of the Day: Hymn #655

Son of God, Eternal Savior

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory,
for your own will ever plead:
fill us with your love and pity,
heal our wrong, and help our need. | 3 Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of love and Prince of peace;
hush the storm of strife and passion,
bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling,
by your silent hours of pain,
quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
stem our selfish greed of gain. |
| 2 As you, Lord, have lived for others,
so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted;
freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver,
yours the wealth of land and sea;
we but stewards of your bounty
held in solemn trust will be. | 4 Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race:
by your praying, by your willing
that your people should be one,
grant, oh, grant our hope's fruition:
here on earth your will be done. |

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855-1932

*** Apostle's Creed – Please stand.**

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 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.

THANKSGIVING

Offering: We worship God by giving back a little of what he has first given us. God calls us by the Holy Spirit to care for all of God's people and creation through these gifts. Through this small sacrifice, God's love is shown through us, to those who are in need.

***(Please Stand) Offertory:**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

***Offertory Prayer:** You have shown us what is good and showered us with abundance. Accept these offerings, that, nurtured by your Word, filled with your spirit of compassion, we may share with gladness and joy all that you have shared with us, until all creation is satisfied and content, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*** The Prayers of Intercession:**

The congregation's response to "God of grace," is "**hear our prayer.**"

***The Lord's Prayer:**

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.

SENDING

***Blessing:** (Please Stand)

Pastor David

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

***Sending Song: Hymn # 650 In Christ There Is No East or West**

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.
- 3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude