

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

August 31st, 2025



WELCOME

To our Church Family

We're Glad You're Here!



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a water bottle and information about our church. You may also want to download our new St. Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both are in the Welcome Bag.

For our young worshipers we have children's packets to play and color with during the service. These are on the white stand near the east entrance to our sanctuary.

You are welcome at the table!

If you have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), you are welcome to join us at the table. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats using the side aisles. If you do not wish to partake in the Sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please just cross your hands over your chest when you come forward.

Grape juice and Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Grape juice is in the colored glasses in the center of the communion tray. If you are not able to come forward and would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will bring communion to you.

Altar Flowers

The **Altar flowers** were given today by David Stoner in memory of Cheryl "Maw" Shaw and Paula Kritzer.

Introduction

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism, we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

Readings and Psalm

Proverbs 25:6-7a

Do not put yourself forward.

Psalm 112

The righteous are merciful and full of compassion. (Ps. 112:4)

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

God is with us: let acts of mutual love continue.

Luke 14:1, 7-14

An image of God's reign: invite the poor, crippled to your banquet.

In our prayers today we will remember

Julia Engelhart, Kenneth & Jean Dexter, Anna Langenfeld, Matthew Cottle, Arthur Barrett, Olivia Harrington, Darlene Lewis, Cindy Nash, Michael Jordan, Paul Daily, Rick Thesis, Jerry Sturtz, Judy Hall, Richard Green, and Randy Balder.

The Westminster Strike

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude:

Meditation on THAXTED

Charles Callahan (1951-2023)

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

O God, Beyond All Praising

ELW 880

GREETING

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

And also with you.

Refrain



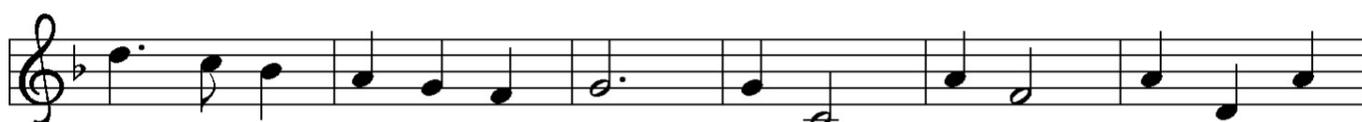
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7a

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
 or stand in the place of the great,
^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
 than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

And Can It Be
 Dwight Butler, baritone

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain—For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be, That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me? He left His Father's throne above So free, so infinite His grace—Emptied Himself of all but love and bled for Adam's helpless race: 'Tis mercy all, immense and free, For O my God, it found out me! No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine; Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own. -Charles Wesley, 1738

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

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

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 4-14

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522

APOSTLES' CREED

**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**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

After each petition the following response is given:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them, through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY: Beautiful Savior arr. Linda McKechnie (b. 1941)
Loren Veigel, piano; Abby Haake, organ

OFFERTORY



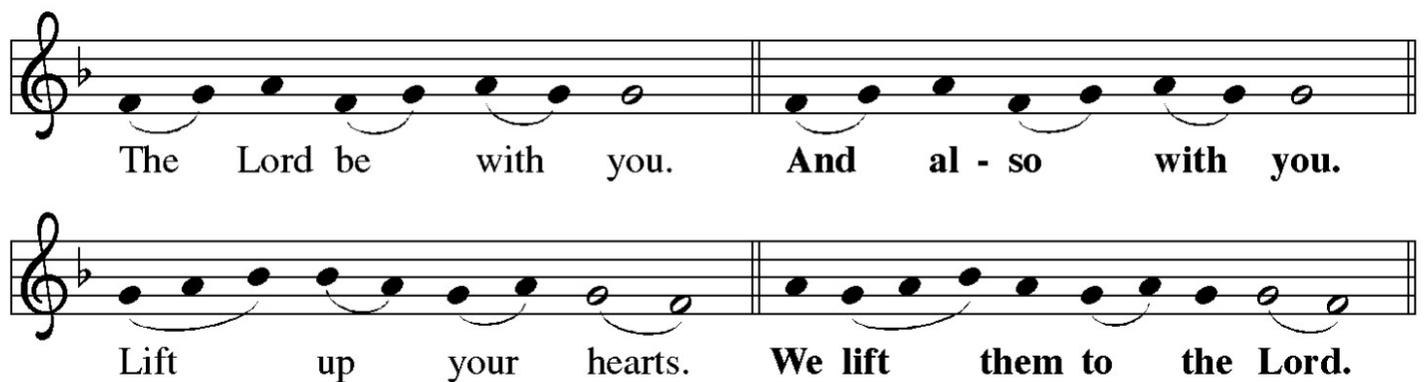
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERING PRAYER

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. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the

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

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

The kingdom of God is set before you.
Eat and rejoice

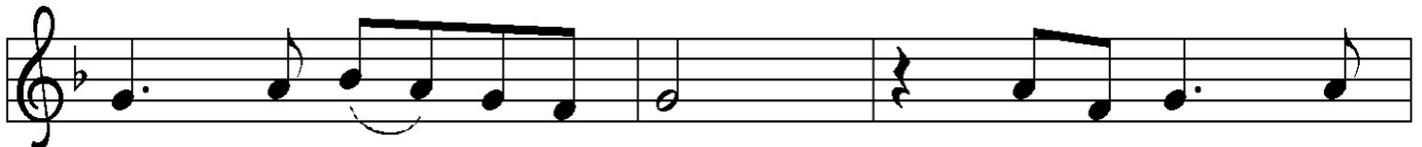
COMMUNION SONG



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. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion: O Love, That Will Not Let Me Go
Mr. Butler, baritone

John Ness Beck
(1930-1987)

O Love, that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give Thee back the life I owe, that in Thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. O joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall tearless be.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service ELW 712

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Fanfare

Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

Upcoming Special Music:

September 7: Carol Butler, Richard Evert, Heidi Hall

Choir Returns

Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 10, at 7 pm! All are welcome!

Special Congregational Meeting September 7th

This meeting is being called to approve repaving the upper parking Lot.

Church Picnic Sunday September 14

Mark your calendar to join us for our annual picnic following our 10:00 AM service. We will be serving BBQ Ribs and Chicken.

Please bring a covered dish. If your **last name** starts with

A-F - bring a dessert

G-N - bring a salad or appetizer

O-Z - bring side dish

We will have special music from **Tom Judge**, who plays in the band *Digital Natives*. Tom is the son-in-law of Mary Ann and Russ Poling. Tom recently played in the Battle of the Bands at the Fan Fest for the Hall of Fame. There will be games on the lawn, so plan to join in the fun.

Adult Sunday School

Beginning September 21

Who is God the Holy Spirit?

“The Spirit will guide you into all truth.” (John 16:13a)

The Holy Spirit may be the most neglected and misunderstood person of the Holy Trinity. God the Father and God the Son seem more relatable and easier to embrace. The lessons for September and October will focus on the person and work of the Holy Spirit and the privilege we have as believers to access this “power from on high.” Please join us following the Sunday worship service in the Parish Hall, top floor, as we begin this interesting series of lessons. We typically start at 11:30 and conclude shortly past noon. An elevator is available for easy access. Hope to see you there!

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Beginning September 11th 10:00 am

Everywhere Is Jerusalem: Experiencing the Holy Then and Now

By James Howell

In *Everywhere Is Jerusalem*, James Howell takes you on a spiritual pilgrimage to significant places in the ongoing story of the Christian faith. You'll go from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, from the Jordan River to Assisi, and from the Sea of Galilee to Montgomery, Alabama. Along the way, you'll discover the profound connections between biblical stories and the places they happened.

Part travelogue, part Bible study, this book will take you on a spiritual journey to the places that are most important in our faith, and you'll discover that the most important place of all is the place where you are, right now.

Capital Campaign Report

Construction is well underway on our new entrance and restrooms, and we are deeply grateful for the generosity of our members that has made this possible—**the project is fully funded!**

However, this is not the end of our building and maintenance needs. Two important projects still lie ahead: addressing the window wells around the base of the Parish Hall and upgrading the heating and cooling system in that same space. While we do not yet have formal estimates for these projects, we know they will come at a significant cost.

That's why we are asking everyone to continue supporting the Capital Campaign. Your continued giving will ensure that we can maintain a safe, welcoming, and comfortable environment for all who come through our doors.

We hope to have estimates for the next phase of work by the end of the summer and will keep you informed as those plans develop. In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing faithfulness and generosity.

Download the St. Paul's Phone APP

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the "My Church" by Pushpay. It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing STPLC APP.

Then click on the St Paul's logo—that's it.



Community Social Media Pages

Facebook & Instagram, Search "*Massillon Lutheran Churches*"

Facebook

"St Paul's Lutheran Church in Massillon"
or *"Cathedral Concerts at St Paul's"*

Assisted Hearing Devices Available

Four assisted listening devices are available at the sound system table in the back of the sanctuary at the beginning of worship. Please see Jim Johnson or John Stanko if you need assistance with these devices.



You can also use your smartphone to access the system. Go to your app store and download the **WaveCAST** app. Then connect to the sanctuary Wi-Fi: **Network:** sound media **Password:** Sound127

Thank you to those serving today:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Presiding Minister | Rev. Mark Kreemer |
| Director of Music | Dr. Abigail Haake |
| Assisting Minister | David Stoner |
| Lector | Larry & Kim Oberlin |
| Greeter | Sue Ambrosic |
| Communion Assistants | Shane Jackson & Jackie Pritchett |
| Sacristan | Lynda Klein |
| Ushers | Sue Ambrosic, Becky Johnson, Patty Long, & Sue Reid |
| Soundboard | Jim Johnson |
| Video/Live-Stream | John Stanko |

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GATHERING HYMN O God, Beyond All Praising ELW 880
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HYMN OF THE DAY As We Gather At Your Table ELW 522
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SENDING HYMN Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service ELW 712
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O God beyond All Praising



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day
2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown -
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav - en's gar - den grown:
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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As We Gather at Your Table



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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