

Welcome to St. Paul's The Lord Bless You as You Worship!

*But as for what was sown on
good soil, this is the one who
hears the word and
understands it, who indeed
bears fruit ...*

Matthew 13:23, NRSV



***Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2026***

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Rev. Lori Nickoloff, Pastor

Enter to Listen, Exit to Serve

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We're glad you're here! May you experience God's love through the words you hear and sing, the meal you eat, and the fellowship of God's people.

Prayer Requests If you have a prayer request, please give a note to the ushers or send an email to Pastor Lori.

Face Masks Just a friendly reminder...please wear a mask in the building if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19/experiencing any kind of respiratory or flu-like symptoms. Masks are available on the table in the narthex in case you forget yours at home. Thank you!

Holy Communion All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. (If you feel your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please speak with Pastor Lori.) Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Wine is in the outer rings of the tray. Grape juice is in the center of the tray. Gluten-free bread is available; please indicate your need to the pastor.

Pew Cushions Are available on the pew in the back of the sanctuary.

Hearing Assistance Individual hearing devices are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please return the device at the end of worship so they can be sanitized.

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We Worship God

Welcome

Prelude

"Prelude in D minor"

J S Bach

*The prelude is a time for people to become quiet, to meditate and pray, and to prepare their hearts and minds to worship God. You are invited to pray this prayer to help you transition from the cares and activities of daily life to worshipping the Living God: **God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

Please rise in body or spirit

Call to Worship

P: The word of God lights our way,
All: and shows our feet where to walk.
P: Accept our praise, O God,
All: and teach us all about your ways.
P: Your law is eternal and enduring
All: and makes our hearts happy.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.
Pause for silence and reflection.
P: Patient God,
All: You have taught us all we need to be your faithful people. And yet we persist in going our own way, doing our own thing, and minding our own business when we ought to be about the business of your kingdom. Forgive our selfish neglect of others and bring us back into wholeness with our brothers and sisters. Amen.
P: God is merciful, patient, kind and forgiving. We have been pardoned for all that we have done, and all that we have overlooked. May we give now as we have received: generously and extravagantly, in the way of our loving teacher, savior and friend.
All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn:

What is this Place?

#524

1 What is this place where we are meet - ing? On - ly a house, the
 2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in
 3 And we ac - cept bread at this ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a

earth its floor. Walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,
 us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and won - ders
 liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,

win-dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be-comes a bod - y that lives
 sent from the past are all we need. We in this place re - mem-ber and speak
 we are each oth-er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re - ceive

when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
 a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem-ing word.
 what we need to in - crease: our jus - tice and God's peace.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise:

Give to Our God Immortal Praise

#848

1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of

truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to
dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

Prayer of the Day

P: Holy God,

All: You scatter your word far and wide. Make our hearts fertile ground to receive it, grow it, and share its fruits with all who need to hear it, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

Please be seated

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

A: Good and gracious God,

All: as we turn to your Word, help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing and in our living. Amen

Psalm 119:105-112

A: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

All: I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.

A: I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word.

All: Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances.

A: I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

All: The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.

A: Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

All: I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

Romans 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not

belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

A: Word of God, Word of life.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Please rise in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil

#512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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The Gospel

P: The Gospel according to Matthew.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" "Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

Sermon

Rev. Lori Nickoloff

Following the sermon, there is a time of silence for reflection and quiet meditation.

Our liturgy is made up not only of words, gestures, and music, but also moments of silence.

As the hymn begins, the assembly stands to sing.

Hymn of the Day:

O God, Whose Word Well-Planted

ACS#975



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun - dred - fold,
2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.

who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;

where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

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Affirmation of Faith

A: Let us affirm our faith with this brief statement of faith.

All: In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

A: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A: When Jesus' listeners didn't understand his teaching, he explained it to them. Help us to be students of your word, exploring it with others and seeking your Spirit's enlightenment for our lives. God of wisdom,

All: hear our prayer.

A: As good soil encourages good growth, so you desire your children to bloom in this rich environment in which you have planted us. Help us to clean up the mess we have made of this earth, so that all might be able to grow and thrive as you intended. God of wisdom,

All: hear our prayer.

A: The law of the Spirit sets us free from the law of sin and death. May your word be our liberation to serve you in the joy of your grace, rather than imposing our own interpretations or opinions on others. God of wisdom,

All: hear our prayer.

A: Give your peace to those troubled by mental illness. Guide them to the help they need and be present that they might know they are never alone. We lift up those whom we know need your healing, (*especially...*) and those we name silently in our hearts. God of wisdom,

All: hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

A: We remember Nathan Söderblom, Archbishop of Uppsala, and all those who dedicate their lives to the work of peace, justice and unity. God of wisdom,

All: hear our prayer.

P: Accept these prayers in your never-ending mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ our sibling.

All: Amen.

Sharing of Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please turn to the people near you to offer a gesture of peace and the greeting, "God's peace be with you!" You are also encouraged to turn to the back of the sanctuary and greet the worshippers on Zoom with a wave or gesture of peace.

Please be seated

Offering

*This month our Local Hunger Offering will be given to **The Living Well**.*

Offertory Music

"Musette in G"

Francois Dandrieu

Please rise in body or spirit

Offertory Hymn: *verse 1 of Lord of Light*

#688

*Lord of light, your name outshining all the stars and suns of space,
use our talents in your kingdom as the servants of your grace;
use us to fulfill your purpose in the gift of Christ your Son:
Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.*

Offertory Prayer

A: Your spirit lives in us and keeps us focused on you, God.

All: **Receive these offerings which we bring now to your table, and sustain our
discipleship so that we continue to prize you more than possessions, and
your mercy more than material things. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

We Share God's Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

P: Creator God, you made this earth of paths and rocks and thorns and soil... .. And
so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels and all the company of
heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:



your glo - ry fills all heav-en and earth. . . . You are ho - ly, God.

. . . Bless - ed be the Sav-ior, the one who comes in your name.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Traditional; English text, hymnal version
 Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional
 English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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- P: Abundant God, from your good soil you make enough and plenty to feed and inspire all your children... .. Great is the mystery of faith.
- All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**
- P: Transforming God, where your children are in the grip of evil and bewilderment, bring them your courage and clarity. Where they are without deep root and facing trouble or persecution, give them patience and endurance. Where they are burdened by the cares of the world and tempted by the lure of wealth, offer them wisdom and understanding. And where they bear fruit and yield, make that fruit so plentiful that it may feed all in your world who hunger for faith, for hope, or for love. Sanctify your groaning creation, that your universe may breathe your breath and be filled with your life anew, that we may love what you love, and do what you would do, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

All: **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.**

Eucharistic Invitation

P: The spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead also lives in you! Come now to be fed at his table and sent out with the saints who serve God with their lives. All is ready!

All: Amen.

Please be seated

In This Feast of Love

ACS#962

The musical score is written for three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics in both English and a non-English language (likely a Scandinavian or Germanic tongue). The lyrics are: 'Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä, in this feast of love, in this 1 In this feast of love, in this 2 In this bread and wine, in this 3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us pöy - däs - sä syn - ti - sil - le feast of love, Lord, you share your bread and wine, you have prom - ised, peace, O Lord; fill us with the'.

Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä, in this feast of love, in this
1 In this feast of love, in this
2 In this bread and wine, in this
3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us
pöy - däs - sä syn - ti - sil - le
feast of love, Lord, you share your
bread and wine, you have prom - ised,
peace, O Lord; fill us with the

it - se - si an - nat, Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!
 blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.
 Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.
 joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

Text: Jarkko Maukonen; tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954

Music: TÄSSÄ PÖYDÄSSÄ, Jarkko Maukonen; arr. Mark Sedio

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Hymns During Communion:

As the Grains of Wheat

#465

I Am the Bread of Life

#485

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

#547

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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I Am the Bread of Life

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the
4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . .
5 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve that . . .

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you
flesh of the Son of Man . . . and . . .
I . . . am the life. . . . If you be -
you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . live for -
drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his
lieve . . . in . . . me, e - ven . . though you
Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . have . . .

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
come in - to . . . the . . . world. . . .

Refrain
All

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day."

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
 the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
 our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
 em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
 With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
 lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
 Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
 give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Table Blessing

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

All: Amen

Prayer After Communion

A: Jesus, Bread of life,

All: we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

Announcements

Benediction

P: Go confidently into the world knowing that God loves you, Jesus forgives you and the Holy Spirit guides you both now and into eternity.

All: Amen.

Litany

L: A sower went out to sow.

All: We want to be soil that grows the plants.

L: We want to be the ones result in fruit.

All: Because obviously that makes us “good,” right?

L: Except sometimes we’re not that soil.

All: Sometimes we just don’t get it,

L: and the seeds get eaten before they can grow.

All: Sometimes we doubt and stray when life gets hard,

L: and the seedlings wither.

All: Sometimes the clamors of the world make us forget our faith,

L: and the young plants are choked.

All: Does that mean we’re not “good”? Not lovable and acceptable to God?

L: God loves us in spite of our imperfections.

All: God can bring good even out of our failings.

L: The seeds on the path nourished the birds.

All: The seedlings in the rocky soil brought color and beauty for a time.
L: The young plants who died among the thorns fertilized the soil.
All: God still calls us to be fertile soil,
L: that we would receive and grow God's word and bear fruit in the world.
All: But God knows we will sometimes fail, and lovingly gives us new opportunities each day.

Having heard to word and shared the eucharist, we are sent to live our baptism through word and deeds, making known the love of Christ, and working for justice and peace in our families, communities and world.

Please turn to follow the flame as it exists the sanctuary.

Sending Hymn:

On What Has Now Been Sown

#550

The musical score is written for three parts: Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is primarily in the Soprano part, with the Alto and Tenor/Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the notes, with line numbers 1, 2, and 3 indicating different verses.

1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the
 2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
 3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may

pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
 cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
 meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low

grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
 Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
 you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

Sending

A: Go in peace. Live and love in the way of Jesus Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“Fantasy in G Minor”

Georg Philipp Telemann