

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 06, 2026

FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE
GATHER IN MY NAME,
there am I with them.

MATTHEW 18:20

Sharing the Good News of Christ With All People

The Divine Service

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 06, 2026

AS WE GATHER

Although the attention of many is distracted on this Labor Day weekend, the focus of the Readings is clear. We have a Savior who has come to find the lost and restore them through forgiveness, and we have a purpose in speaking this Gospel to the whole world. This is not an easy calling. The lost often do not want to be found, and the wicked are content in their ways. We act not as self-appointed guardians of the truth but as instruments of God, through whom He speaks His Word of love to the lost and erring and by whom they are saved. The most difficult application is always to those who have fallen from the faith into error or sin. Our greatest temptation is to surrender them to their error or sin. Our greatest calling is to address them with the voice of God's Word through whom the Spirit works to restore the lost. Today we pray that we will not be distracted from this goal and purpose.

Prelude

Invocation

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

☒ In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

☒ **Amen.**

☒ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession and Absolution

☒ Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

☒ **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

- ✓ In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

🎵 Amen.

Processional Hymn

"Thy Strong Word"

LSB 578 sts. 1, 5

1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
5 Give us lips to sing Thy glo - ry, Tongues Thy

speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
mer - cy to pro - claim, Throats that shout the

light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy ho - ly name.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! May the

Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
light which Thou dost send Fill our songs with

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ias, Al - le - lu - ias with - out end!

Greeting

- V** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

Kyrie

- A** *In peace, in peace...*

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. *to Verses*

- A** *For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the... Refrain*
- A** *For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the... Refrain*

Assistant:

Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:

God. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

"Now the Feast"

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit-ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God. *to Refrain*

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to
make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new. *to Refrain*

Salutation

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

Prayer of the Day

- ☒ Let us pray. O almighty God, You sent forth Your Son to gather the lost and restore them to You by His blood shed once for all. Grant us the same love and mercy that we may seek out the sinner, recall them to You through repentance, and celebrate with joy their restoration to the Body of Christ, the church; through Him who died that we might live and who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☒ **Amen.**

The Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7–9

⁷"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 13:1–10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Processional

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:1–20

☒ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

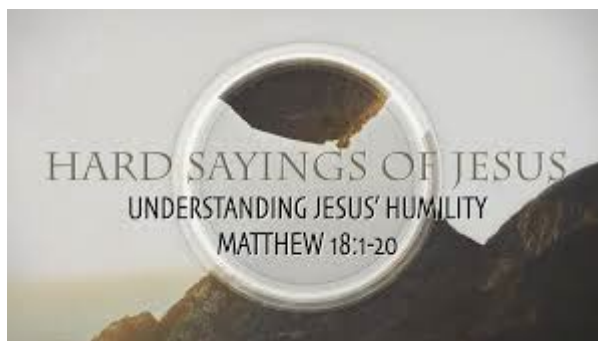
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels

always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence 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, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

☒ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

☒ **Praise to You, O Christ.**



Hymn of the Day "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" LSB 686 sts. 1, 3



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less
Bind my wan-d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me
feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

Sermon

"The Greatest? Grace!"

Vicar Tracy Bovee

Apostles' Creed

☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Prayers of the Church

*Petitions end, "Lord, in your mercy..." Congregation responds, "**Hear our prayer**"*

Offering

Offertory Prayer

☩ God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Receive now these gifts you have first given and fill us with good things at your table, that we might joyfully and generously share all you have given us, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

A word about Holy Communion *We are about to receive the Lord's Supper. Before you receive, you might consider the following questions: Do you believe you are a sinner? Do you believe Jesus Christ died for you and shed his blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins? Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper he gives you his true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and strengthens your faith in him and your love for others? If you are a baptized Christian and share these Biblical truths, please come! Those who have not yet received instruction may come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over their chest to indicate they are not receiving the elements.*

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

V The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

V Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

V Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

The Lord's Prayer

- ☒ Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.**

Words of Institution

The Peace of the Lord

- ☒ The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- ☒ **And also with you.**

(The congregation and minister may greet each other with the peace of the Lord)



Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:
 you are the way of mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
 grant us peace, grant us peace.





1 How can I thank You, Lord, For all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 2 It is Your work a - lone That I am now con - vert - ed;
 3 Lord, You have raised me up To joy and ex - ul - ta - tion
 4 Grant that Your Spir - it's help To me be al - ways giv - en
 △ 5 O Fa - ther, God of love, Now hear my sup - pli - ca - tion;



That You have pa - tient - ly Borne with me in my blind - ness!
 O'er Sa - tan's work in me You have Your pow'r as - sert - ed.
 And clear - ly shown the way That leads me to sal - va - tion.
 Lest I should fall a - gain And lose the way to heav - en.
 O Sav - ior, Son of God, Ac - cept my ad - o - ra - tion;



When dead in man - y sins And tres - pass - es I lay,
 Your mer - cy and Your grace That rise a - fresh each morn
 My sins are washed a - way; For this I thank You, Lord.
 Grant that He give me strength In my in - fir - mi - ty;
 O Ho - ly Spir - it, be My ev - er faith - ful guide



I kin - dled, ho - ly God, Your an - ger ev - 'ry day.
 Have turned my ston - y heart In - to a heart new - born.
 Now with my heart and soul All e - vil I ab - hor.
 May He re - new my heart To serve You will - ing - ly.
 That I may serve You here And there with You a - bide.



"May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill"

LSB 698

1 May we Thy pre - cepts, Lord, ful - fill And do on
 2 So may we join Thy name to bless, Thy grace a -
 3 Spir - it of life, of love and peace, U - nite our

earth our Fa - ther's will As an - gels do a - bove;
 dore, Thy pow'r con - fess, From sin and strife to flee.
 hearts, our joy in - crease, Thy gra - cious help sup - ply.

Still walk in Christ, the liv - ing way, With all Thy
 One is our call - ing, one our name, The end of
 To each of us the bless - ing give In Chris - tian

chil - dren and o - bey The law of Chris - tian love.
 all our hopes the same, A crown of life with Thee.
 fel - low - ship to live, In joy - ful hope to die.



Closing of the Table

Post-communion canticle



Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:

Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the

weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Strong is your faith - ful - ness; strong is your love, re -

mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.

Praise to you O God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for

ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:

Thanks be to you for ev - er. Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Post-Communion Prayer

- ☐ We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Announcements

Benediction

Recessional Hymn

“God Bless Our Native Land”

LSB 965



1 God bless our na - tive land; Firm may she ev - er stand
2 So shall our prayers a - rise To God a - bove the skies;



Through storm and night. When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of
On Him we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, Guard-ing with



wind and wave, Do Thou our coun - try save By Thy great might.
watch-ful eye, To Thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

Prayer Support

If you want to be lifted up in prayer, our prayer team is here to pray for you after the worship service. You can meet with them at the Communion Rail.

Dismissal

☒ Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....

☒ **Disciples making disciples.**

☒ Go in peace and serve the Lord.

☒ **Thanks be to God!**

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Investing for Time and Eternity

"... lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where moth nor rust destroys,
and where thieves do not break in and steal.

For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:20-21).



Celebrate Community with Small Groups at St. Paul!

Whether you're looking to join a group, learn more about how they work, or explore hosting one yourself, we invite you to visit our Small Group Ministry page <https://stpaulweston.com/groups/> and take the next step in your faith journey.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor

Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Mrs. Kathy Henze, Preschool Director

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Church Office (954) 384-9096 + office@stpaulweston.org

www.stpaulweston.org

Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Sunday School for children and youth: 9:45 AM

Adult Bible Study: 10:00 AM



Website and online giving

St. Paul
LUTHERAN CHURCH
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