

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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10th Sunday after Pentecost August 17, 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	Dan Tschirgi
Acolyte	Madeline Stubinger
Audio / Video Technician	Roger Pennell
Reader	Carol Elliott
Council	Ashley Hillen
Greeters	David & Trish Russell
Altar Flowers	Marlene Carlson

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Debi Berry wishes to say thanks to everyone who sent cards, well wishes, food, prayers and visited her during her recent recovery at home.

STARS will meet on Wednesday for lunch at 11:30. Our program will be given by a representative from the VA explaining their service dog program. We are excited to also have service dog Ginger join us for the presentation. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Rose Strobel at 573-782-4553 or 573-694-3634 by Monday evening, August 18.

The Lohman Community Club's barbecue is on Saturday, Aug 23rd at Schultes IGA beginning at 10:30 a.m. until sold out. Serving pork steak plates at \$14 and chicken plates at \$13.

We will be hosting family Day September 7th with a potluck luncheon. We will be doing this in lieu of fellowship hour after church. Games and activities will be available once church is over and continue after lunch. Plateware, meat and drinks will be provided. All are welcome, we will also be extending the invitation to the Russellville area churches that we joined in VBS with. We welcome any ideas for new and traditional activities and games. This is also Grandparent's Day so we will be trying to do some things to honor them as well.

The Trinity Retreads Group (aka senior citizens) are planning a one day bus trip to Branson on Wednesday, October 15 to see David at the Sight and Sounds Theater. Our STARS are invited to join them. The bus will leave Russellville about 8:30 am, lunch is scheduled at The Landing and the show begins at 3:30 pm. The bus will then return home. Cost will depend on how many people sign up to attend and ranges from \$112.37 to \$126.91 per person. To make reservations contact Larry Bishop at 573-619-7336

Hymn History – Our sending song “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” is the best known hymn written by Kathleen Thomerson. Born 1934 and recently turning 91, Ms. Thomerson directed music at University United Methodist Church in St. Louis and was on the organ faculties of St. Louis Conservatory and Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. She also served Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas. If we allow, this hymn can capture our imagination when looking up to the stars and thinking of heaven. In verses one, two, and three we sing “I want to follow Jesus”, “I want to look at Jesus”, and “I want to be with Jesus”.

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

***Gathering Song: Hymn # 796 How Firm a Foundation**

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
 is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
 What more can he say than to you he has said
 who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**
- 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."**
- 3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
 my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
 The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
 your dross to consume and your gold to refine."**
- 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
 my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
 and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
 like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."**

Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.

*** 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:

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Children's Sermon

WORD

The 1st lesson is a reading from Jeremiah, the 23rd chapter.

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

Psalm 82. (Read Responsively)

God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

“How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?

Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;

rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.

They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

Now I say to you, ‘You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;

nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.’”

Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own.

The 2nd lesson is a reading from Hebrews, the 11th and 12th chapters.

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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.

Jesus said: "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

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

Sermon: Pastor David Viles
"Divided by Christ's Fire"

Hymn of the Day: Hymn # 603 When Human Bonds Are Broken

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| 1 God, when human bonds are broken
and we lack the love or skill
to restore the hope of healing,
give us grace and make us still. | from the pain of earlier living;
set us free and grant us peace. |
| 2 Through that stillness, with your Spirit
come into our world of stress,
for the sake of Christ forgiving
all the failures we confess. | 4 Send us, God of new beginnings,
humbly hopeful into life.
Use us as a means of blessing:
make us stronger, give us faith. |
| 3 You in us are bruised and broken:
hear us as we seek release | 5 Give us faith to be more faithful,
give us hope to be more true,
give us love to go on learning:
God, encourage and renew! |

*** 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 "Hear us, O God," is "**Your mercy is great.**"

***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 # 815**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

I I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. Refrain

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Text © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

P: Go in peace. Transformed by Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude