

OF PERPLEXING GENEROSITY

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

September 24, 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

Lord God, your mercy knows no bounds. You truly love all and care for all, which is especially seen in Jesus paying for the sins of all. Forgive us when we fail to remember that fact and when we look down on others for the mercy they need. Help us see clearer today that we need your generosity just as much as anyone else, and grow our faith in your generous mercy in our Savior Jesus Christ. We ask this in his name and to his glory. 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.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR (8:00)

Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

OPENING HYMN (10:00)

560 Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ



- 1 Your works, not mine, O Christ, speak glad-ness to this heart;
- 2 Your blood, not mine, O Christ, can heal my sin-ful soul;
- 3 Your cross, not mine, O Christ, has borne the dread-ful load
- 4 Your death, not mine, O Christ, has paid the ran-som due;
- 5 Your right-eous-ness, O Christ, a-lone can cov-er me;



they tell me all is done, they bid my fear de-part.
your wounds, not mine, con-tain the balm that makes me whole.
of sins that none could bear but the in-car-nate God.
ten thou-sand deaths like mine would have been all too few.
no oth-er right-eous-ness can set a sin-ner free.

Refrain



To whom but you, who can a-lone for sin a-tone, Lord, shall I flee?

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, alt.

Tune: The Parish Choir, London, 1850

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



A - men.

Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889

GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,

we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and promise to reward us according to your grace. Help us to rid our minds of worldly expectations and rejoice that you freely pour out the blessings of salvation to all people; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10–4:11

¹⁰When God saw their actions, that they had turned from their evil way, God relented from the disaster which he said he would bring on them, and he did not carry it out.

^{4:1}But to Jonah all this seemed very bad, and he became very angry. ²He prayed to the LORD, "LORD, wasn't this exactly what I said when I was still in my own country? That is why I previously fled to Tarshish, because I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abounding in mercy, and you relent from sending disaster. ³So now, LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."

⁴But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

⁵Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city. He made a shelter for himself there and sat in the shade under it, waiting to see what would happen in the city.

⁶Then the LORD God provided a plant and made it grow up over Jonah to provide shade over his head, to relieve him from his discomfort. So Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, and it attacked the plant so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, so he said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" Jonah said, "I do have a right to be angry—angry enough to die!"

¹⁰So the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant. You did not work for it or make it grow. It grew up in one night and perished after one night. ¹¹So should I not be concerned for Nineveh, the great city, in which there are more than one hundred twenty thousand people who do not know the difference between their right hand and their left—and also many animals?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

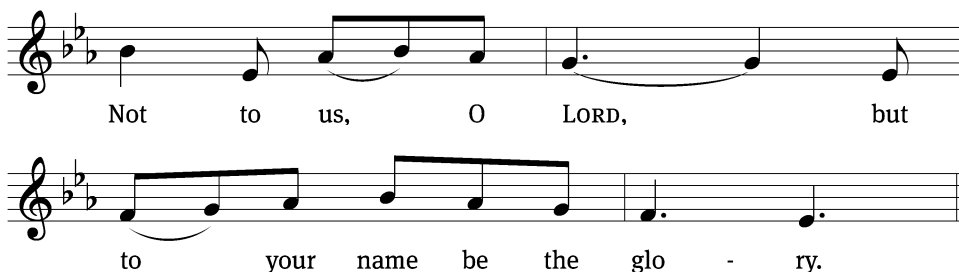
PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 115

Soloist sings first refrain and first stanza

Congregation joins as comfortable

Refrain



Tone



Why do the nations say, "Where / is their God?"

Our God is in heaven; he does whatever / pleases him.

The LORD remembers us and will / bless us:

He will bless his people / Israel,

he will bless those who / fear the LORD—
small and / great alike. *Refrain*

All you Israelites, trust / in the LORD—
he is their / help and shield.

House of Aaron, trust / in the LORD—
he is their / help and shield.

You who fear him, trust / in the LORD—
he is their / help and shield.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Tune: Michael D. Schultz

Setting: Michael D. Schultz

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SECOND READING

Romans 9:6–16

⁶This does not mean that God's word has failed, because not all who are descended from Israel are really Israel, ⁷and not all who are descended from Abraham are really his children. On the contrary, "Your line of descent will be traced through Isaac." ⁸This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are counted as his descendants. ⁹For this is what the promise said: "I will arrive at this set time, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁰Not only that, but Rebekah also had children by one man, our forefather, Isaac. ¹¹Even before the twins were born or did anything good or bad, in order that God's purpose in election might continue—¹²not by works but because of him who calls us—it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

¹⁴What will we say then? Does this mean that God is unjust? Absolutely not! ¹⁵For God says to Moses:

continued...

I will show mercy to whom I show mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.

¹⁶So then, it does not depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ephesians 2:8

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—
and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1–16

¹"Indeed the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing to pay the workers a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³He also went out about the third hour and saw others standing unemployed in the marketplace. ⁴To these he said, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing. ⁶When he went out about the eleventh hour, he found others standing unemployed. He said to them, 'Why have you stood here all day unemployed?'

⁷"They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.'

"He told them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last group and ending with the first.'

⁹"When those who were hired around the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. ¹⁰When those who were hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But they each received a denarius too. ¹¹After they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner: ¹²'Those who were last worked one hour, and you

made them equal to us who have endured the burden of the day and the scorching heat!’

¹³“But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not make an agreement with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last one hired the same as I also gave to you. ¹⁵Can’t I do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶In the same way, the last will be first, and the first, last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

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

558 Salvation unto Us Has Come (1, 6-10)



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and
6 Since Christ has full a - tone-ment made and brought to us sal -
7 Let me not doubt, but tru - ly see your Word can - not be
8 The law re - veals the guilt of sin and makes us con-science-



fa - vor; good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and
va - tion, each Chris-tian there - fore may be glad and build on
bro - ken; your call rings out, "Come un - to me!" No false-hood
strick-en; but then the gos - pel en - ters in the sin - ful



save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who
this foun - da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear Lord, I plead, your
have you spo - ken. Bap - tized in - to your pre - cious name, my
soul to quick - en. Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live; the



did for all the world a - tone; he is our one Re - deem - er.
death is now my life in - deed, for you have paid my ran - som.
faith can - not be put to shame, and I shall nev - er per - ish.
law no peace can ev - er give, no com - fort and no bless - ing.

- 9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
and rests in him unceasing;
and by its fruits true faith is known,
with love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
works serve our neighbor and supply
the proof that faith is living.
- 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
to Father, Son, and Spirit,
the God who saved us by his grace;
all glory to his merit!
O triune God in heav'n above,
you have revealed your saving love;
your blessèd name be hallowed!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Speratus, 1484–1551, abr., alt.

Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, Wittenberg, 1524

Text and tune: Public domain

God Gives What We Don't Expect

Stand

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).

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal God and Father, we thank you for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, and for fellowship with believers in our congregation and our synod.

Help us rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that

lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, Lord Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

Awaken us to opportunities to proclaim your message of love.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

Brief intercessory prayers may be added here.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer

Keep in your care those who are enduring chronic pain and incessant unhappiness, those enduring rejection and struggling with poverty, those mourning the loss of someone they loved. Bring healing and help and comfort and calm to everyone in distress.

Move us to act alone or join with others to provide help and support.

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.

HYMN

575 By Grace I'm Saved



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; my soul, be -
 2 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, came down to
 3 By grace! O mark this word of prom - ise when you are
 4 By grace to tim - id hearts that trem - ble, in trib - u -
 5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy - ing; in Je - sus'



lieve and doubt it not. Why wa - ver at this word of
 earth to bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own
 by your sins op - pressed, when Sa - tan plagues your trou - bled
 la - tion's fur - nace tried, by grace, de - spite all fear and
 prom - ise I re - joice, for though I know my heart's con -



prom - ise? Has Scrip - ture ev - er false-hood taught? So then this
 mer - it that Je - sus died, your soul to win? No, it was
 con-science, and when your heart is seek - ing rest. What rea - son
 trou - ble, the Fa - ther's heart is o - pen wide. Where could I
 di - tion, I al - so know my Sav - ior's voice. My heart is



word must true re - main: by grace you, too, shall heav'n ob - tain.
 grace, and grace a - lone, that brought him from his heav'n - ly throne.
 can - not com - pre-hend God by his grace to you did send.
 help and strength se - cure if grace were not my an - chor sure?
 glad, all grief has flown since I am saved by grace a - lone.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Christian L. Scheidt, 1709–1761, abr.

Tune: Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697–1775

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.

CLOSING HYMN

718 *Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose the Road*



1 Though thought-less thou - sands choose the road that leads the
2 In Christ, by faith, I wish to live, from him my
3 Christ is my ev - er - last - ing all, to him I
4 Soon will the Lord, my life, ap - pear; soon shall I
5 Soon will the saints in glo - ry meet, soon walk through



soul a - way from God, this hap - pi - ness, dear
life, my all, re - ceive, to him de - vote my
look, on him I call; he will my ev - 'ry
end my tri - als here, leave sin and sor - row,
ev - 'ry gold - en street and sing on ev - 'ry



Lord, be mine: to live and die en - tire - ly thine.
fleet - ing hours, serve him a - lone with all my pow'rs.
need sup - ply in time and through e - ter - ni - ty.
death and pain. To live is Christ; to die is gain.
bliss - ful plain, "To live is Christ; to die is gain."

Text: Joseph Hoskins, 1745–1788, alt.

Tune: William Knapp, 1698–1786

Text and tune: Public domain

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!

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING

Our next quarterly voters' meeting is Sunday, October 8, at 11:15 am in the church basement.

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.

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: \$425,714.00
Received Last Week: \$8,273.23	Rec'd to Date: \$300,239.51

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 115 Live Stream Peak: 20 10:00 am: 90 Total: 225
Sunday Bible Study: 42 Sunday School: 14 Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 39

CALENDAR

TODAY	8:00 am	Worship
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship
MONDAY	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
TUESDAY	7:00 pm	Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am	Bible Study (same as Tues.)
	3:30 pm	Public School Catechism Class
THURSDAY	2:00 pm	Ladies Aid
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion
	7:00 pm	PACE Meeting

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister	Pastor Brock Groth
Accompanist	Harriet Langrehr

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