

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Holstein, IA

September 18, 2022

9:00 AM

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School Rally Day

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus himself human,...gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing -- we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who is eager to forgive
and who loves us beyond our days.

Amen.

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure
to love this world as Jesus does.

God of mercy and forgiveness,
we confess that sin still has a hold on us.

We have harmed your good creation.

We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life.

**Be our refuge and strength on the journey,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.**

Amen.

Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole.

God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

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

And also with you.

Call to Worship

Calling all children of the Living God:

the gospel is good news for every age and every stage.

Let us worship together, the young and the old.

The good news is proclaimed in God's words, and also with crayons, silly songs, games, and skits.

Let us worship together, every generation.

We come together with different abilities, learning in a rainbow of ways and styles.

Let us worship together, with our family of faith.

All are welcome in the arms of Christ who proclaimed, "Let the children come!"

Let us worship together, united in our eternal hope.

©2022 Illustrated Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Opening Prayer

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another.

Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Children's Message

Installation of Sunday School Teachers

Dear friends,

let us recognize those who have responded to the call of God to lead our Sunday School ministry.

To teach, to administer the work of teaching, and to support the work of teaching are ministries of Jesus among us.

Those called to these ministries need our loyal support and our prayers.

Sunday school teachers and students come forward.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have entrusted us with the message of your power, grace, justice, and love.

Provide for us your guidance, that we may be teachers and learners together.

Believing that you are in our midst, we set apart those who would serve in our church school.

May they serve you in nurturing the spiritual growth of all who are entrusted in their care.

Bless each one gathered before us,
enabling them to be channels of your grace.
We pray through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

To Sunday School teachers:

You have recognized God's call in your lives.
Will you endeavor to develop your gifts for teaching
so as to continue to pass on the Christian faith?
Will you be faithful to the task,
taking seriously the commitments of time and talent?
Will you take seriously your role as learner,
studying diligently the Scriptures and traditions of the faith?

Sunday School teachers:

We have heard God's call to teach
and have responded to that call.
We teach, trusting in God's promises
to support, sustain, and encourage us
through gifts sufficient for the task.
We teach, relying on prayer and the presence of the Holy Spirit.
We teach, inviting others to recognize and respond
to God's call in their lives.
We teach, depending on this congregation to uphold us in this task.

Congregation:

**We pledge ourselves to pray for you
and for the educational ministry of this congregation.
We pledge ourselves to enable, encourage, and love you in this ministry.
We pledge ourselves to be learners with you,
hearing and learning the Scriptures and traditions of the faith.**

WORD

Amos 8:4-7

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the
sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the
shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶buying the poor for silver and
the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their
deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 113

(read responsively)

- ¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.
- ² Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.
- ³ From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the LORD be praised.
- ⁴ The LORD is high above all nations;
God's glory above the heavens.
- ⁵ Who is like the LORD our God,
who sits enthroned on high,
- ⁶ but stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth?
- ⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,
- ⁸ enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.
- ⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

Gospel Alleluia

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

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

Luke 16:1-15

The Holy Gospel According to Luke, the 16th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?

¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." ¹⁴The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all this, and they ridiculed him.

¹⁵So he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of others; but God knows your hearts; for what is prized by human beings is an abomination in the sight of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message Pastor Bob Lewis

Hymn of the Day

Spirit, Open My Heart

(see gold insert)

Hymn of the Day

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

Text © 1996 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved.

Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-713072

Affirmation 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.

Karol Baer, David Lee Brown, and Larry Olson. ©1990 Dakota Road Music.
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

Prayers of Intercession

Children's Offering/Offering

We Are an Offering

#692

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs.
Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,
and make us ready to share with all in need;
through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.
Amen.

MEAL

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

Words of Institution

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.**

Invitation to Communion

**Christ invites you to this table.
Come, taste and see.**

Distribution

Taste and See #493

Jesus Loves Me! vs. 1-2 #595

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

**God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for
the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with
joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

**Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

#535

Dismissal

**Go in peace, with Christ beside you.
Thanks be to God.**

Worship Participants

Ministers: All the members
Pastor: Pastor Bob Lewis
DYME: Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
Organist: Sharen Borchers
Pianist: Kris Kistenmacher
Lector: Jane Breyfogle
Deacons: Leo Schimmer and Craig Fox
Greeters: Janet Volkert and Brian McCrory
Acolyte: Cecily Jacobson
Sound and Video: Lex & Gwen Jacobson
Coffee Hosts: Dean & Cleo Breyfogle
Audrey Dittmer

St. Paul Church Calendar

SUNDAY, September 18 - The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

!RALLY DAY!

9:00 AM Worship / Holy Communion
10:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Coffee Hour & Fellowship

TUESDAY, September 20

9:00 AM Sewing Day

WEDNESDAY, September 21

12:00 NN Brown Bag Bible Study

SUNDAY, September 25 - The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Coffee & Fellowship