

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

For all who  
**exalt themselves**  
will be humbled,

Luke 14:11, NRSV

and those who  
**humble themselves**  
will be exalted.

Wounds that Heal:  
Those Who Exalt Themselves Will Be Humbled

*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*

August 31, 2025



## 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



Everyone knows that humility is a positive trait and pride is a negative one. So, why bother talking about what we already know? Because in spite of that knowledge, we still helplessly fall into the trap of pride. We all desire acclaim, recognition, and praise. Jesus' sharp words this week teach us that seeking exaltation in futile and fleeing ways will only result in receiving the opposite.

Those who attempt to exalt themselves will eventually be humbled by God. In contrast, Jesus promises that those who leave their exaltation to God will receive honor and glory far greater than any that can be awarded in this life. Our exaltation does not need to be our responsibility, because Jesus has already made it his.

## Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Pastor John Melke; Accompanist, Marilyn Foley; Pre-Service Music, Terri Dobratz; Musical Offering, Pastor Plagenz

## Acknowledgements

Setting One from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

# The Service

---

## Welcome

## Hymn

*646 See This Wonder in the Making*

*Remain seated*

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

**Amen.**

## Holy Baptism

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

**Baptism means that the sinful nature in us  
should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance,  
and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death.**

**It also means that a new person should daily arise  
to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

**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*

God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The Rite of Baptism continues at the font.*

The Gospel according to St. Mark:

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Eliza Kate Mau, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart T to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

*The following is addressed to parents and sponsors:*

As parents and sponsors, it is your responsibility and privilege not only to bring this child to Baptism, but to do all you can so that she may serve God all the days of her life and remain a child of God until death.

Will you:

pray for her?

remind her of her baptism?

provide for her further instruction in the Christian faith?

strengthen her with the Word of God and bring her to worship in the Lord's house?

If you are willing to do so, answer: "Yes, and we ask God to help us."

**Yes, and we ask God to help us.**

*The following is addressed to the congregation:*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this child has been baptized into the family of believers, the holy Christian Church. It is our privilege and responsibility to care for the children of our congregation, to remember them in our prayers, to encourage their parents in their God-given work, and to demonstrate a Christian life. If you are willing to do so, answer: “Yes, and we ask God to help us.”

**Yes, and we ask God to help us.**

Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Eliza as your own child and made her a member of Christ’s body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to her and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by your Holy Spirit to follow the example of your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## First Reading

*Proverbs 25:6,7a*

*Solomon provides common sense about humility and pride.*

<sup>6</sup>Do not honor yourself in a king’s presence.  
Do not stand in a place reserved for great people,  
<sup>7</sup>because it is better to be told, “Come up here,”  
than for you to be humiliated before a ruler  
whom your eyes have seen. (EHV<sup>®</sup>)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

James 2:1–13

*James teaches that showing favoritism to those we think can provide us with upward mobility shows a lack of mercy and puts us at risk of God's judgment.*

<sup>1</sup>My brothers, have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ without showing favoritism. <sup>2</sup>For example, suppose a man enters your worship assembly wearing gold rings and fine clothing, and a poor man also enters wearing filthy clothing. <sup>3</sup>If you look with favor on the man wearing fine clothing and say, "Sit here in this good place," but you tell the poor man, "Stand over there" or "Sit down here at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made a distinction among yourselves and become judges with evil opinions? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my dear brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom, which he promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you dishonored the poor man. Don't the rich oppress you, and don't they drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Aren't they the ones who blaspheme the noble name that was pronounced over you? <sup>8</sup>However, if you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. <sup>9</sup>But if you show favoritism, you are committing a sin, since you are convicted by this law as transgressors.

<sup>10</sup>In fact, whoever keeps the whole law but stumbles in one point has become guilty of breaking all of it. <sup>11</sup>For the one who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not commit murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law of freedom. <sup>13</sup>For there will be judgment without mercy on the one who has not shown mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 14:11

Alleluia. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled,  
**and those who humble themselves will be exalted. Alleluia.**

## Gospel

Luke 14:1,7–14

*Jesus teaches some ways to demonstrate humility and promises that those who humble themselves will be exalted.*

<sup>1</sup>One Sabbath day, when Jesus went into the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat bread, they were watching him closely.

<sup>7</sup>When he noticed how they were selecting the places of honor, he told the invited guests a parable. <sup>8</sup>"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline in the place of honor, or perhaps someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him.

<sup>9</sup>The one who invited both of you may come and tell you, 'Give this man your place.' Then you will begin, with shame, to take the lowest place.

<sup>10</sup>"But when you are invited, go and recline in the lowest place, so that when the one who invited you comes, he will tell you, 'Friend, move up to a higher place.' Then you will have honor in the presence of all who are reclining at the table with you.

<sup>11</sup>"Yes, everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

<sup>12</sup>He also said to the one who had invited him, "When you make a dinner or a supper, do not invite your friends, or your brothers, or your relatives, or rich neighbors, so that perhaps they may also return the favor and pay you back.

<sup>13</sup>"But when you make a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup>and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. Certainly, you will be repaid in the resurrection of the righteous." (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## **Children's Message**

### **Hymn of the Day**

*737 Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way*

### **Sermon**

**The Christian Life Calls for Humility**

*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*

### ***Special Prayers This Week***

† For Dave & Ann Lepak, who are celebrating their 43rd wedding anniversary

† For Fred Camacho, who is hospitalized

† For the family of Rich Herrmann, who has passed away and whose funeral will be Tuesday,  
September 2.

†

†

### **Prayer of the Church**

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

**Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.**

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

**Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.**

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

**Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.**

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

**Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.**

*Special prayers and intercession*

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

**Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

## **Connect Card and Offering**

*Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card. After a few moments, the ushers will come forward to collect the offering. You may place your Connect Card and any offering you brought in the plate as it is passed. 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.*



## **Musical Offering**

*God's Own Child I Gladly Say It*

*Stand*

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 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.

## 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

*766 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*



# Take Home Questions

---

## Proverbs 25:6,7a

1. How would you restate the advice these verses give in your own words?
2. Share a story from life that you've experienced or seen which demonstrates the wisdom of these verses?
3. How might you better put these verses into practice in your own life?

## James 2:1-13

4. How could we fall into the trap of paying more attention to a rich person rather than to a poor person when it comes to the life of the church?
5. Dig into the concept of favoritism. At its core, what is wrong with playing favorites? What law does it break?
6. In what ways does God's Word "equalize" all people?

## Luke 14:1,7-14

7. How does Christ and the gospel enable us to live lives of humility instead of lives that seek recognition?
8. For what reasons do Christians not want to be "repaid" in this life?
9. How can you demonstrate the kind of generosity Jesus encourages in your life?

# News & Announcements

---

## Sunday School Starts Next Week

Sept. 7 | 10:30 am

Your children will learn how God's plan for our salvation progressed through the Old Testament and into the New Testament at our Sunday School classes for grades 3K-5<sup>th</sup>. Classes are held on Sundays, 10:30-11:30 am, during the school year.



Parents are encouraged to attend the Sunday Bible Study in the cafeteria while their kids are in Sunday School. You can read about the study below.

## New Sunday Study Next Week

Sept. 7 | 10:30 am

*The Council of Nicaea and Its Creed*

Do you know the full story of the Council of Nicaea and the Nicene Creed, which came out of it? Come to the adult Bible study on Sunday mornings beginning on Sept. 7, to do just that. This study isn't merely a history lesson—it's immensely practical. It explains why what happened in history is so vital to the correct understanding of God's message of salvation and covers real-world questions and topics. Join us in the cafeteria from 10:30 to 11:30 am, as we delve into this study to grow in faith and confess the Nicene Creed with renewed appreciation and focus!

## Evening Compline Service This Week

Sept. 3 | 6:30 pm

Our monthly evening Compline Service is this Wednesday, Sept. 3 at 6:30 pm. This service is different from the Sunday service, and the Lord's Supper is offered.

## Want to Learn More about the Christian Faith?

Sept. 4 | 6:30 pm

Pastor Plagenz is holding a 12-week course that will take you through the basics of Christianity as taught in the Holy Bible. Whether you are just exploring Christianity or are a long-time church member, this course promises to share new insights into what we believe and teach at St. Paul's. Classes are on Thursdays at 6:30 pm beginning Sept. 4. Please contact Pastor Plagenz if interested.

## Join the Church Choir

Sept. 8 | 6:00 pm

Sing praises to the Lord. Add your voice to our church choir. They add special music to our services especially on special occasions like Reformation. Choir practice is on Mondays at 6:00 pm in the balcony. They begin meeting on Sept. 8.



CHOIR



## **God's Faithfulness in Hard Times**

*Sept. 3 | 6:30 pm*

The books of 1 & 2 Chronicles were written to the Jews returning from exile. They emphasize that God still has a plan for his people and is keeping his covenantal promises. This is a message we need to remember when we face trials in our own lives. The Bible Book Group is returning to their study of the books of 1 & 2 Chronicles this Wednesday. The group usually meets at 6:30 until 8:00 pm. However, when there is a compline service, like this week, they begin their study after attending the service. You can join them in the Resource Center.

## **Catechism Class**

*Sept. 3 | 6:00 pm*

Catechism classes for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who attend public school begins this Wednesday, Sept. 3 at 6:00 pm. Students will meet in room 110 at the northwestern end of our school hallway.

## **Sisters on a Mission**

*Sept. 8 | 6:30 pm*

Study God's Word, build relationships with other women, and learn about missions. Sisters on a Mission meets once a month on the second Monday. This month's meeting is Sept. 8 at 6:30 pm in the Resource Center. This group is our connection to the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS), which is dedicated to increasing awareness of, interest in, and support of mission outreach.

## **Sign Up to Serve at the Neighborhood Meal**

*Oct. 2*

St. Paul's is sponsoring the FOCUS Neighborhood Meal on Thursday, Oct. 2. The meal is served 4:30-5:45 pm. Volunteers are needed from 4:00-6:30 pm to serve and greet people. Signup sheets can be found on the Ministry Table. Teens under age 18 may also serve with their parents' permission. All volunteers must sign a Waiver and Release Form, which can also be found on the Ministry Table.

## **Donate to the Food Pantry**

Our in-house food pantry has run low over the summer. We keep this pantry to help out community members that stop by the church for financial assistance. The items we most need right now are canned meats, soups, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, and canned fruit. However, any non-perishable food items are welcome. We pass on anything we cannot use to the community food pantry, FOCUS.





## Part-Time Job Opportunity

We need a part-time a janitor. The position is 20 hours per week with flexible scheduling. The work can be done early morning through late at night. This is a great opportunity for a college student, a retiree wishing to supplement their income, or a stay-at-home parent transitioning back to the workforce. The bonus is you get to help the ministry here at St. Paul's. Duties include cleaning bathrooms, vacuuming, mopping floors, emptying garbage, and similar tasks. Applications are available from the church office.

## No More Shoes, Please

We are no longer accepting donations for Soles for Jesus. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in the past.

## Getting Ready for Homecoming

Homecoming at Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) is just a few weeks away. They are still seeking convertibles, golf carts, and multi-passenger ATV to use in their homecoming parade on Friday, Sept. 26. Please contact the NLHS office or reach out to Christine Krueger at [ckrueger@nlhs.org](mailto:ckrueger@nlhs.org).

There is a 5K Run/Walk on Saturday morning, Sept. 27 before the homecoming soccer game. You can find more information and a registration link on the NLHS website, [nlhs.org](http://nlhs.org).

## Support NLHS Wildcats

Support Northland Lutheran High School's athletes and co-curricular programs by becoming a Booster Club sponsor. For a \$100 or \$250 sponsorship, your name and/or company logo will be proudly displayed in printed programs for all NLHS home games. Your sponsorship will help fund vital resources and support for student activities throughout the year. If you are interested in sponsoring or learning more, please contact Paul Ostrowski, NLHS Booster Club President, at [postrowski355@gmail.com](mailto:postrowski355@gmail.com). Thank you for your support!

## This Year's Online Teen Bible Study Schedule

During the 2025-2026 school year, Dave Scharf, professor of Theology at Martin Luther College will lead a series of four online interactive Bible studies for teens via Zoom. Lessons will focus on the book of Judges and take place on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm. The first Bible study, on Sept. 28, will focus on Judges 1-3:6. More information will be made available at [wels.net/national-teen-bible-study](http://wels.net/national-teen-bible-study) in the coming weeks. Mark your calendars for the next three dates in the series! November 9, February 15, and March 29.

Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship
Tuesday	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Unified Board Meetings
Wednesday	8:45 AM	School Chapel Service
	6:00 PM	Catechism Class in room 110
	6:30 PM	Compline Service
	7:00 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	6:30 PM	Foundations of the Christian Faith in the Resource Center
Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	10:30 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	10:30 am	Sunday School (3K – 5 <sup>th</sup> grade)

## Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 184

## Next Sunday

Theme: Who We Are:

We Are All Missionaries

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Acts 8:26-39;

John 1:35-51

## Upcoming Events

- Sept. 8 Choir Practice Begins
- Sept. 8 Sisters on a Mission
- Sept. 9 Panthers Home Volleyball Games
- Oct. 2 Serving at the Neighborhood Table



## Office Closed for Labor Day

The office is close on Monday, Sept. 1, for the Labor Day holiday. If you have an emergency, please contact Pastor Plagenz on his cell phone: [pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org](mailto:pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org).



311 14th Ave S | Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 | 715-421-3634 | churchoffice@stpaulswr.org  
Pastor Peter Plagenz | 920-689-3036 | pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org