

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Holstein, IA September 13, 2026 9:00 a.m.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ,

in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

Opening Hymn *Bless the Lord, O My Soul (10,000 Reasons)*

Refrain: Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul; Worship His Holy name.
Sing like never before. O my soul; I'll worship Your Holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes. **Refrain**

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. **Refrain**

And on that day, when my strength is failing,
the end draws near and my time has come;
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending,
Ten thousand years and then forevermore!

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul; Worship His Holy name.
Sing like never before. O my soul; I'll worship Your Holy name.
Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.

Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman, 2006 Said And Done Music/SHOUT! Music Publishing/sixsteps Music/
Thankyou Music/worshiptogether.com songs CCLI License #833795

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Holy One, you stretch wide your tent that all may be welcomed in, and in Jesus you stretched out your hands in expansive love for a weary and wounded world. Help us to reach out with your own wounded hands of love, that through us your life may be known in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103

- ¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- ² Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits -
- ³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
- ⁴ who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶ O Lord, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- ⁷ You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
- ⁸ Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

- ⁹ you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
- ¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
- ¹² As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
- ¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message



Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia, I am the light of the world.

Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia, I am the light of the world.

Those who fol - low me will not walk in dark - ness.

Those who fol - low me will have the light of life.

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Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?'

³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Hymn of the Day

Touch That Soothes and Heals

(see insert)

Statement of Faith

We believe we are chosen by God, our Creator, to participate in the ongoing work of creation by holding life sacred and being good stewards of God's gracious gifts.

We believe we are chosen by Jesus Christ, our Savior, to participate in the ongoing work of spreading the good news of God's saving love and serving others in the name of the Lord.

We believe we are chosen by the Holy Spirit, who calls us through the Gospel to believe in Jesus Christ, gathers us as a community of believers to worship together and support one another, and enlightens us with gifts of love, forgiveness, and everlasting life. We believe the Holy Spirit nourishes our growth, preserves us in faith, and keeps us in God's grace forever. Amen.

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RESPONSE

Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Children's Offering / Offering

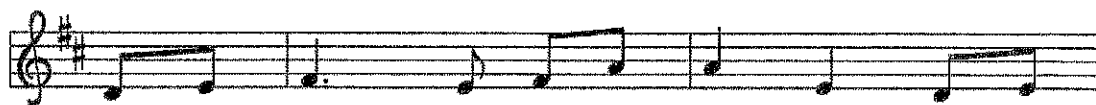
Offering Song

We Are an Offering

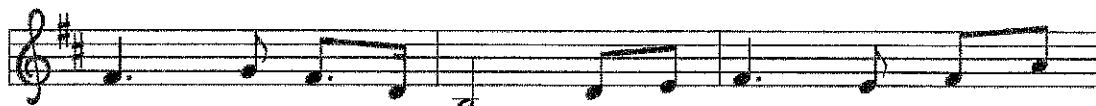
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Hymn of the Day

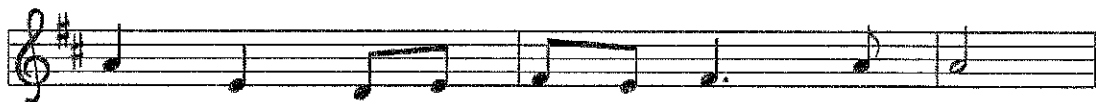
Touch That Soothes and Heals *See My Hands and Feet*



1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that
2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it
3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion all earth's
4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a



break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the
ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and
peo - ple, first and last. Know with - in each act of
wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good

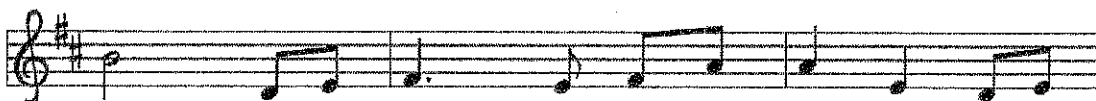


wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:
shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.
kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.
tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.

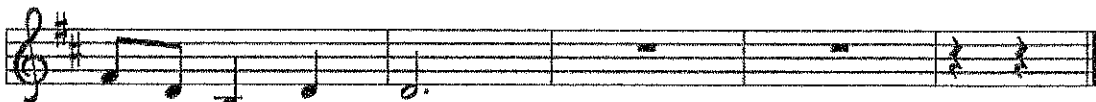
Refrain



"See my hands and feet," said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the



grave. "Be my hands and feet," said Je - sus, "live as



ones I died to save."

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: CIVILITY, Gregg DeMey, b. 1972

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Offering Prayer

Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

SENDING

Blessing

God who sets forth the law of love, Jesus who fulfills the law for you, and the Spirit through whom you are called to love, ✠ bless you this day, that you may be God's hands and heart and voice at work in the world.

Amen.

Closing Song

We Are a Chosen People of God

(see insert)

Dismissal

**Go in peace. You are God's hands at work in the world!
Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Closing Hymn

WE ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE OF GOD

David Lee Brown

Larry Olson

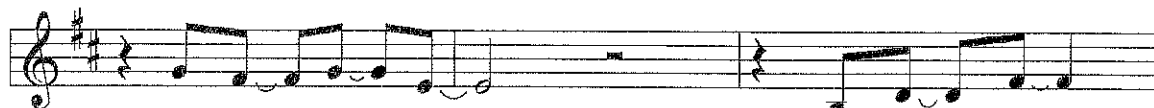
Karol Baer



We are a cho - sen peo - ple of God; called in - to



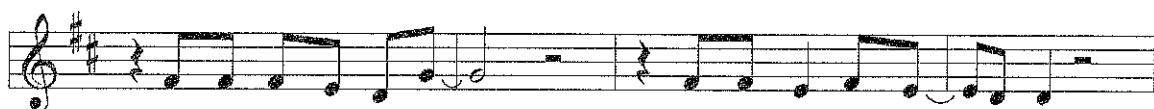
light and gath - ered in love; re - deemed and held by



the ho - ly one. — We are a



chos - en peo - ple of God. —



Look a - round you and see. —

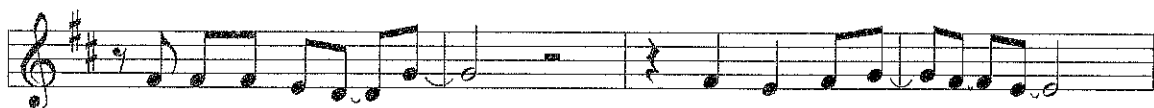
Look a - round you and see. —

Look a - round you and see. —

peo - ple in your neigh - borhood;

the — bles - sings giv - en us;

not — all is go - ing right.



end-less var - i - e - ty; —

earth — sky and sea; —

In this mys - ter - y; —

God has cre - a - ted good.

they're all placed in our trust.

we're called to be a light.



We're a part of it all, —

chos - en and called.

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Worship Participants

Ministers: All the members
Vicar: Emily Anderson
DYME: Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
Organist: Sharen Borchers
Pianist: Kris Kistenmacher
Lector: Amy Peuse
Deacons: John Walsh and Susan Endrulat
Greeters: Kevin & Vickie Heck
Acolytes: Gabe Van Houten and Kaleb Van Houten
Sound & Video: Kyle and Kreighton Krager
Coffee Hosts: Shanade & Brandon Stevenson
Bernice Todd

St. Paul Church Calendar

SUNDAY, September 13 ~ God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 AM God's Work, Our Hands Activities Begin
11:30 AM Congregational Potluck Meal
5:00 PM 4-H group in Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, September 15

9:00 AM Sewing Day
7:00 PM Trustees Meeting

THURSDAY, September 17

7:00 PM Congregation Council Meeting

SUNDAY, September 20 ~ Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 AM Worship / Holy Communion / New Member Installation
10:00 AM Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 AM Sunday School RALLY DAY
5:00 PM Shepherd's Table Free Community Meal @ Holstein UMC