St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

14th Sunday after Pentecost + Sunday, August 30, 2026

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

Stand. As the congregation sings the first two verses of our baptismal hymn, the baptism party gathers at the font.

GATHERING SONG *Children of the Heavenly Father* (ELW 781)

Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,

1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.

nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur-pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Sit.

HOLY BAPTISM: **PRESENTATION**

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

I present Logan Matthew Tomcsik, Casey James Tomcsik, and Kye Luis Gonzalez for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *your children* baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

As you bring *your children* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *them* among God's faithful people,
bring *them* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in *their* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *them* in faith and prayer,
so that *your children* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *your children* grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *these persons* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Logan, Casey and Kai and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin,
and confess the faith of the church.

Stand.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family,
and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free
from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.
Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word,
that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life.
To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

BAPTISM
Name, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

The congregation sings verses 3 and 4 or our baptismal hymn as the baptismal party processed to the altar. Sit.

Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain *name* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Name, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME
Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

The baptism party returns to their seats. The service continues with the Prayer of the Day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray.
O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21
Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

A reading from Jeremiah.

15 O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.
16 Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.
17 I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
18 Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

19 Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
20 And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.
21 I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

1 Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.
2 **Test me, O LORD, and try me;**
examine my heart and my mind.

3 For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.
4 **I have not sat with the worthless,**
nor do I consort with the deceitful.
5 I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.
6 **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,**
that I may go in procession round your altar,
7 singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
8 **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell**
and the place where your glory abides.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

A reading from Romans.

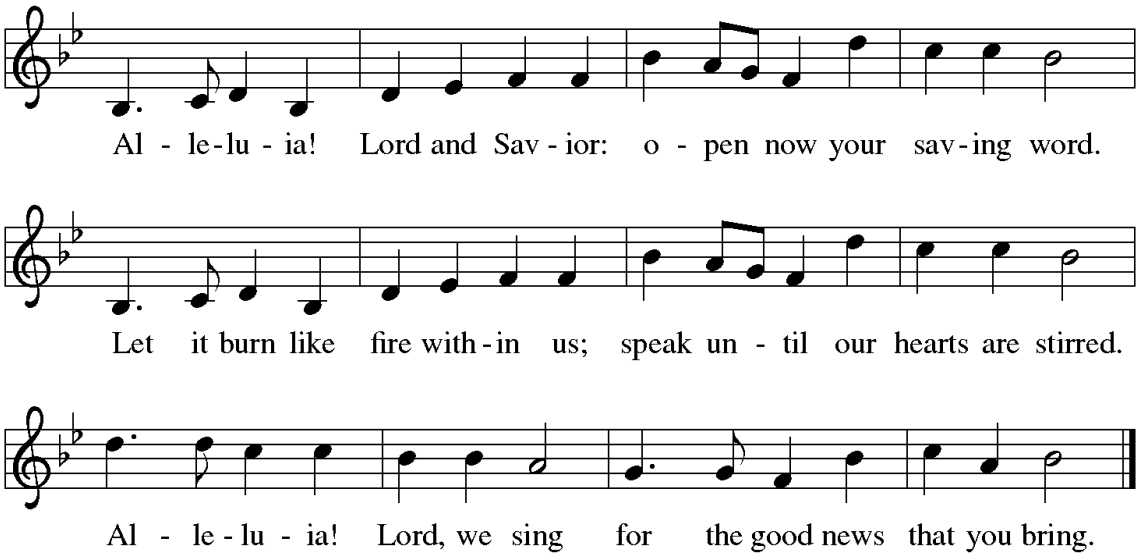
9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." 20 Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

21 From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to
show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the
hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be
raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it,
Lord! This must never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind
me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine
things but on human things."

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny
themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their
life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it
profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in
return for their life?

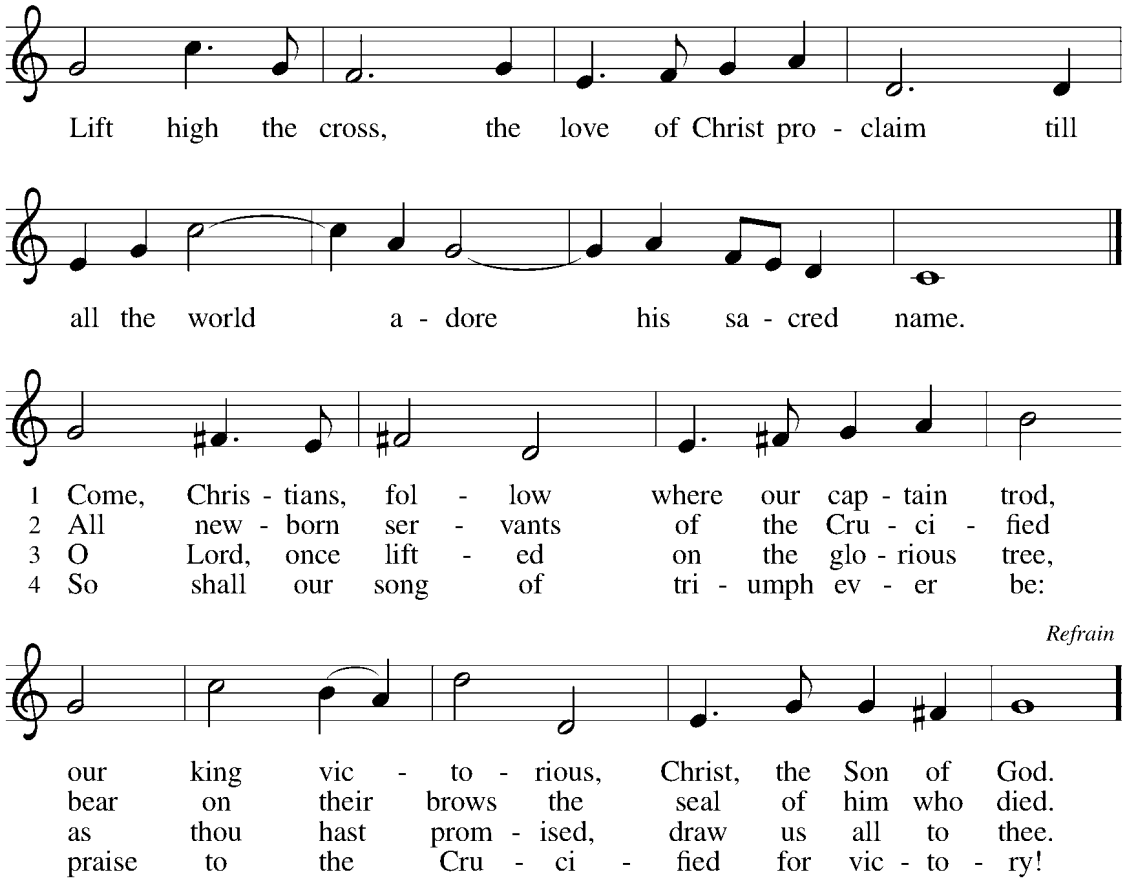
27 "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then
he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some
standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his
kingdom."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660)



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit, *especially those we pray for now by speaking their names out loud or in our hearts …* Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We worship God when we give our offering. In this act of worship we put our faith in God's promises into practice, trusting that in God's mercy, grace and love we find have more than enough to meet the needs of our life. We have enough to give thanks and to share with those in need. You can give your offering placing your gift in the offering plate or electronically. To make an electronic gift follow the links at www.stpauls-edison.org/online-giving. Pray that the gifts we gather today God will put to work so that together we can live out the mission God has entrusted to us: to share the good news of Christ in word and deed.

OFFERING SONG ***Praise to You, O God of Mercy*** **(ELW 208)**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

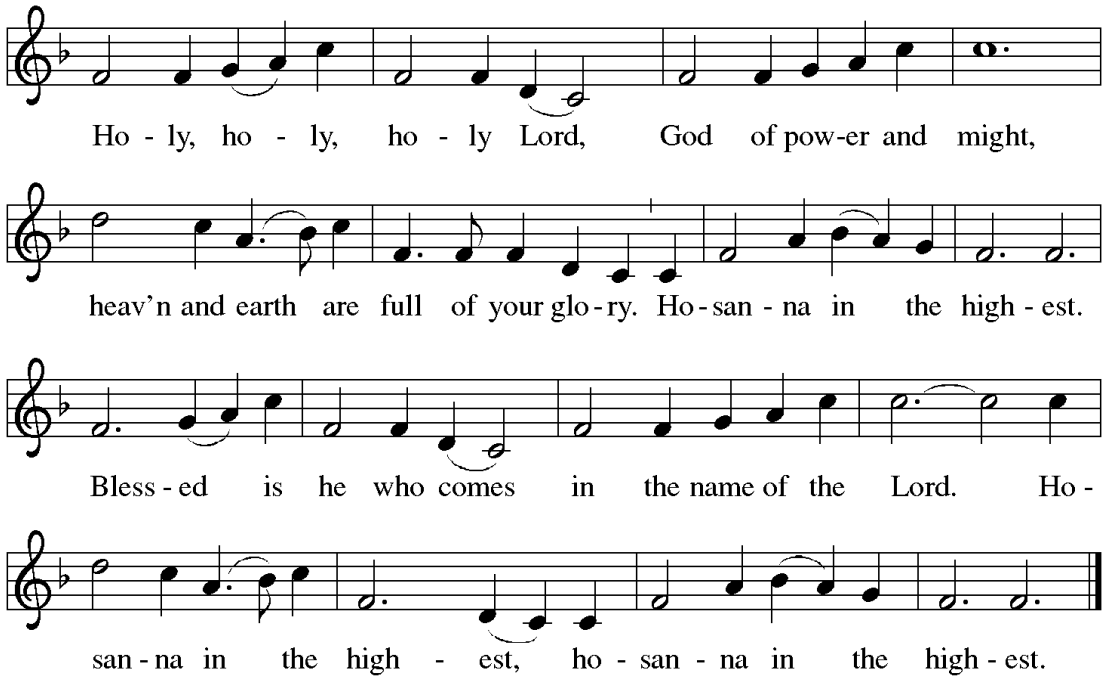
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

LORD'S PRAYER
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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG

COMMUNION
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

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COMMUNION HYMN ***Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*** **(ELW 779)**

COMMUNION HYMN ***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (isometric)*** **(ELW 504)**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATION MEETING. Today after worship (11:30 a.m.). There are a number things that are changing or will be different this fall, most notably the closing of the Ken Shirk Childcare center. Please take some time to gather as the St. Paul's congregation to hear about what's changing and to begin to discern where God is leading us next.

WALKING AT ROOSEVELT PARK. Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The Movin' Lutherans are outdoors for the summer. Call your friends and put on your walking shoes and meet a near the skating rink at Roosevelt Park. Enjoy fellowship, prayer and a walk around the lake.

BIBLE STUDY. Wednesdays, at 1:00 p.m. We meet in the lounge to read and discuss the Bible passages assigned for worship the coming Sunday. Invite your friends.

COLLECTING HYGIENE ITEMS FOR FOOD PANTRY. The Food Pantry is collecting personal hygiene items for the Food Pantry. Ask your friends and neighbors to help you. Just bring items to the lounge Tuesday through Thursday or bring them with you on Sunday.

CROCHET A SCARF OR TWO … Do you crochet or would you like to learn to crochet. Join us as we make scarves for our food pantry visitors. See Heather or Pastor for more information.

GRIEF GROUPS: In our grief we need a place where we can go to talk, cry and even laugh as we remember the loved ones we have lost and consider what it means for us to continue to live. Come and share your grief in fellowship with others on the journey.

GRIEF … WHAT NOW? Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. This small group meets on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and seeks to hold space for open discussion and group discovery on ways to rediscover who we are after loss.

GRIEFSHARE. Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. — Starting August 25. GriefShare is a 13-week grief support group with weekly topics, a workbook for daily reflection, and large group to support you and care for you on your grief journey.

START AND END YOUR DAY IN PRAYER

DAILY PRAYER. Daily prayer is one of the means the Holy Spirit uses to keep us in faith. Here are two ways to make daily prayer part of your life.

Morning Prayer: Start each day (Monday through Saturday) with a brief service of Morning Prayer. This service is available as an audio file on the St. Paul's Website and the St. Paul's Facebook. In April, we will pray through the book of Psalms.

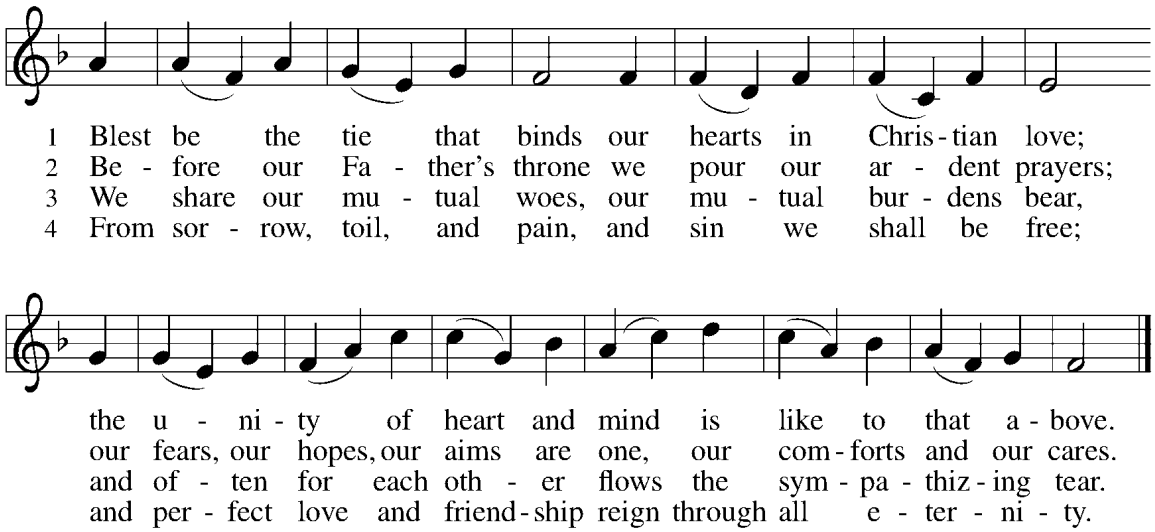
Night Prayer. End your day in prayer and fellowship. This ongoing prayer group meets **on Zoom each night at 9:00 p.m**

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (ELW 656)



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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