THE CHURCH God WE WANTS

A CHURCH THAT'S QUICK TO FORGIVE

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

September 17, 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

Heavenly Father, you have forgiven my many sins, even sending your Son to pay in full the debt I owed. Help me to have the same forgiving heart toward my brothers and sisters. Bless me today with godly sorrow over my lack of forgiveness for others, and motivate me with your grace to be a servant who is quick to forgive. In my Savior's name I pray. 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.

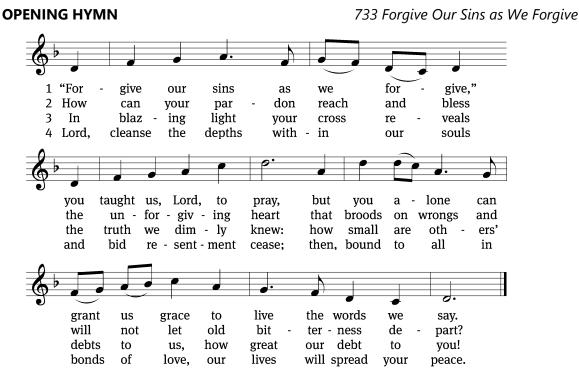


HOLY COMMUNION

Today St. Paul's will be celebrating Holy Communion. The Bible tells us that those who take the Lord's Supper together are to recognize that Christ's true body and blood are present in the Sacrament (1 Cor. 11:29), examine themselves (1 Cor. 11:28), and be united in faith with their fellow communicants (1 Cor. 10:17). For these reasons, it is our practice that only those who are members of St. Paul's or of a congregation within our fellowship join us at the Lord's Table. If you are interested in learning how you can partake of Holy Communion with us in the future, the pastor would be pleased to speak with you after the service.

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.



Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.

Tune: A Supplement to Kentucky Harmony, Harrisonburg, 1820, ed. Ananias Davisson

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Tune: Public domain

Stand

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

ABSOLUTION

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him."

¹⁶They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, ¹⁷'You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." 'Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants."

¹⁹Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. ²¹Now therefore, do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones." He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Ephesians 4:29-5:2

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come from your mouths. Say only what is beneficial when there is a need to build up others, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear. ³⁰Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with every kind of malice. ³²Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us.

¹Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. ²And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Colossians 3:13

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Bear with each other and forgive one another.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21–35

²¹Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?"

²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.

²⁶"Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, 'Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!' ²⁷The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'

²⁹"So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!' ³⁰But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.

³¹"When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.

³²"Then his master called him in and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

³⁵"This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

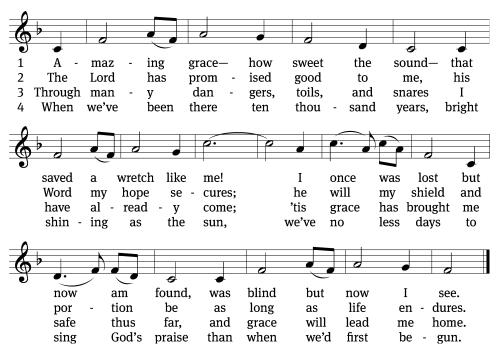
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated



576 Amazing Grace

HYMN OF THE DAY



Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790 Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON *Matthew 18:21-35*

The Forgiven Forgive.

Stand

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

OFFERING

"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. The one who sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:6,7).

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The pastor speaks the Prayer of the Church on behalf of the congregation.

Stand

The Sacrament

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we also bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. See p.295 in the hymnal for preparation.

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.

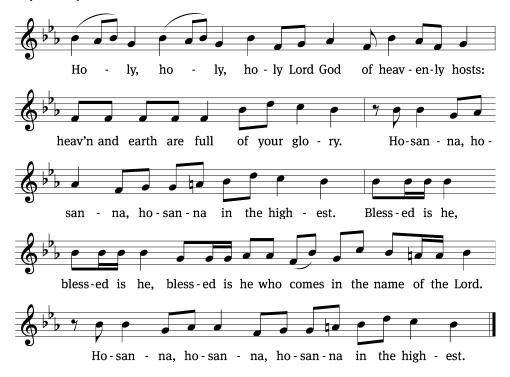


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

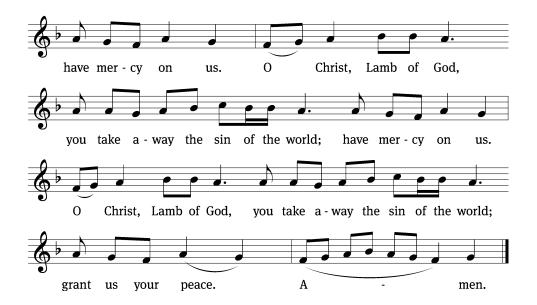
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen**.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



14



Be seated

DISTRIBUTION

"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:16,17).

Please follow the directions of the ushers during distribution.



712 Delay Not! Delay Not

DISTRIBUTION HYMN



Text: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872, alt. Tune: Welsh, 17th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

673 O Lord, We Praise You





Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2–3): Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter, alt. Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889 Tune: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

as needed



- Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear; the feast, though not the love, is past and gone. The bread and wine remove, but you are here, nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.
- Feast after feast thus comes and passes by, yet, passing, points to that glad feast above, giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy, the Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, abr., alt. Tune: Henry Lawes, 1595–1662 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

THANKSGIVING

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

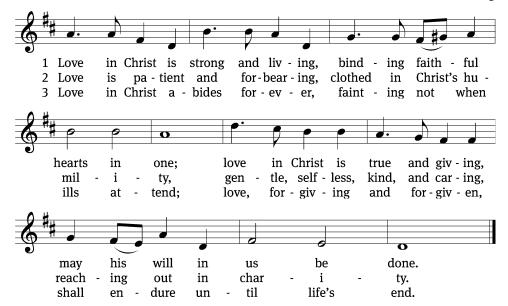
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Be seated



726 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

CLOSING HYMN



Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, b. 1934 Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY ARE BACK!

Our Sunday morning Bible study and Sunday School continue today. Sunday School for the younger children is downstairs in the basement. Bible study is as well. Sunday School for the older students is upstairs in the balcony.

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!

MIDWEEK STUDY - THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Our first midweek Bible study this fall is 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 us as we continue to 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.

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.

FALL SCRAP-N-CRAFT

Registration for this year's fall Scrap-N-Craft event can be found printed in the narthex. The event is at Mt. Calvary Grace School (1614 Park, La Crosse) on Saturday, October 14, from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm.

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: \$414,511.00 Received Last Week: \$7,711.46 Rec'd to Date: \$291,966.28

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 103 Live Stream Peak: 19 10:00 am: 87 Total: 209

Sunday Bible Study: 43 Sunday School: 10 Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 44

CALENDAR

TODAY	8:00 am 9:10 am 9:15 am 10:00 am	Worship with Communion Sunday School Bible Study Worship with Communion
MONDAY	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
TUESDAY	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Mornings with Mommy Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am 3:30 pm	Bible Study (same as Tues.) Public School Catechism Class
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am 9:10 am 9:15 am 10:00 am	Worship Sunday School Bible Study Worship

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister Accompanist

Pastor Brock Groth Irene Bakken

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