



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 27, 2025

WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL!

We are happy to have you here!

HOW TO KNOW WHEN TO STAND, SIT, OR SPEAK

Whenever you see an asterisk (*) at a heading, you are invited to stand as you are able. You are not required to stand, so if, for health or emotional reasons you cannot or do not wish to stand, that is okay.

You are invited to speak the words printed in **bold type**.

WE ARE AN OPEN COMMUNION CONGREGATION

This means that any Christian who has received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is invited to receive Holy Communion.

HOW TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT US



Offerings can be made online at stpaulpgm.org/give, mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 200, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, placed in the mail slot (outside door to Pastor Paul's office), or in the offering plate located in the lobby/narthex near the entrance of the sanctuary.

GATHERING

The Gathering for worship began when you started readying yourself for worship

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

PRELUDE — *Out of consideration for our musicians, please refrain from talking during the prelude.*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin, in the presence of God and of one another.

L: Most merciful God, **A: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **A: Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN "It's Me, O Lord"**

(TFF 240)

Refrain

It's me, it's me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer;

it's me, it's me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.

1 Not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's me, O Lord,
2 Not the preach - er, not the dea - con, but it's me, O Lord,
3 Not my fa - ther, not my moth - er, but it's me, O Lord,
4 Not the strang - er, not my neigh - bor, but it's me, O Lord,

stand-in' in the need of prayer; not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's
stand-in' in the need of prayer; not the preach - er, not the dea - con, but it's
stand-in' in the need of prayer; not my fa - ther, not my moth - er, but it's
stand-in' in the need of prayer; not the strang - er, not my neigh - bor, but it's

Refrain

me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.
me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.
me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.
me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: STANDING IN THE NEED, African American spiritual

*GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: HOSEA 1:2-10

Because Luke often presents Jesus as carrying on the ministry of the Old Testament prophets, our first readings during these weeks are from several of those figures. This week we hear a central part of Hosea's preaching – the lovingkindness of God despite Israel's wandering ways. "Lo-ruhamah" means "Not Pitied;" "Lo-ammi" means "Not My People."

² When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take for yourself a wife of prostitution and have children of prostitution, for the land commits great prostitution by forsaking the LORD." ³ So he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

⁴ And the LORD said to him, "Name him Jezreel, for in a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. ⁵ On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel."

⁶ She conceived again and bore a daughter. Then the LORD said to him, "Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have pity on the house of Israel or forgive them. ⁷ But I will have pity on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God; I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen."

⁸ When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. ⁹ Then the LORD said, "Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not my people, and I am not your God."

¹⁰ Yet the number of the people of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which can be neither measured nor numbered, and in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God."

L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 138

(sung to the tune Candler)

The confidence displayed in this psalm is what allows Abraham and all who pray to persist in addressing God.



1. I'll praise You, Lord, with all my heart; be -
 2. May all the kings of earth praise You, Lord,
 3. Though I walk in the midst of strife, e'en

-fore the "gods" I'll praise im - part. I'll
 when they hear Your words so true. May
 there You do pre - serve my life. You

bow down toward Your ho - ly place, and
 they sing of the ways of God; the
 stretch Your hand a - gainst my foes; Your and

praise Your name for truth and grace. You
 Lord's great glo - ry known a - broad. For
 right hand saves; You them op - pose. The

have ex - al - ted o'er all things, Your
 though the Lord on high is great, yet
 Lord's own pur - pos - es for me, God

name and word, which true life bring. The
 God re - gards our low - ly state, And
 will ac - com - plish and ful - fill. Your

day I called, You an - swered me; You
 looks on those who hum - ble are, but
 love, O Lord, for - ev - er stands; do



SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 2:6-15 [16-19]

There appear to be people telling the Colossians that their salvation is not complete, but rather that they need to receive secret knowledge which only these people know. In response, the apostle affirms the completeness of Christ's work and reconciliation, and assures the Colossians that they are fully united with Christ.

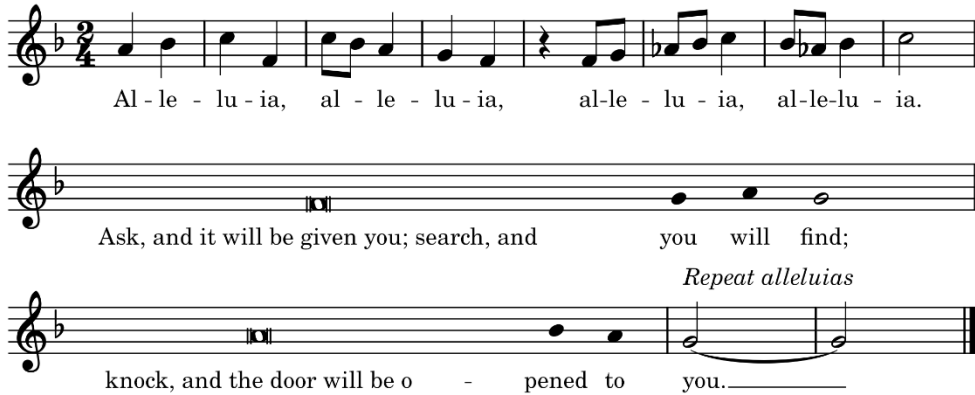
⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹²when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. [

¹⁶Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. ¹⁷These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.]

L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find;
Repeat alleluias
knock, and the door will be o - pened to you.

*GOSPEL READING: LUKE 11:1-13

While the image is not unknown in the Old Testament, Jesus makes the title of Abba central to his teaching about God. The understanding of the disciples' contemporaries was that the father was the source of a child's life; the mother simply provided the place for the fetus to grow and develop. So, calling God "Abba" did not only indicate a loving and guarding relationship, but affirmed that God was the source of the one praying.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the eleventh chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."² So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,' ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not

bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

L: The gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

(ELW 742)



- 1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
- 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
- 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

S: Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer. Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

S: Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

S: Teach rulers of the earth to sing of your ways, caring for the lowly and having no preference for the powerful. Direct the heart of every person to seek your will on earth as in heaven. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

S: To all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

S: Center the ministries of this assembly on prayer and service. Guide our relationships in the wider community, being ready to assist those who seek help. Strengthen feeding, clothing, and housing ministries and community partnerships. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

S: We give thanks for all who have gone before us especially Joyce Bloom, Irma Jones, and Helen Magnuson. May we trust your steadfast love and continue in hope until we are united with all your saints. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

S: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

A: Amen.

***PEACE**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also with you.**

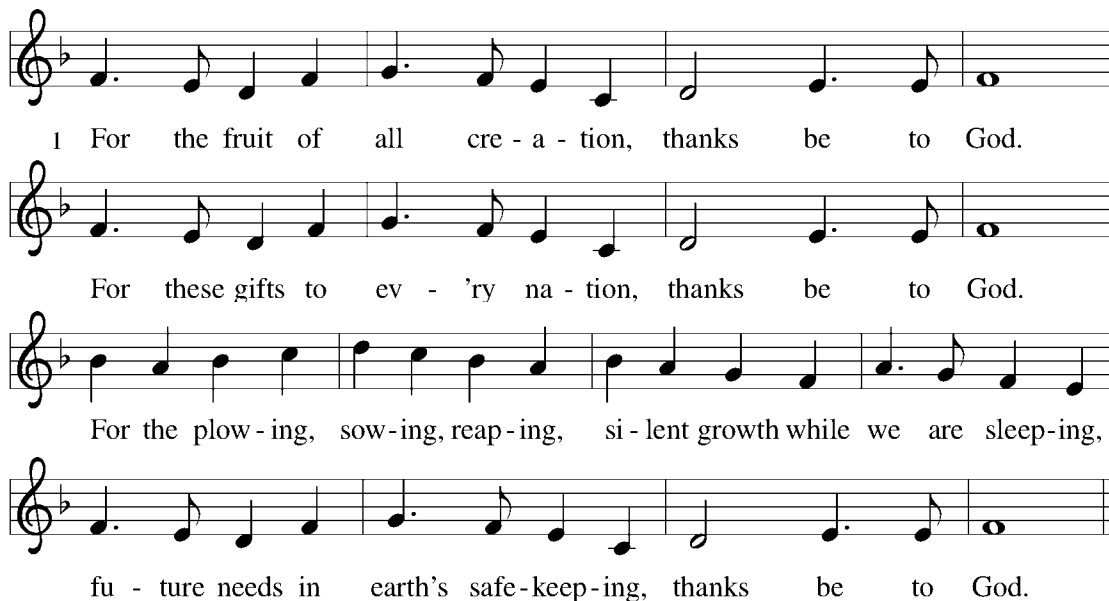
THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

***OFFERTORY: "For the Fruit of All Creation vs. 1"**

(ELW 679)



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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***OFFERING PRAYER**

S: Let us pray: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **A: Amen.**

*CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING: "O God beyond All Praising"

(ELW 880)



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,
but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-
and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,



we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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***THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

L: Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher, your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word. All that has life and breath praises your name. For your Word that sustains the earth, **A: We thank you, O God.**

L: You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, preached your mercy, and called us to faith. For your Word in our Lord Christ, **A: We praise you, O God.**

L: Nourish us with the Spirit of your Word, that we may grow in grace, bearing the fruits of redemption, and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world. For your Word in our lives, **A: We entreat you, O God.**

L: Accept our thanksgiving and receive our prayer, for the sake of your living Word, Jesus our Savior. **A: Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

**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.
Lead us not into time of trial,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
forever and ever. Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may be seated.

*BLESSING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

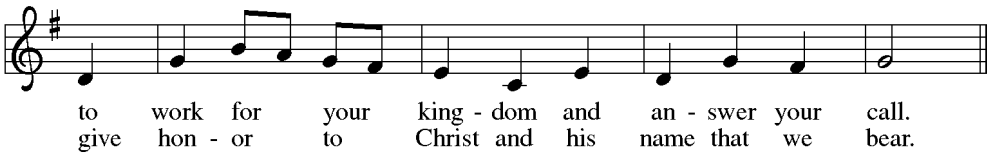
(ELW 547)

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 our 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.



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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***DISMISSAL**

S: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, July 27

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm 138 (8)

Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

Luke 11:1-13

Thursday, July 31

Proverbs 23:1-11

Romans 11:33-36

Psalm 49:1-12

Monday, July 28

Esther 5:1-14

Colossians 2:16—3:1

Psalm 55:16-23

Friday, August 1

Proverbs 24:1-12

Ephesians 4:17-24

Psalm 49:1-12

Tuesday, July 29

Esther 6:1—7:6

Romans 9:30 —10:4

Psalm 55:16-23

Saturday, August 2

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

Mark 10:17-22

Psalm 49:1-12

Wednesday, July 30

Esther 7:7—8:17

Matthew 5:43-48

Psalm 55:16-23



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader.....Sue Ellen Spotts
Assisting Minister.....Art Reede
Pianist.....Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....Ann Reede
Reader.....Ann Reede

ABOUT ST. PAUL

PURPOSE

We are a beacon, boldly sharing the light of Jesus' grace and love.

MISSION

Guided by Jesus, we strengthen faith, deepen compassion, extend generosity,
and serve community.

CORE VALUES

Faith ♡ Compassion ♡ Generosity ♡ Community

OUR BIBLE VERSES

As Paul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.
[Jesus said,] 'Paul is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before the nations.'– Acts 9:3,15

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock people, where we gather for worship this morning. We also acknowledge the Seneca, Cayuga, Lenne Lenape, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home.

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