THE CHURCH God WE WANTS

A CHURCH WILLING TO SAY HARD THINGS

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

September 10, 2023

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Paul's. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news of God's forgiveness through Jesus.

PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

God Almighty, you want all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. Forgive me as my sins of apathy and inaction are revealed today. Align my heart with yours when it comes to desiring others' salvation, especially when that means I have to be the bearer of bad news first. Give me the courage to share the message of your hatred and punishment of sin so that I can lead people to the message of your forgiveness of sin through Jesus. In his name I ask this. Amen.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Children's activity sheets are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. The church basement is also available with a live feed of the worship service along with a Kids' Corner for parents with children to utilize during the service if needed.

THANK OFFERING

You may leave your offering in the plate in the lobby. The QR code to the right will provide the link to our online giving option. If you're visiting with us today you are welcome to give an offering, but don't feel compelled by guilt or embarrassment to do so. God wants all offerings to be made freely and with joy.

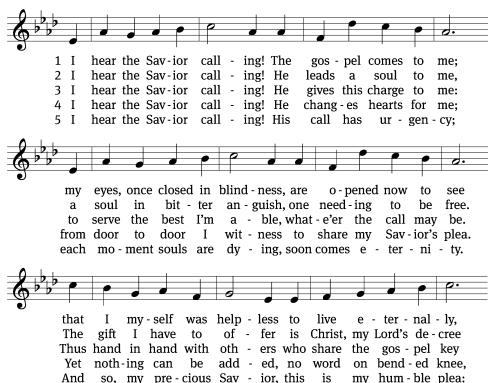


SETTING ONE p.154

The Service is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church that highlights the Word of God and the forgiveness, life, and salvation we receive through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

OPENING HYMN

743 I Hear the Savior Calling



but, dy - ing, Christ did save me, and now he calls for me! that all have been for - giv - en; my Sav - ior calls for me! we spread the gos - pel ti - dings; my Sav - ior calls for me! be - yond the sim - ple gos - pel; my Sav - ior calls for me! pre - pare me for my mis - sion, for you are call - ing me!

Text: John C. Lawrenz, b. 1943

Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–1874

Text: © 1993 John C. Lawrenz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889

Tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

DECLARATION OF GRACE

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



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GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH



The Word

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING Ezekiel 33:7–11

⁷But I have appointed you, son of man, to be a watchman for the house of Israel. So whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you are to warn them from me. ⁸When I say to a wicked man, "Wicked man, you shall surely die," if you do not speak to warn the wicked man against his way, that wicked man will die because of his guilt, but I will also hold you responsible for his blood. ⁹But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he will die because of his guilt, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰So you, son of man, say the following to the house of Israel.

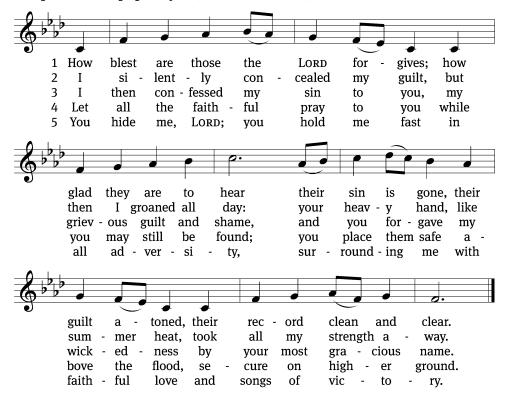
This is what you people are saying: "Certainly our rebellion and our sins weigh us down, and because of them we are rotting away. How then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, "As I live, declares the LORD God, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from their way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why should you die, O house of Israel?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAYPsalm 32B

Soloist sings verse 1; Congregation joins for verses 2-5 as comfortable



Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, ed. John Wyeth

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Tune: Public domain

SECOND READING

Galatians 2:11–16

¹¹But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly wrong. ¹²For before some people came from James, he ate with the Gentiles. But when those people came, he drew back and separated himself, because he

feared those from the circumcision group. ¹³And the rest of the Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴But when I saw that they were not acting according to the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of all of them, "If you, a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, why do you compel the Gentiles to live like the Jews?"

¹⁵"We are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners. ¹⁶We know that a person is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Timothy 2:4

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:15–20

¹⁵"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his sin just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have regained your brother. ¹⁶But if he will not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And, if he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as an unbeliever or a tax collector. ¹⁸Amen I tell you: Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Amen I tell you again: If two of you on earth agree to ask for anything, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven. ²⁰In fact where two or three have gathered together in my name, there I am among them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

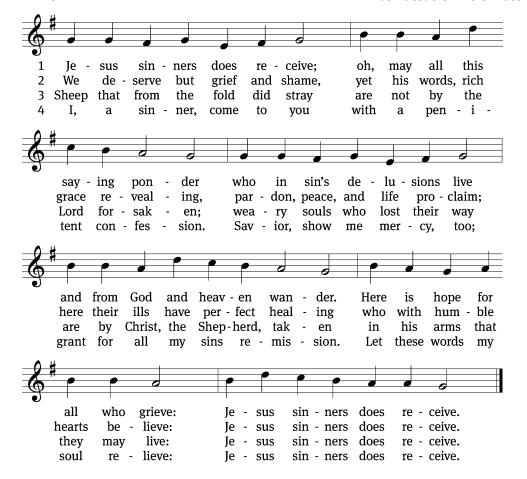
Praise be to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children who are in grade four and younger may come forward and sit on the front step for the children's devotion. Older children, parents, or other family members may come forward to encourage the younger children's participation.

HYMN OF THE DAY

654 Jesus Sinners Does Receive



- Oh, how blest it is to know, were as scarlet my transgression, it shall be as white as snow by your blood and bitter passion, for these words I do believe: Jesus sinners does receive.
- 6 Now my conscience is at peace, from the law I stand acquitted. Christ has purchased my release and my ev'ry sin remitted. Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners does receive.
- Jesus sinners does receive,
 even I have been forgiven.
 And when I this earth must leave,
 I shall find an open heaven.
 Dying, still to him I cleave:
 Jesus sinners does receive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr. Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, Darmstadt, 1699 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON *Matthew 18:15-20*

Go, Bind and Loose in the Love of Christ



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

OFFERING

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits from your entire harvest" (Proverbs 3:9).

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS (8:00 am)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near. **Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

Brief intercessory prayers may be added here.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

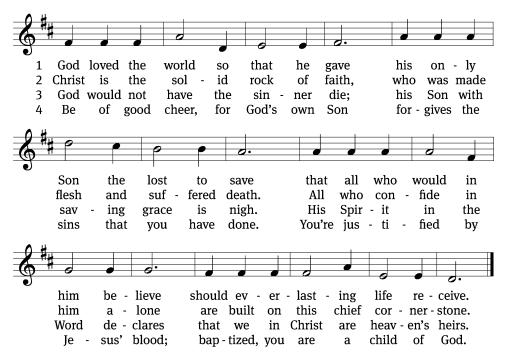
Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness. **Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again. **Amen.**

HYMN

570 God Loved the World So That He Gave



- 5 If you are sick, if death is near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer: Christ Jesus saves my soul from death; this is the anchor of my faith!
- 6 Glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One! To you, O blessèd Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens- Opffer, Stettin, c. 1778 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

745 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying

CLOSING HYMN



- 1 Hark, the voice of Je sus cry ing, "Who will go and work to day?
- 2 If you can-not speak like an gels, if you can-not preach like Paul,
- 3 If you can-not be a watch-man, stand-ing high on Zi on's wall,
- 4 Let none hear you i dly say ing, "There is noth-ing I can do,"



Fields are ripe and har-vests wait-ing; who will bear the sheaves a-way?" you can tell the love of Je-sus, you can say he died for all. point-ing out the path to heav-en, of-fring life and peace to all, while the mul-ti-tudes are dy-ing, and the Mas-ter calls for you.



Loud and long the Mas-ter call-eth; rich re-ward he of-fers thee. If you can-not rouse the wick-ed with the judg-ment's dread a-larms, with your prayers and with your of-frings you can do what God de-mands; Take the task he gives you glad-ly, let his work your plea-sure be;



Who will an-swer, glad-ly say-ing, "Here am I, send me, send me"? you can lead the lit-tle chil-dren to the Sav-ior's wait-ing arms. you can be like faith-ful Aar-on, hold-ing up the proph-et's hands. an-swer quick-ly when he call-eth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

Text (sts. 1–2, 4): Daniel March, 1816–1909, sts. 1,2,4, abr., alt Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896 Text and tune: Public domain

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY RETURN TODAY!

Our Sunday morning Bible study and Sunday School start back up today! Our first midweek studies will be September 12 and 13.

ST. PAUL'S CHOIR

Choir practice will begin on Monday, September 11, at 7:00 pm at church. If you enjoy singing, please join us as we sing God's praises. We will be working with the new hymnal and preparing for upcoming festivals and holiday services. Any questions call Brian Berg at 608-486-4049.

HELP BUILD UP SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is one of the main ministries our church offers to Christian families for the biblical instruction of their children. Sunday School lessons allow children to become familiar with Bible stories and create a deeper understanding of Scripture and of God's plan of salvation. It also helps develop the godly habit of attending Bible study on Sunday mornings beyond 8th grade. Parents can grow, too, as adult Bible study takes place at the same time.

The Lord blessed us with an increase in Sunday School attendance last year, but we're looking to continue to build off of last year and build up our numbers so more families are in God's Word together on Sundays. So we'd love to see you there when Sunday School and Bible study start back up on September 10. And bring a friend!

PUBLIC SCHOOL PRE-CONFIRMATION

If you have a child in the public school in grade 5 or 6, we will be having pre-confirmation studies on Wednesdays at 3:30 pm starting on September 13 (same time as confirmation class). The class will be led by Mr. Mark Larson. Please notify Pastor Groth at pastor@stpaulsbangor.com of your interest in enrolling your child.

USHER SCHEDULES

Copies of the usher schedules can be found printed in the narthex.

MIDWEEK STUDY – THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Our first midweek Bible study this fall will be on one of the most interesting books of Scripture: Revelation. Chapter by chapter the author cuts a pathway through each vision and prophecy of Revelation until he reaches the clearing where we behold a new heaven and a new earth. The 12 Lessons include: The Purpose, Outline and Interpretation of the Book; The Letters to the Seven Churches; God's Rule of the World; The Seven Seals; God's Judgment of the World; The Church Secure and Glorified; The Devil and His Helpers Appear; The Seven Bowls of Wrath; The Downfall of the Devil's Allies; The Millennium; The New Heaven and the New Earth; and Review. Join me as we dive into the imagery and meaning of Christ our Savior in the book of Revelation.

BIBLE BASICS CLASS

Our next Bible Basics class (also called Bible Information Class or the new member class) will be on Mondays at 6:00 pm starting Monday, October 2. If interested in attending, please contact Pastor Groth at pastor@stpaulsbangor.com.

SCRIP

St. Paul's gets money when you purchase gift cards through the Scrip program. The gift cards can be used for things you already purchase all the time from common stores (Hansen's, Walmart, Home Depot, etc.). The percentage of your purchases that St. Paul's receives varies depending on the store.

If you would like to purchase gift cards through Scrip, use the order forms found in the church lobby or at the school. Return the order form to the Scrip box at church by the 15th of each month. The cards will come in the mail and be distributed to you.

Or, if you're tech savvy, you can simply use the RaiseRight app and do everything from your phone. Your gift cards then are automatically added to the app and you can use the barcode that shows on your phone to make your purchases. Our school's enrollment code for the app can be found on a piece of paper next to the Scrip box at church or in the school office.

You can designate a specific family or the credit will go to the general fee assistance fund. Families will then be able to use the credit that was built up over the year (July 1 - June 30) and can choose to apply that credit towards next school year's tuition.

Thank you for considering helping out our ministry using Scrip!

CAMM LETTER FOR SEPTEMBER

Copies of the September edition of the Central Africa Medical Mission newsletter can be found printed in the lobby.

RECOVERY IN CHRIST OFFERS HOPE IN JESUS

A symptom of addiction of any kind is hopelessness. The focus of Recovery in Christ is to bring the hope of Jesus. RIC meets most Sundays (the next meeting is 9/10), 4:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Onalaska, Wisconsin (school library), and Wednesdays, 1:15 p.m. at Coulee Recovery Center at La Crosse's Coulee Recovery Center (933 Ferry St.). To confirm meeting days/times call 608-567-3038 for Sundays, 608-784-4177 for Wednesdays.

OLD HYMNALS

The old hymnals have been placed in boxes in the basement elevator hallway. On one side are hymnals dedicated in honor or memory of someone. The boxes are listed with the range of names contained within (there are a number of repeats) and are (generally) in alphabetical order. On the other side of the hallway are hymnals with no names mentioned for dedication. You are free to take any hymnals (and as many as) you would like, but please give first opportunity to families of the memorials.

COULEE REGION OWLS

The Coulee Region OWLS will be holding their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at First Ev. Lutheran Church, 400 West Avenue South, La Crosse at 12:00 noon for a potluck luncheon. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Coffee will be provided. All church members – men and women age 55 or older – are welcome. The program will be Jeff Essig, the new Manager of Good Steward, giving us a presentation about how Good Steward operates and who receives their profits. Please come for a visit, enjoy the friends you meet, a good lunch, and an excellent program. There will be a free will offering.

MEN OF HIS WORD CONFERENCE

The 7th annual Men of His Word Conference (Theme: MAN UP: in a man down world) will be held at the Rochester Civic Center in downtown Rochester on October 28, 2023. Please go online at www.menofhisword.org to register and get details about schedule, breakout sessions, keynote speaker, cost, etc. Join for a day of worship, praise and fellowship in God's Word!

OFFERING SUMMARY (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2023 Weekly Budget: \$11,203.00 Budget to Date: \$403,308.00 Received Last Week: \$6,672.68 Rec'd to Date: \$284,254.82

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 94 Live Stream Peak: 16 10:00 am: 98 Total: 208

CALENDAR

TODAY	8:00 am	Worship
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship
	7:00 pm	PACE Meeting
MONDAY	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
TUESDAY	7:00 pm	Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am 3:30 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study (same as Tues.) Public School Catechism Class Luther High Conf. of Delegates Meeting
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am 9:10 am 9:15 am 10:00 am	Worship with Communion Sunday School Bible Study Worship with Communion

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister Accompanist

Pastor Brock Groth Harriet Langrehr

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