

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

PO Box 394, Batesville, IN 47006

Office Phone: 812.934.3970      Pastor Creighton's Cell: 812.655.4616

E-mail: [stpauls.crossroads@gmail.com](mailto:stpauls.crossroads@gmail.com)

Pastor Creighton's e-mail: [creighton.leptakjr@gmail.com](mailto:creighton.leptakjr@gmail.com)



Sunday, November 11, 2018

Season after Pentecost

Holy Communion

*Widows are visible everywhere in today's readings. Jesus denounces those scribes who pray impressive prayers but devour widows' houses. He commends the poor widow who in his view gave far more than the major donors. Jesus doesn't see her simply as an object of compassion or charity. She, like the widow of Zarephath who shares her last bit of food with Elijah, does something of great importance.*



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!**

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Ministers:	The people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Crossroads
Pastor:	Pastor Creighton
Greeters:	Tony and Lisa Gausman and Seth
Accompanist:	Sheryl Harmeyer
Acolytes:	Lexi Allison and Madelyn Bohman
Assisting Minister:	Aaron Nicholson
Reader:	Aaron Nicholson
Communion Assistant:	Darrell Nicholson
Sound System:	Seth Gausman
Offering Counters:	Curt Wehr and Les Kessens
Altar Committee:	Carol Siebert

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## 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.**

## For the Fruit of All Creation



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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## **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. 138

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

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.**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

ELW p. 140

*A canticle of praise may be sung by all.*

**♪This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor,  
blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **VETERAN'S DAY CONMEMORATION**



### **FIRST READING: 1 Kings 17:8-16**

*This chapter begins the story of Elijah. God sends a drought on Israel because of the sins of King Ahab. This passage depicts God's saving acts not only on behalf of Elijah, but also on behalf of those who are associated with the prophet, even a foreigner, the widow of Zarephath.*

A reading from the seventeenth chapter of 1 Kings.

<sup>8</sup>The word of the LORD came to Elijah, saying, <sup>9</sup>“Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” <sup>10</sup>So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” <sup>11</sup>As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” <sup>12</sup>But she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we

may eat it, and die.” <sup>13</sup>Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup>For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.” <sup>15</sup>She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup>The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 146**

*The psalm is read responsively by verse.*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,**

**and in that day their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**

**who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall reign forever,**

**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 9:24-28**

*The letter to the Hebrews describes Christ as a high priest who offers himself as a sacrifice for our sin. Christ does not die again and again each year. He died once, is alive with God, and will reveal himself on the last day.*

A reading from the ninth chapter of Hebrews.

<sup>24</sup>Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. <sup>25</sup>Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; <sup>26c</sup>for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup>And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, <sup>28</sup>so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to acclaim the gospel.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW p. 142

**♪Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## **GOSPEL: Mark 12:38-44**

*After engaging in a series of public arguments with religious leaders in the temple, Jesus contrasts the proud and oppressive ways of those leaders with the sacrificial humility and poverty of the widow.*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup>As Jesus taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup>and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup>They devour widows’ houses and for the

sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

<sup>41</sup>He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup>A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup>Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup>For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

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: *Lord of Light***

**ELW 688**

## **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.*

With the people of God gathered here and throughout the world, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

O God, preserve your church from empty piety. Stir up our will to act with mercy and compassion. Keep our bishops, pastors, teachers, and all who proclaim your good news strong in faith. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Provide all living things with sufficient food and clean water. Make us ever mindful of the farmers and laborers who supply us with food, and open our hands to share what we have received. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Awaken our nation to care for veterans and others who have experienced the stress and trauma of war or other military conflicts. Inspire us to promote the well-being of those who have put themselves in the service of others. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Bow down to meet those who are trampled. Greet them with mercy, and give new life to those who feel overwhelmed or broken by discrimination, grief, or illness, 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.**

Bless the ministries in our community that reach out to people who are unnoticed or neglected. Give us a common vision of justice that eliminates hunger, greed, and self-righteousness. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Bind us together with the saints of every time and place until we join them around your throne. 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 people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*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.*

### OFFERING SONG: *Let the Vineyards be Fruitful*

ELW 182

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.*

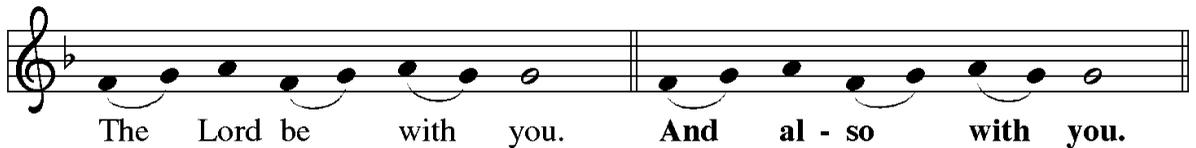
Let us pray together.

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.**

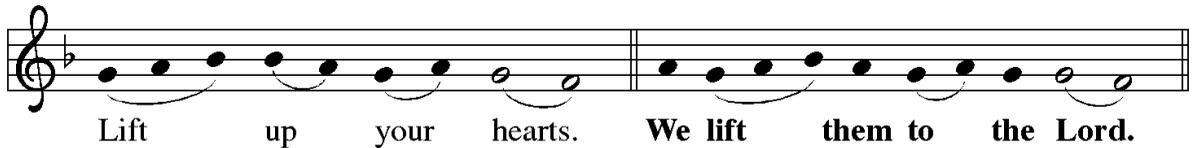
## DIALOGUE

ELW p. 144

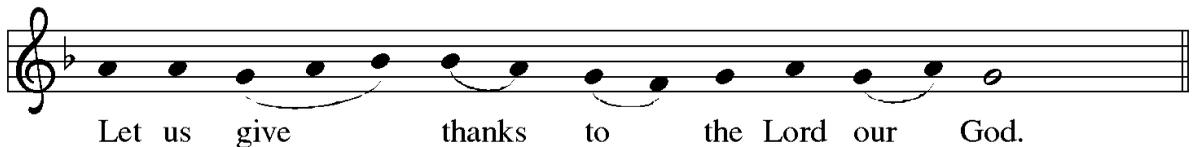
*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*



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.

## **PREFACE**

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

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW p. 144

**♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
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 presiding minister addresses the assembly in invitation.*

*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. 146

**♪Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

## 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**

**♪Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy 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.**

## Blessed Assurance



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*

This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

**DISMISSAL**

*The assisting minister may address the assembly.*

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS OF PEACE.**





## **Upcoming Events / Announcements:**

The **Semi-Annual Meeting** to receive financial reports will be November 18<sup>th</sup> following worship. Also, at this meeting, we will be adopting the 2019 budget and voting on a kitchen renovation proposal. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

The Food Pantry is beginning to **collect items for the holiday baskets**. They are asking us to collect 300 canned fruits and/or vegetables each month for both October and November. Please consider assisting with this vital community ministry. Your generosity and cooperation are greatly appreciated by our neighbors in need.

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## ***Be Not Afraid***

How would you live if you were not afraid? Fear is used by politicians to gain our votes, by the media to get our attention, by advertising firms to sell us what we don't need, and by TV evangelists to get our donations. What fears are used against us? One is scarcity, the fear that we won't have enough or won't get our share. Our false belief that having more money and "stuff" will save us binds us as slaves. In many cases, having less can free us to live by faith.

The writer of Hebrews 11:1 states, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Normally, we read forward from this verse, but the word "Now" is a clue that we should look back. Hebrews 10:39 says, "But we are not among those who shrink back and so are lost, but among those who have faith and so are saved." Who shrinks back? Those who are afraid. Who are saved? By implication, those who do not shrink back and are not afraid. So fear is not only a faith issue but an issue of our salvation. And is that not what we would expect? What more do we need to be saved from than our worst fears? What good is a savior who does not help us confront our fears? As noted above, our fears are the handles that marketers, politicians, and supervisors often use to control us and bend us to their plans and desires.

But like the pain that warns us of injury and nausea that tells us we are becoming ill, our fear has a positive use: it lets us know our vulnerability, and it tells us what we truly value and truly trust. "We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7). The powers and principalities promise us what we can see. Where do we put our true faith and trust?