

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 Servers: 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, Brian Thompson, John Forbes

IN THE MILITARY

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

CALENDAR

Today	Noisy Offering	
	Birthday/Anniversary Fellowship	10:00 AM
	Council Meeting	10:15 AM
Wed., Aug. 20	Final Wishes	7:00PM
Sun., Aug. 24	Worship	9:00AM



St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
10th Sunday after Pentecost
August 17, 2025
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ’s Family
In Spreading God’s Love and Mercy**

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

**(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.

Merciful God,

**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.**

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.
Amen.

Hymn **"Faith of Our Fathers"** **ELW #812**

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**

**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.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

Distribution

"Lamb of God"

ELW p. 191

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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

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

***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

Hymn

"Christ, Be Our Light"

ELW #715

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.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God’s judgment, he suffers rejection. Today’s reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God’s word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

A reading from Jeremiah 23:23-29

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed! I have dreamed!” ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

Psalm 85

- ¹ God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:
² **“How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?**
³ Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;
⁴ **rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**
⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander
about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
⁶ **Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;**
⁷ nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.’”
⁸ **Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

SECOND READING

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

A reading from **Hebrews 11:29—12:2**

- ²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so

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

OFFERING

*Offering Hymn

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil



*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.**

Christ is the life of all that is,
Beginning and the End;
creative force, most peaceful death,
transforming burning brand.
Christ is the life, in whose wise love
creation lives and dies
and thus forevermore shall bless
the Source, the living Christ.

***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** (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² 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, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ 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 ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} 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, ² 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. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**

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***GOSPEL READING**

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

The holy gospel according to Luke 12:49-56

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹“I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they 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.”

⁵⁴He 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. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶You 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. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Karen Sparling

Synod Authorized Minister

***Hymn**

“Christ Is the Life”

(Tune: “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

Christ is the life of all that is,
God's pure creative Word,
whose pow'r beyond and through all space
the worlds to Being stirred.
Christ is the life beyond all time,
creation's birth and breath,
whose labor brings all things to be
and brings all things to death.

Christ is the death of all that is;
a broad and beck'ning tomb,
who welcomes us from well-worn ways
to darkness of the womb.
Christ is the death, the sinking down
past all desire and fear,
whose promise in the gentle dark
bids newness to appear.

Christ is the death of all that is,
a bright, consuming fire,
whose flames require our prior self
as kindling for the pyre.
Christ is the death of dusty days
of uncreative strife,
for out from fire we tread upon
the threshold of new life.