

Dismissal

Hymn “In Christ There Is no East or West” ELW #650

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God’s People; Synod Authorized Minister: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Thadyn Conner; Altar: Nalani & Greg; Communion Server: Volunteers

IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, Wayne Schindler, Florence Dougherty, Laurie Switz Johnson, Heidi Stenerson, Linda, Richie Vlasak, Jeremy Munson, Kristy Gwin Solovey, Gordy O’Rourke, Marilyn O’Rourke, Larry Arndt, Carol Lydon Fronk, Nick Evans, Jack Arndt, Colin Niedfeldt, Mark Drews, Jan Brandau, Kathy Gruen Braun, Jeri Bauer Weger.

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Allen Roscovious, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton

CALENDAR

Wed., August 6	Final Wishes	7:00-8:00 PM
Sun., August 10	Worship	9:00 AM



St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI

8th Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 2025

**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ’s Family
In Spreading God’s Love and Mercy**

Today’s texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the “unhappy business” of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the “things that are above.” To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord’s supper and the encouragement of God’s word.

(Indicates the people should stand as they are able.)

Welcome and Announcements

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ☩ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

**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.**

***Hymn Faith Begins by Letting Go**
(Tune; For the Beauty of the Earth”

**Faith begins by letting go,
giving up what had seemed sure,
taking risks and pressing on,
though the way feels less secure:
pilgrimage both right and odd,
trusting all our life to God.**

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

Distribution

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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.**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to our Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places.....
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

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Words of Institution

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.

**Faith endures by holding on,
keeping mem'ry's roots alive
so that hope may bear its fruit;
promise-fed, our souls will thrive,
not through merit we possess
but by God's great faithfulness.**

**Faith matures by reaching out,
stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
sharing struggles, living prayer,
binding up the broken parts;
till we find the commonplace
ripe with witness to God's grace.**

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

***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.
Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a “vanity of vanities.” Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one’s work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

A reading from Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not

*Offering Hymn

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

Good -ness is stron - ger than e - vil; love is stron - ger than hate;
light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic - t'ry is
ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic - t'ry is
ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

*OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

Hymn “God Whose Giving Knows No Ending” ELW #678

***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** (God of grace, hear our prayer.)

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the
voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the
world.

OFFERING

toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do
mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil
under the sun? ²³ 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. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 49:1-12

Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell in the world,
² **you of high degree and low,
rich and poor together.**
³ My mouth shall speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.
⁴ **I will incline my ear to a proverb
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**
⁵ Why should be afraid in evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,
⁶ **the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own
prowess,
and boast of their great riches?**
⁷ One can never redeem another,
or give to God the ransom for another’s life;
⁸ **for the ransom of a life is so great
that there would never be enough to pay it,**
⁹ in order to live forever and ever
and never see the grave.
¹⁰ **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.**

¹¹ Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation,

though they had named lands after themselves.

¹² **Even though honored, they cannot live forever;
they are like the beasts that perish.**

SECOND READING

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

A reading from Colossians 3:1-11

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ 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. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation

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*GOSPEL READING

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God

The holy gospel according to Luke Luke 12:13-21

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ 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?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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

Sermon

Karen Sparling
Synod Authorized Minister