

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



**Life does not consist in
an abundance of
possessions.**

Luke 12:15, NIV

Focused Living Properly Values
Earthly Wealth

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 7, 2022



Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

Service Notes For This Service



Jesus wants focused followers. However, one of the things that can most easily get in the way of our focus is our earthly possessions. It is no surprise, therefore, that Jesus' words so frequently focus his followers on wealth. Jesus' followers don't reject earthly wealth or despise it. They can be grateful for every good gift that comes from the hand of God. However, Jesus' followers value earthly wealth correctly. They understand what earthly wealth can and cannot do. They don't give earthly wealth a role in their lives it will never be able to fill. This week we focus on the fact that the identity and security earthly wealth can never provide is found fully and freely in Christ.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 11 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

Acknowledgements

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The Service: Setting Two

Setting Two begins on page 172 of the blue hymnal

Welcome

Hymn

754 Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness

Stand

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

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.

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.

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Glory to God in the Highest

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
 peo - ple on earth. Lord God,

heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your
glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. For you a -
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,
 with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of
 God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
 peo - ple on earth.

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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures you have stored up for us in heaven that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of your grace; 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

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2,12-14; 2:18-26

One of the wealthiest men to ever live experienced the limited value of earthly possessions.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

90A Fill Us with Your Love, O Lord

Please join to sing the refrain and, as noted, the verses.

Refrain



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Tone



Lord, you have been our / dwelling place
throughout all gener- / ations.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the / whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting / you are God.

You turn people / back to dust,
saying, “Return to dust, you / mortals.”

A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has / just gone by,
or like a watch / in the night. *Refrain*

Teach us to number / our days,
that we may gain a heart of / wisdom.

May the favor of the Lord our God / rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work / of our hands.

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*

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1–11

Life is valuable because we have been buried and raised with Christ in baptism.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 6:20,21

Please join to sing the Alleluias.



Refrain

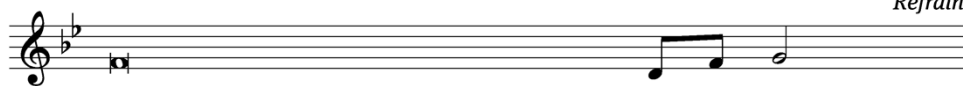


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Store up for yourselves treasures in heav - en,



for where your treasure is, there your heart will be al - so.

Refrain

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Gospel

Luke 12:13–21

Jesus warns against greed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

820 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Sermon

All Set

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

Connect Card

Please take a moment now to fill out a Connect Card.

Prayer of the Church

Lord, from whom all blessings flow, we praise you for everything you provide to sustain our lives. Guide us to manage your blessings wisely for the good of your kingdom.

As we use your gifts to meet our needs, move us also to support the ministry of the gospel with our offerings.

Work in our hearts so that our gifts do more than support a cause or meet a need. Move us to give out of love for you, our King and Redeemer.

Lead us to bring our gifts first to honor you, the Giver of all things.

Teach us to give as an ongoing part of life since the work of the gospel continues daily. Forgive our sins of apathy and carelessness and for giving that reacts only to urgent pleas or crises.

Help us see the wisdom of planning our offerings as a regular routine of our faith.

Teach us to give our offerings as a joyful response of our faith in you and your Son. Spare us all feelings of obligation or resentment as we give. Help us see our offerings as the vehicle that carries the gospel to the lost. Lead us to rejoice with the angels over every sinner who repents.

Help us to balance our duty to give with the joy of giving.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Precious Lord, all our blessings come from you. Lead us again and again to thank you. Move us to be wise and faithful stewards of your gifts. May our gifts and offerings bring souls here and far away to the gracious gift of Jesus and his love.

Lord, hear us and grant us this blessing. Amen.

Questions for Examination

- † Do I believe that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness?
- † Do I believe that Jesus died on the cross to win forgiveness for me?
- † Do I believe that Jesus offers his true body and blood with the bread and wine in this sacrament?
- † Do I believe this sacrament strengthens my faith and strengthens me to live a God-pleasing life?
- † Am I a member of a church that belongs to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS)?
- † If you answered “no” to any of these questions, please hold off on communing with us today. Following worship, one of the pastors would be happy to explain why we ask you to do this.

Offering

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



In Unity and Peace

Musical Offering

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

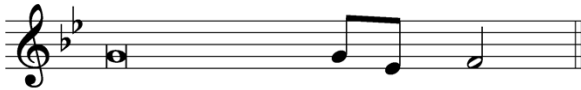
CW 183

The Lord be with you.



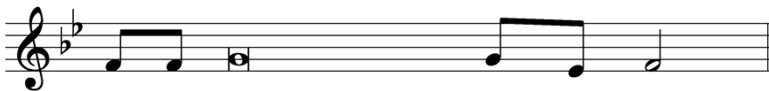
And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
 God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
 san - na in the high - est!

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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 temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. 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 T 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 T 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.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

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Be seated

Distribution Hymn

670 I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

Stand

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 you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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

Hymn

717 *What Is the World to Me*



Special Prayers This Week:

- Betty Meyer's 92nd birthday will be on Tuesday, August 9th.
- Delores Becker had successful surgery this past Thursday.
-

Take Home/Bible Study Questions

1. Some would say that Solomon comes to the conclusion that the rich fool in Luke 12 reached: that “Eat, drink, and be merry” is a good motto to live by (some call it *hedonism*, the pursuit of pleasure). Explain how Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 actually speaks against that.

2. Obviously, the sin of greed, like all other sins, starts in the heart. However, it usually does not take long to reveal itself in words and actions. Looking at Luke 12:16-19, what words of the rich fool (and perhaps even the attitude behind them) stand out as showing his greed?

3. The readings from Ecclesiastes and Luke are pretty quiet when it comes to the gospel; it doesn't jump off the page like it does elsewhere. This is likely why Colossians 3 was included with this set of readings. Where do you find the gospel message in those verses? *Remember, the gospel speaks only of what Christ has done for you.*

4. “All the church ever talks about is money.” You've probably heard that statement before; maybe you've thought it, at times. What do you think leads people to say that?
 - a. From a purely biblical standpoint, why must the church talk about money?

 - b. What things would be wise for the church to avoid as it talks about money?

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study: Sermon Deep Dive

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM
For the google meet link, contact a pastor.

Help at the Food Pantry

August 15-19

The next opportunity to serve at the local food pantry is August 15-19. The hours are 11:45-4:00 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The Tuesday hours are 3:45-7:00 pm. Groceries are collected for clients from a predetermined list. There is no direct contact with recipients.

The food pantry has been known as SWEPS (South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf). It is now known as FOCUS (Feeding Our Community with United Serves) and is a combination of SWEPS, The Neighborhood Table, and Rapids Family Backpacks. The new organization is located at 2321 West Grand Avenue, on the east side of the Sparhawk building.

If you are interested in helping at the food pantry Aug. 15-19, please contact Judy Anderson at 715-423-5922 or 5janderson@charter.net.

Before/After School Volunteers

The start of the school year is fast approaching, and we still need volunteers to help with before- and after-school care. You can do just mornings, just afternoons, or both. Volunteer every weekday or just a couple of days a week. Please contact Mrs. Carole Melso or Mrs. Kellie Jensen if you are interested: littlelambs@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634 ext. 1119.

Your help would be most appreciated!

New Share-a-Ride Program

Some of our members would love to be at church regularly, but they are no longer able to drive themselves. That is why we are starting a Share-A-Ride program. To begin with, we will be transporting people once a month. Volunteers just need to leave for church a few minutes early to pick up someone else, then drop them off after the service. To volunteer, please contact Seth Kroells (507-676-7142) or Pastor Plagenz (920-689-3036).



Share-A-
Ride

Be a Willing Workers

Aug. 11 | 6:30 PM

St. Paul's Willing Workers invite women of all ages to join them on their new day and time – the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. The evening includes a devotion, a project or speaker, short business meeting, and dessert & fellowship. Come this Thursday to find out what Willing Workers is all about.

Women's Study Lengthens Their Break

Women Walking in the Word will not be meeting on August 16. The ashes for long-time St. Paul's members, Don & Betty Prebbanow, are being brought home from Idaho, and the group will be attending the committal service being held that day at Forest Hill Cemetery. Their meeting will resume on Aug 23 with a study of Psalms.

Fall Family Camp in Wautoma

Sept. 2-5

Enjoy a jam-packed Labor Day weekend for the whole family! Camp starts on the Friday night with a campfire by the Camp Phillip staff - full of songs, games, and fun. The staff will run programs and supervise the waterfront all weekend. A disc golf tournament runs all weekend.

On Sunday, the Make Camp Run 5K happens after worship. This run/walk benefits Camp Phillip and is for all ages. The Camper Scamper 1K happens immediately before for our younger participants, and to celebrate our 10th annual run, they are adding a special 10k route. Sign up for Fall Family Camp now! Visit CampPhillip.com/family-camps.

Supporting Our Synod

The Holy Spirit promises to continue the good work he has begun in us to Christ's glory and the eternal benefit of precious souls. Our offerings are important good work that the Spirit has begun in us. In the first half of 2022, our congregation has shared \$21,892.64 with our church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We thank Jesus for enabling us through our synod to share the good news of his gracious forgiveness with people throughout the world.

Booth at Farmers Market

Aug. 11 | 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

We will have our final booth of the summer at this Thursday's Downtown Farmers Market. Be sure to stop by and say hello to our volunteers and staff. If you have children, bring them by to enjoy our children's activity.

Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	10:30 AM	Worship / VBS Celebration
	5:05 PM	WELS Night at Witter Field
Monday	6:30 PM	Worship
Tuesday	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers in the Resource Center
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	8:00 AM	Booth at Farmers Market
	6:30 PM	Willing Workers in the cafeteria
Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Worship

Attendance & Offering Report

Last Week's Attendance: 224

Anticipated offerings YTD: \$88,823

Actual offerings YTD: \$60,031

Upcoming Events

Aug. 15-19 ~ St. Paul's serving at food pantry

Aug. 18 ~ School Parent Orientation

Aug. 21 ~ Opening Service at Luther Prep at 1:30 pm

Aug. 24 ~ First Day of School at St. Paul's

Aug. 29 ~ First Day of School at NLHS



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