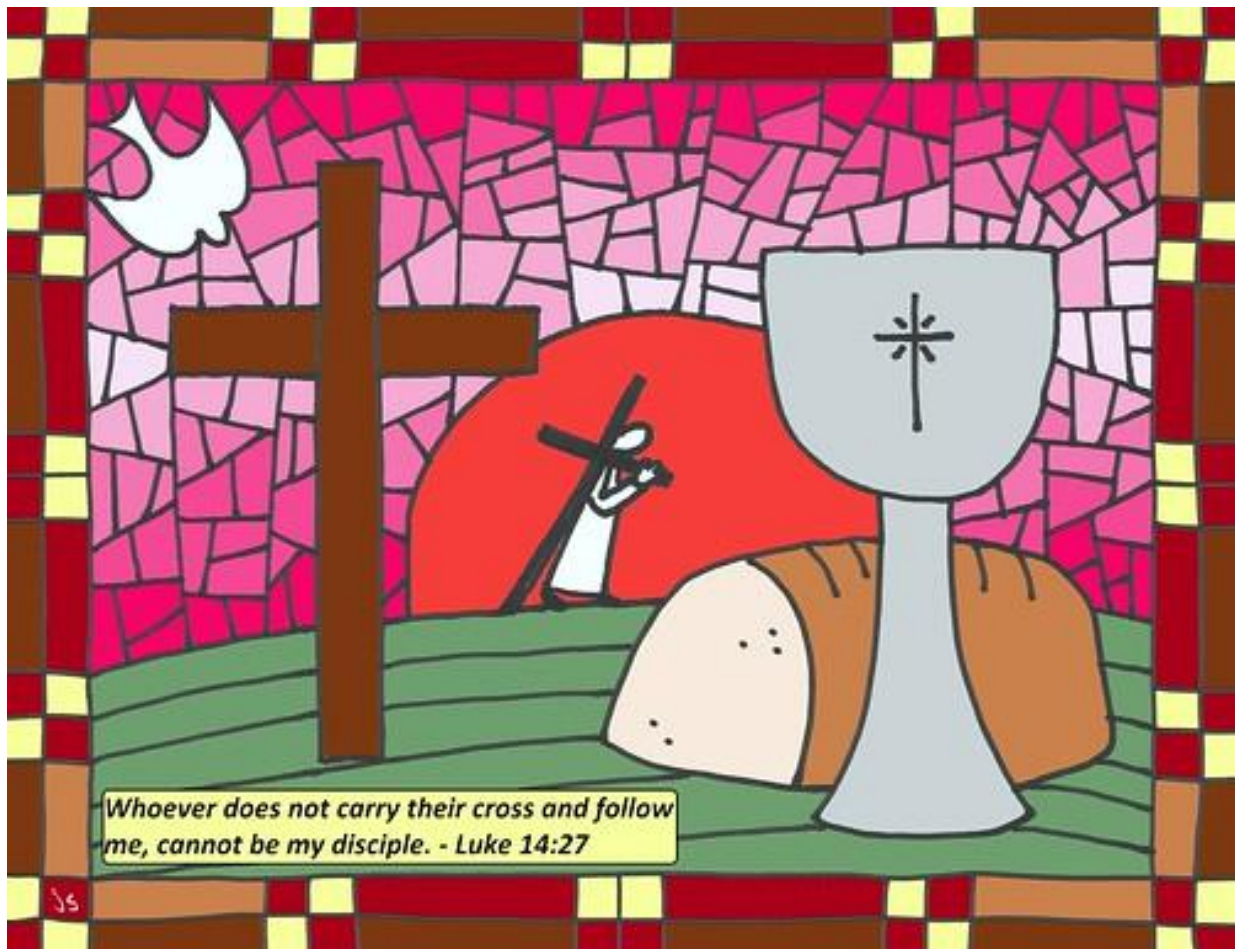


September 7, 2025
Welcome to Worship
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
ELW setting 2

St. Paul Lutheran Church
9844 SW Greenville Road
Greenville, Michigan



WORSHIP PLAN FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.
Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!
Amen.

GATHERING SONG ELW #810 O JESUS I HAVE PROMISED



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

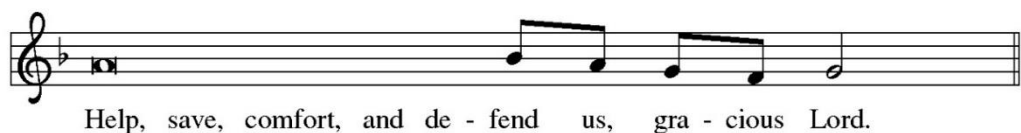
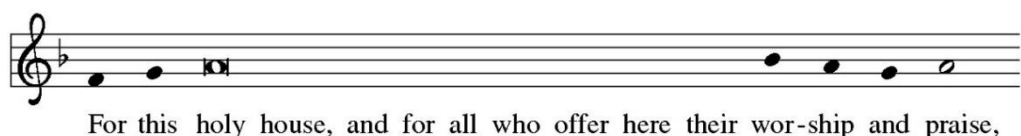
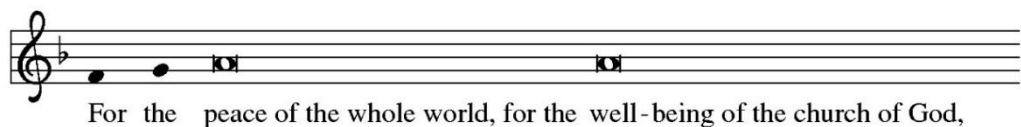
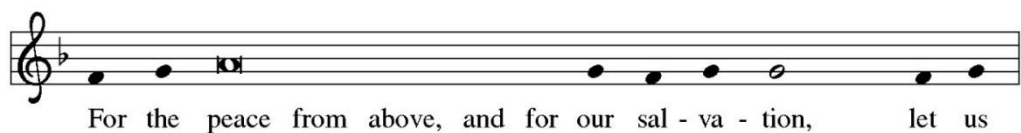


nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard-ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

GREETING (ELW p. 120)

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. (hands out)

KYRIE (ELW p. 120)



CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 121)

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 (ELW p. 124)

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1

- ¹ Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread
or sit in the seat of scoffers,
² **but their delight is in the law of the lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.**
³ they are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
⁴ **the wicked are not so
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**
⁵ therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,
⁶ **for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

A reading from Philemon.

- ¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow
soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:
³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I
hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I
pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you
comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received
much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the
saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.
- ⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command
you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of
love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of
Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father

I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 124)



GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (ELW p. 125)



HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #773 PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND

**Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone, Hear my cry, hear my call;
Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.**

**When the darkness appears And the night draws near,
And the day is almost gone, At the river I stand;
Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.**

CREED (ELW p. 126)

**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.**

***The word "catholic" with a small "c" means all Christians.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely. May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. We especially lift prayers for....

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

(continued on next page)

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints.
Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace.
God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

PEACE (ELW p. 128)

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you. (*hands out*)

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 SONG ELW #207 THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let

ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands. Bread, wine, money, and other gifts may be brought forward.

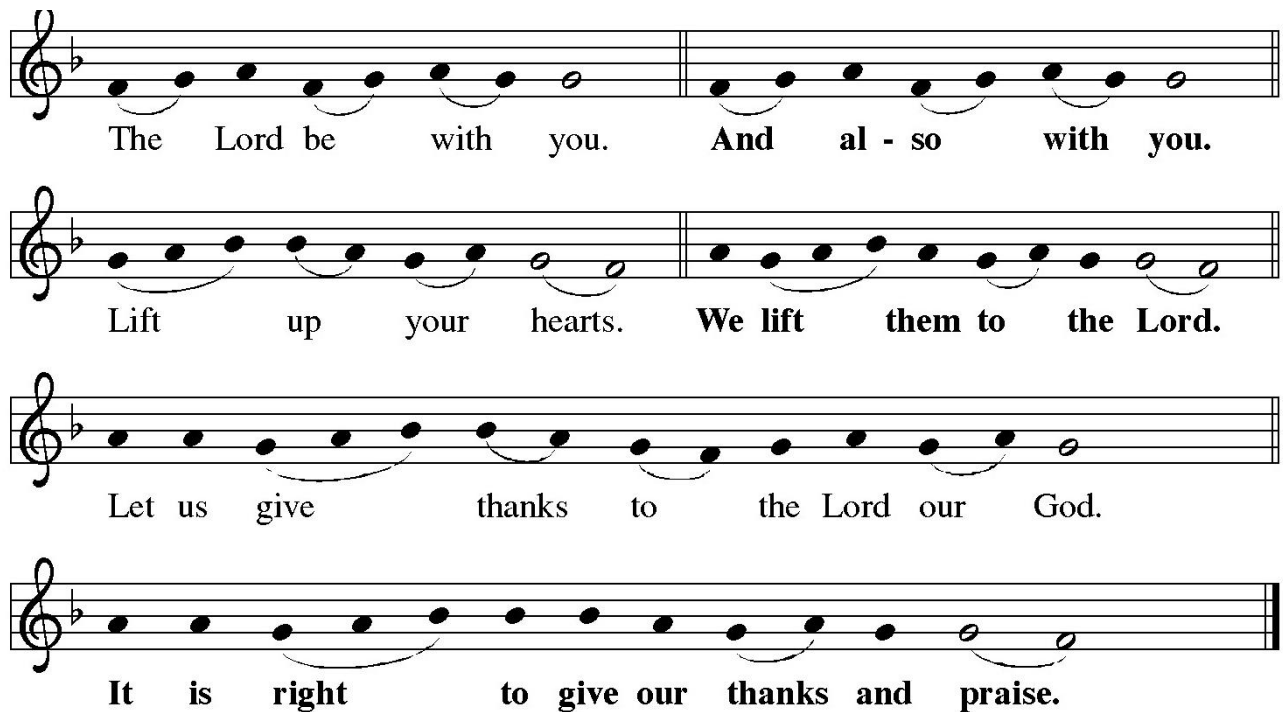
OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 129)

Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest,
We return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
But on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
To bless all who are suffering and in need,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 129)



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 (ELW p. 130)

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, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 130)

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 130)

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.

ECUMENICAL LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 134)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 134)

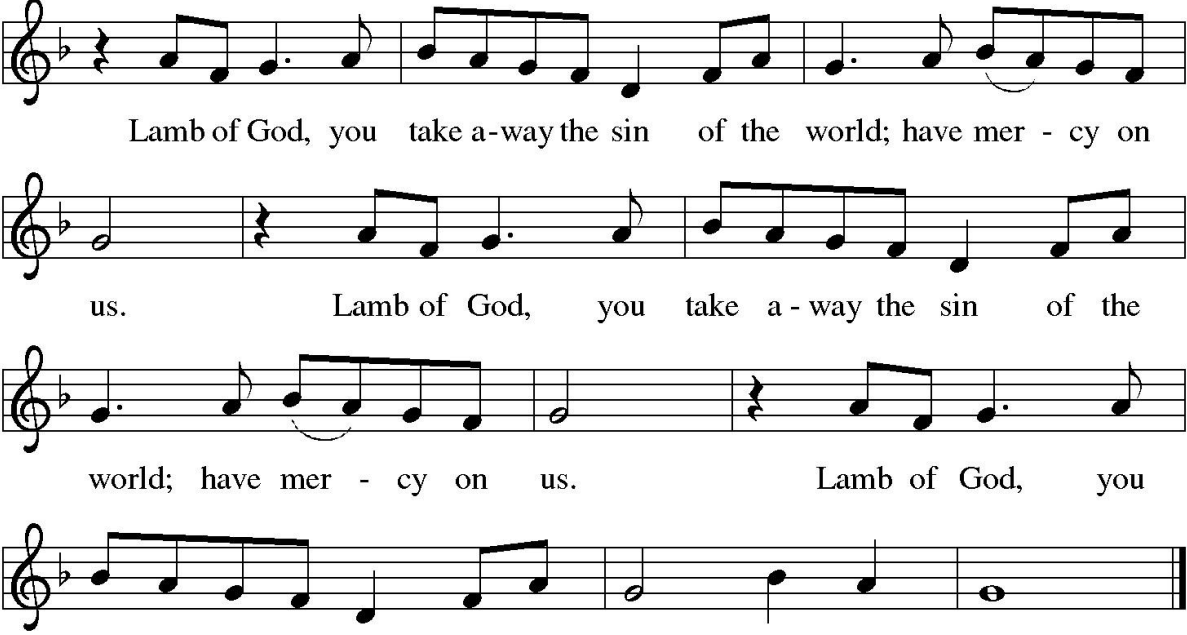
Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 134)

If it is too difficult to come to the Table, please let an usher know. Pastor will happily bring it to you in your seat.

*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.*

LAMB OF GOD (ELW p. 135)



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.

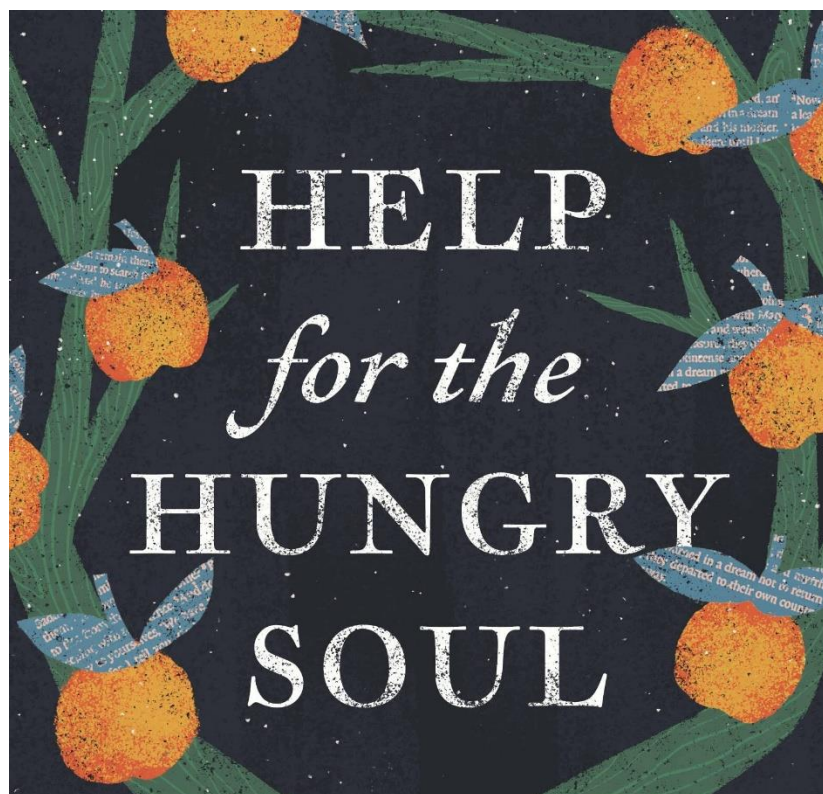
COMMUNION HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

ELW #479 WE COME TO THE HUNGRY FEAST

1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
 2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
 3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,

To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
 from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
 and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay

not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
 poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
 with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.



ELW# 793 BE THOU MY VISION



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



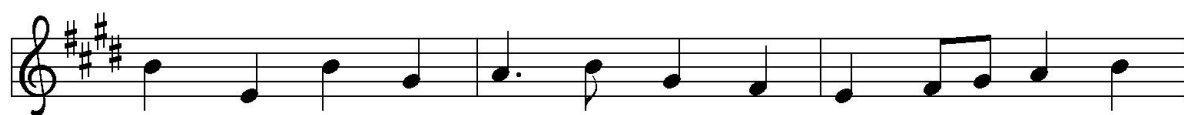
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.



FINAL BLESSING

SONG AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 135)

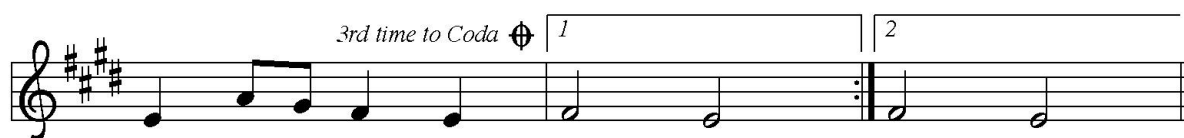
ELW 208 PRAISE TO YOU, O GOD OF MERCY VERSE 1*** ONLY



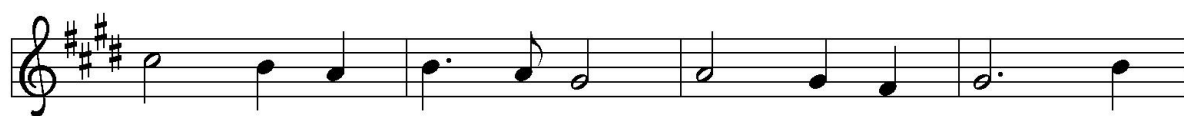
1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!
thanks be to you for - ev - er!
thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 136)

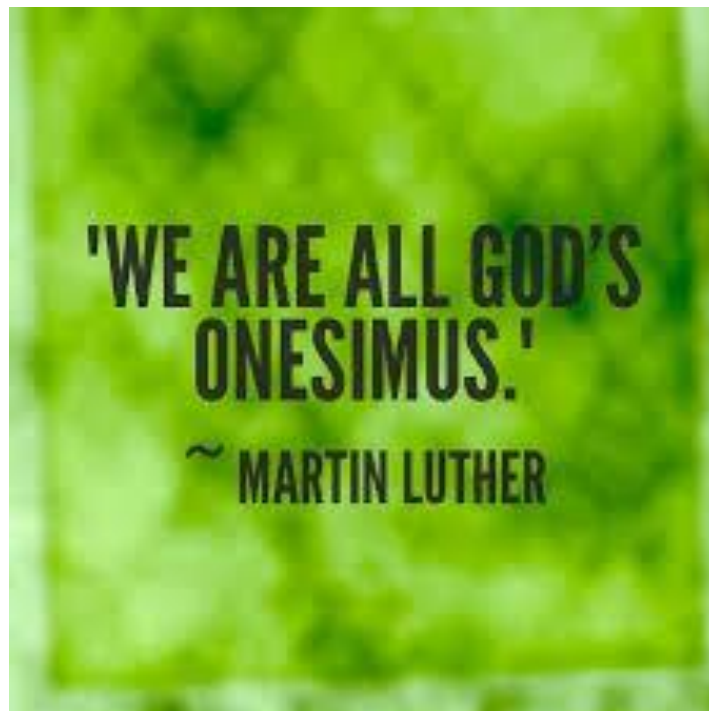
Let us pray.

O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD NEWS

BLESSING (ELW p. 136)

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.



SENDING SONG *ELW #805 LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL*



1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,



hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;
for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums,
Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;



and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 137)

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD – NEW INFO

Office address: 2740 Fuller Ave, NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49505-3746

Mailing address: P.O. Box 67

Holt, MI 48842-0067

Phone #: 517-321-5066

CAN YOU HELP?????? – ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

We have two empty baskets on the cabinets of the back wall. The Ecumenical Food Pantry needs our help. Please donate food items to help feed our neighbors.

COUNCIL REPORTS are due into the office by this Monday.

PRAYER CHAIN FOR ST. PAUL

If you would like to join the prayer chain, please contact Lynn Cooper at 616-754-5579.

CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTIONS –

MORE COPIES ARE HERE

The 3rd quarter devotion books are now available in a plastic stand back by the mailbox area.....near the door to the food pantry.

SPIRITUALITY AND PURPOSE IN LATER LIFE

This curriculum is a series that provides a space and a structure for exploring the challenges and rewards of aging with a spiritual context.

The Path Ahead will meet 6 times:

Sept. 14 Coming to Terms with Our Terms.

Sept. 28 Naming our Spiritual Needs

Oct. 5 Gratitude and Resilience

Oct. 12 Shifting the Lens from doing to being

Oct. 19 For the love of it. Passion and purpose

Oct. 26 Discerning the path ahead

We'll have videos and material provided that will enhance these topics.
Sundays from 5:00-7:00 at St. Paul Lutheran in Greenville.

Beverages and snacks included.

Facilitated by Shirley Moerdyk, spiritual director and trained facilitator for The Path Ahead curriculum.

RSVP Shirley at 989-287-0996. Donation of \$5 is appreciated for the cost of the materials.

ST. PAUL HEALING PRAYER LIST

Baby Liam, Carol Rasmussen, Dennis Dombkowski, Jere Schlaben, Joanne Bryer, Father Jim Wyse, Jilayne Thorington, Kay McCreedy, Lois Davis, Lucille Petersen, Ray Jensen, Shirley Sly, Pastor John Autio.

******If you want to have someone added, please email the main office, leave a voicemail on the main church phone number or text Pastor Nan***

MILITARY

Brian Blomstrom, Chris Miller, Hanah MacMillen, JD Johansen, Marcus Roy, Ryan Treynor, Steve Kowalewicz, Troy Thornburg, Tyler Markum, Vaughn Misner, Victor Rivera, Vinnie Baza.

SEPTEMBER SERVING CALENDAR

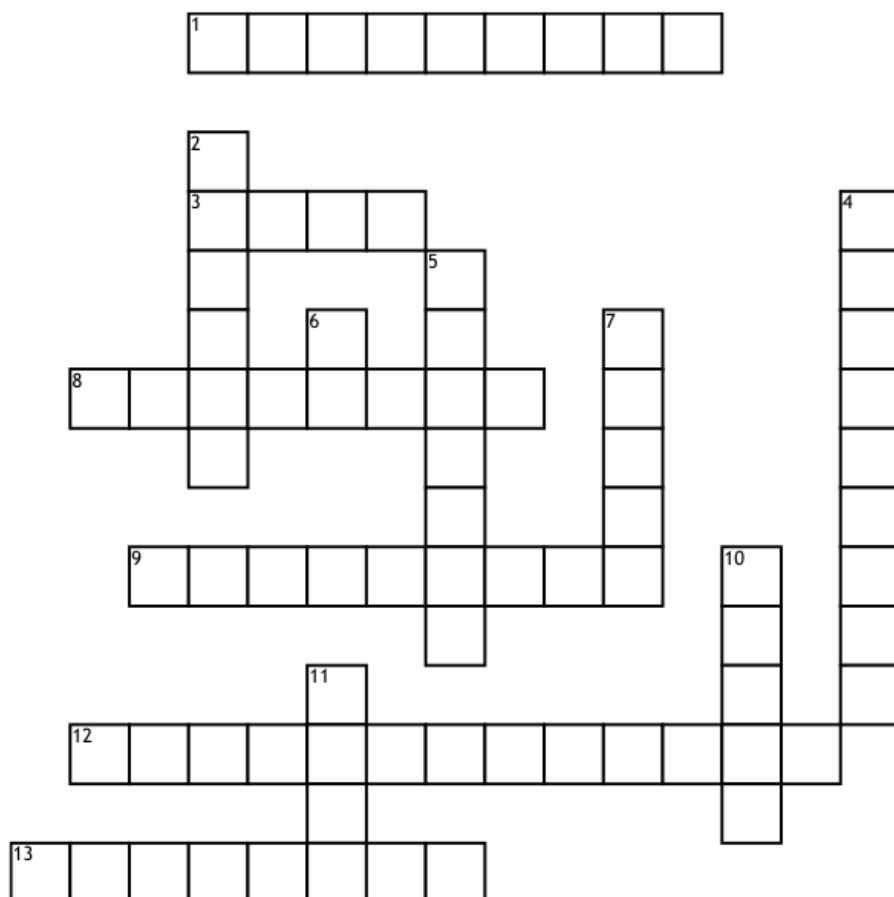
Date	Assist	Proclaimer	Sound	Lead	Usher	Nursery	Counters	Music
9/7	Alicia	Rocky	Lee H Diane Karen H	Curt	Donny	Joy S Karen H	Linda	
9/14	Rocky	Josh S	Diane Paul Connie	John C	Shirley	John C Lisa B	Sarah	
9/21	Connie	Lynn C	Lee H Diane Lisa B	Bob K	Amy S	Shirley Connie	Sarah	
9/26	Janet	Karen P	Paul Lee H Tara	Kevand	Linda E	Kevand Diane C	Sarah	

-This Week-

Sunday Sept 7	Worship 9:30AM
Monday Sept 8th	Council Reports – due into the church office Shalom Meeting 1:30 pm at Shirley's Al-anon 7PM Sabbath – Pastor Nan
Tuesday Sept 9th	Food Pantry 10-12 Bell Practice 6 PM Mutual Ministry 6 – 7 PM - Library
Wednesday Sept 10th	Bible/Book Study 2 – 3 pm Food Pantry 5:30-7:30PM Sabbath - Mark
Thursday Sept 11th	2pm COG Zoom with group 5 pm Worship and Music Meeting
Friday Sept 12th	Shalom ZOOM 1:30 PM qS7rfD.
Saturday Sept 13th	READ WITH PASTOR – THE BOOK THIEF 10AM – 12 Installation of New Mitten Synod Bishop – 4 pm GR
Sunday Sept 14th	WORSHIP 9:30AM - RED DAY BRING one FAVORITE CROSS TO CHURCH FOR OUR <u>HOLY CROSS CELEBRATION ON 9/14</u>

***Spirituality and Purpose in Later Life
with Shirley Moerdyck 5 – 7 pm***

PHILEMON



Across

1. Prisoner in Christ Jesus (23)

3. Who was writing the letter to Philemon? (19)

8. Who was the slave owner? (title)

9. What was he confident that Philemon would have? (21)

12. Who is Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke to him? (24)

13. Who was the slave (10)

Down

2. The grace of the lord Jesus Christ be with your ____ (25)

4. The favor asked was wanted to be ____ (14)

5. A man and a ____ in the lord (16)

6. charge it to who? (18)

7. NO longer as a ____ (16)

10. what did he want to refresh in Christ? (20)

11. What did Paul want to be prepared for him? (22)