

St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Crossroads (ELCA)

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Sunday, September 23, 2018

Season after Pentecost

Holy Communion

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.



LET YOUR GUARD DOWN,
LET GOD IN,
BE AMONG FRIENDS

WELCOME . . .

We are privileged to have you as our guest in the Lord's house this morning.

We pray that the time you share with us will be meaningful for you and that God will bless you through it. If you have a question that is not answered here, please don't hesitate to ask someone around you.

Registry: Please take time to complete the registry/attendance sheet found in the pew in the black folder at the center aisle. It is important to us that we know who is worshipping with us today. Thank you.

Worship: This booklet is our order of worship for today. Hymns are found in the "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" hymnals located in the racks on the back of the pew in front of you. Everything else is printed in this booklet.

Our worship includes **Holy Communion**. As Christians in the Lutheran heritage, we believe that our Lord Jesus is physically present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine we receive. However, if you believe that Jesus' body and blood were given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins, you are welcome to commune with us, regardless of your faith background. A white grape juice is available at the center of the tray for those who do not wish to receive wine. Gluten-free wafers are available for those with gluten sensitivity.

If you desire to receive communion but are unable to come forward to the communion rail, inform the usher of such and communion will be brought to you.

. . . WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Ministers:	The people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Crossroads
Pastor:	Pastor Creighton
Greeters:	Dennis and Carol Bergman
Accompanist:	Kathy Westerfeld
Acolytes:	Madelyn Bohman and Will Westerfeld
Assisting Minister:	Aaron Nicholson
Reader:	Tara Lay
Communion Assistant:	Darrell Nicholson
Sound System:	Jordan Meyer
Offering Counters:	Arnie Wehr and Larry Siebert
Altar Committee:	Gene and Mary Lou Krieger

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the † holy Trinity, the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Source of all life,

we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, † God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN:

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815

GREETING

The presiding minister and assembly greet one another.

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.

KYRIE

ELW p. 203

A Kyrie may be sung in dialogue between an assisting minister and the assembly.

♪ Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

♪ Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

**♪ Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW p. 204

**♪ Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

**♪ Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**

**♪ Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11:18-20

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

A reading from the eleventh chapter of Jeremiah.

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 54

The psalm is read responsively by verse.

¹Save me, O God, by your name;
in your might, defend my cause.

²**Hear my prayer, O God;**
give ear to the words of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,
those who have no regard for God.

**⁴Behold, God is my helper;
it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

⁵Render evil to those who spy on me;
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

**⁶I will offer you a freewill sacrifice
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

⁷For you have rescued me from every trouble,
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

SECOND READING: James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

A reading from the third and fourth chapters of James.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

^{4:} ¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit

yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: *He's Always Been Faithful*

The assembly stands to acclaim the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 205

**♪ Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰Jesus and the disciples went on and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat

down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *All Are Welcome*

ELW 641

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

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer.

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you gather congregations together by the power of your word. Bless leaders with the gifts of wisdom and discernment as they seek to make your church the community for which you long. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Creative God, blue whales and honeybees sing the goodness of the earth. Glaciers and deserts declare your greatness. Make us good stewards of our home for the generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, you raise up governments to protect the widow and orphan. Bless citizens with wisdom and discernment as they choose leaders. Inspire leaders to always seek the common good. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, you desire health and wholeness. Reconcile the conflicts and disputes among us. Teach us to heal the trauma of racism and poverty. Break our hearts open to all those who suffer and mourn, especially those listed in the bulletin and prayer book, and those we name aloud or in our hearts at this time.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Welcoming God, you place children among us. Teach us to honor the children in our midst and to pay attention to what they can teach us about who you are.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You surround us with a cloud of witnesses who announce the good news of abundant life to a sad and needy world. Make us a pilgrim people, always telling the story of your lovingkindness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray and all for whom we have forgotten or neglected to pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful
Offering Song

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
 Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister leads a prayer.

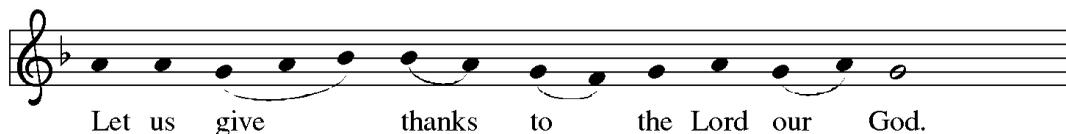
Let us pray together.

God of life,
you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen.

DIALOGUE

ELW p. 144

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.



PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 207

**♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the holy spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

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

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The assembly is seated.

All are welcome at Christ's table! If you are a visitor and receive communion at your home church, you are invited to do so here. Everyone is invited to receive communion or a blessing.

COMMUNION SONG

ELW p. 208

**♪O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**♪O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**♪O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond Amen.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

After Holy Communion has been distributed, the assembly stands and the presiding minister may say:

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

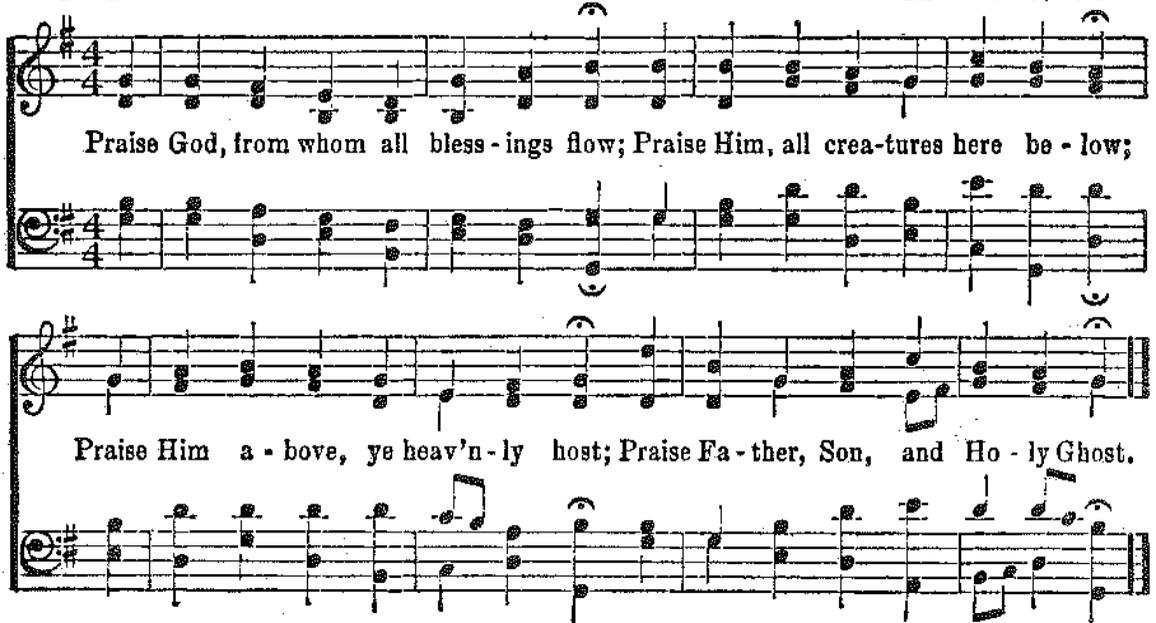
Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION:

ELW 884

THOS. KEN

LEWIS BOURGEOIS



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures here be - low;

Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

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 upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Jesus Loves Me!*

ELW 595

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister may address the assembly.

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

We remember in Prayer:

Carol Bergman

Aaron Nicholson

Todd Siebert

Sarajane Wilson

Art and Karen Salvitti

Marlin and Julia Siebert

Nick and Ivy Gunter and their unborn twins

Family and Friends of Travis Wenning (son of former BHS Ag teacher)

Steve Gookins (Friend of Les & Martha Kessens and Dennis & Andrea Westerfeld)

Nate McClintic (Spouse of Debbie Mack's co-worker)

Max and John (roommates of Noah Mack)

Hauser HS students involved in accident

Gary Schopmeyer (friend of Anita and Bob Krieger)

Steve Reen (neighbor of the Macks)

Ruth Booster (wife of former pastor)

Melody Briner (Marilyn Gausman's daughter)

Zach Briner (Marilyn Gausman's relative)

Lois Bastien Brown (Tim Salvitti's grandmother-in-law)

Marie Dierckman (Ginny Low's mother)

Bonnie Haughn (Sabrina Salvitti Haughn's mother-in-law)

Leonard (husband of Lisa Gausman's friend)

George Lerosé (Art Salvitti's brother-in-law)

Stella Long (Paul Gausman's sister)

Tessa Mayer (wife of Wanda Siebert's principal)

Bekah Netherton (daughter of Debbie Mack's friend)

Ronnie Nicholson (Darrell's brother)

Barry Norman (Lisa Gausman's former principal)

Carol Rayve (Karen Salvitti's mother)

Ted Rayve (Karen Salvitti's brother)

Beverly Richardson (Laura Nicholson's mother)

Kristina Salvitti (Art's daughter)

Charlie Seibert (friend of Anita and Bob Krieger)

John Ward (Eunice Sisson's brother-in-law)

Travis Wenning (son of former BHS Ag teacher)

Jasmine Westerfeld (Sharon Brown's great-granddaughter)

Melinda Wilson (wife of Ben Wilson)
anyone affected by natural disasters, warfare and violence
all who serve in the military

Honored Members:

Allen and Mary Lou Narwold

Bill Westerfeld

Our members at St. Andrew's: Julia Siebert

Ruth Thackery

Our Partner Churches: Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession, Slovak Republic and St. Mark Lutheran Church, Batesville

Today:

God has showered us with love, and we respond by uniting in worship. **Welcome,** one and all!

The **October newsletter** is available in the narthex. Please take yours – and any for your family – as you leave this morning.

This Week:

Office Hours – Monday

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Pr. Creighton's office hours –

Monday – Thursday

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Tuesday -

SEIC Clergy meeting

10:00 AM

Wednesday –

M'rita Moms

6:15 PM

2nd year confirmation class

6:30 PM

Choir practice

7:30 PM

Sunday -

Sunday School

9:00 AM

Worship Service

10:00 AM

Upcoming Events / Announcements:

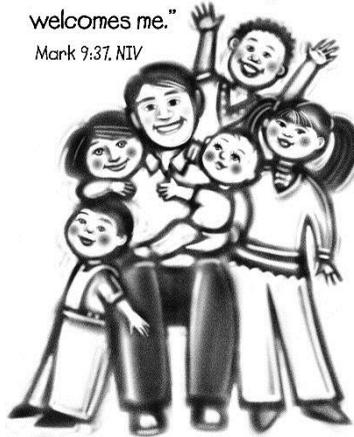
The **SEIC Pulpit Exchange** will be on Sept. 30th. We will welcome Pastor Sue Socha from St. Paul, Milan (Stumpke's Corner). Pr. Creighton will be preaching that Sunday at his home congregation Zion, Manchester.

On the evening of Oct 4 (Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, Renewer of the Church) at 6 pm, we will have a **Pet Blessing Service** outside in the upper parking area weather permitting. **ALL Pets and their Humans Welcome!**

CROP Walk is October 7th at St. Peter's UCC (Finks). Please see Pastor Creighton or Ethel Ollier if you are interested in walking.

"Whoever welcomes one of
these little children in my name
welcomes me."

Mark 9:37, NIV



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