



“For it is better to be told, ‘Come up here,’ than to be put lower
in the presense of a noble.” - Proverbs 25:7

AUGUST 31ST, 2025

THE 12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / PROPER 17C

9AM SERVICE

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Gregg Ramirez

www.stpauloaklawn.org

Director of Music: Jeff Kiel

✠ Divine Service Setting Four ✠

Opening Hymn Sit

"Lift High the Cross" (verses 1, 2, & 6 only)

#837

*Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ
proclaim*

Till all the world adore His sacred name.

2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks
combine. *Refrain*

1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain
trod,

Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

Text: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no.
110001400

✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

Invocation (Stand)

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel / Sit

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God, in His Mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ Service of the Word ✠

Introit (Stand)

Psalm 75: 1–2, 6, 9; antiphon: v. 7

P It is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.

C We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near.
We recount your wondrous deeds.

P At the set time that I appoint, I will judge with equity.

C For not from the East or from the West, and not from the wilderness comes lifting up.

P But I will declare it forever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P It is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.

Kyrie (Sung)

LSB 204

C Lord, have mer-cy;
Christ, have mer-cy;
Lord, have mer-cy.

Gloria In Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest (Sung)

LSB 204

1 To God on high be glory,
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.

Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 205

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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 the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 25: 2-10

²It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.
³As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable.
⁴Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith has material for a vessel;
⁵take away the wicked from the presence of the king,
and his throne will be established in righteousness.
⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence, or stand in the place of the great,
⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.
What your eyes have seen ⁸do not hastily bring into court,
for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame?
⁹Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret,
¹⁰lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Hebrews 13: 1-17

Sacrifices Pleasing to God

¹Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. ⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;
what can man do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. ¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹²So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. ¹⁴For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

¹⁷Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

C These things are written that you may be-lieve that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

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

Holy Gospel

Luke 14: 1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Healing of a Man on the Sabbath

¹One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. ²And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. ³And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" ⁴But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" ⁶And they could not reply to these things.

The Parable of the Wedding Feast

⁷Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

The Parable of the Great Banquet

¹²He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

✠ Confession of Faith ✠

The Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of
the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under
Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to
judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father
and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and
apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the
remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn (*Sit*) "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted" (*verses 1, 2 & 4 only*) #451

1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;

Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that justice gave.

4 Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.

Text: Public domain

Sermon: "The Way Up is Down"

Prayer of the Church

Announcements

Sharing of God's Peace

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Offerings may also be dropped off at the office or mailed, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please call the church office.*

A word about the Sacrament of the Altar...

We believe Jesus' own words that the bread and wine we receive in Holy Communion are indeed His true Body and Blood and not just a representation of them. We also acknowledge St. Paul's instruction to the Church at Corinth that it is harmful for anyone to receive the Sacrament without recognizing the real presence of His Body and Blood. Because of this, in Christian love we ask anyone who does not understand these truths to please refrain from receiving the Sacrament until you've spoken with the pastor. (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-30)

✠ The Sacrament of the Altar ✠

Preface (Spoken)

LSB 208

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 209

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini ~ The Peace of the Lord

LSB 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God

LSB 210

C 1. O Je-sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a-way;
O Je-sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer-cy on us, Lord, we pray.

2. O Je-sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a-way;
Have mer-cy on us, Je-sus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

✝ Distribution of the Sacrament ✝

Sit

"Just as I am, without One Plea" (*verses 1, 2, 5 & 6 only*)

#570

1 Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Public domain

- 1 With the Lord begin your task;
Jesus will direct it.
For His aid and counsel ask;
Jesus will perfect it.
Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise,
And when day is ended,
In His name then close your eyes;
Be to Him commended.
- 2 Let each day begin with prayer,
Praise, and adoration.
On the Lord cast ev'ry care;
He is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night
Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter's might,
With His presence cheer you.
- 3 With your Savior at your side,
Foes need not alarm you;
In His promises confide,
And no ill can harm you.
All your trust and hope repose

- In the mighty Master,
Who in wisdom truly knows
How to stem disaster.
- 4 If your task be thus begun
With the Savior's blessing,
Safely then your course will run,
Toward the promise pressing.
Good will follow ev'rywhere
While you here must wander;
You at last the joy will share
In the mansions yonder.
- 5 Thus, Lord Jesus, ev'ry task
Be to You commended;
May Your will be done, I ask,
Until life is ended.
Jesus, in Your name begun
Be the day's endeavor;
Grant that it may well be done
To Your praise forever.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001400

Communion Blessing *Stand*

LSB 210

- P** The true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.
- C** Amen.

Nunc Dimittis ~ Song of Simeon *(Sung)*

LSB 211

- 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.
- 2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.

LSB 212

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Benediction

LSB 212

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Closing Hymn

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

#738

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

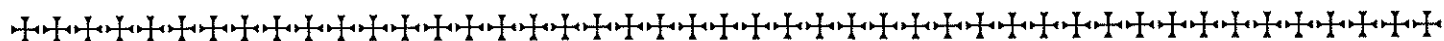
2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001400

Postlude



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANKS

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Gregg Ramirez

Lector: Ruth Diver

Organist: Ruth Sievers

Altar Care: Cathy Kumke

Vocalist: Bill Leise

Elders on Duty: John Lilja & Keith Vanselow

Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

Announcements:

8/31 Sunday – 10:30am – Bible Class
9/1 Monday – Labor Day – Office closed! - HOLIDAY
9/2 Tuesday – 10am – Board of Elders meeting
– 6:30pm – Bd of Stewardship; Bd of Trustees;
Bd of Evangelism/Parish Ed, + FIA Meetings!
9/3 Wednesday – 2 to 4:00pm – Food Pantry Day

Bible Class will continue this morning in the Timothy Room, following the service.
Grab something to eat & drink – then please join us!

The September St. Paul Newsletter is available this morning from the counters in the church and narthex. They will be posted **online** at stpauloaklawn.org on **TUESDAY, September 2nd**.

Our **Adult Choir** and **Celebration Ringers** will resume rehearsals soon. **Adult Choir** rehearses on **WEDNESDAYS at 7:00 PM** beginning **September 10**, and **Celebration Ringers** rehearse on **SUNDAYS** after morning service beginning **September 14**. Returning members and new folks wanting to join us are welcome to attend. Please speak with Jeff Kiel if you have any questions. Thanks to all who help make music for our worship services, and we look forward to having you with us!

ALL Women are invited to a **Fall Luncheon** prepared by the Ladies Guild board members on **TUESDAY, September 23rd at 1pm in the Timothy Room**. So that enough food is prepared, please **RSVP** on the sheet outside the Church Office **by SUNDAY, Sept. 21st**! Come – bring a Friend – enjoy a delicious Lunch – and hear about our Guild programs for the coming year!

Service Video, Bulletin, and Newsletter can be found on our website, www.stpauloaklawn.org. For more info., please contact the church office.

Remembering our homebound friends is a caring ministry of St. Paul meant to help us stay in touch with our members who aren't able to be with us for worship. Please remember them in your prayers. You may also like to send a note or a card. This week our homebound friend is Melva Smith, 10310 Village Circle Drive, Circle Inn, # 205, Palos Park, IL 60464.

**8-31-2025 Please let the church office know when your need
for our congregational prayers is over. (708) 423-1040**

**These people *urgently*
need our prayers**

*Sandy Barry
George Oberg
Elaine Lebron
Barbara Prendergast
Sarah Weber
Betty Larson
Karen (Leise) Bidus
David Purdy*

**Please also pray for
these members of our
St. Paul family**

Betty Beegle
Vic & Marty Both
Jan Briede
Delphine Cherry
Doris Cyga
Jennifer Garcia
Arthur Gerth
Amanda Greene
June Hagberg
Kevin Hickey
Roy Hodgeman
Herta Iversen
Graham Jackson
Janice Janiszewski
Flora Jones
Robert Kaczmarek
Ron Klingensmith
Betty Kruckow
Jan Leise
Ingrid Lesko
Gloria Meyer
Carol Miller
Warren Miller
Dorothy Pavella

Rich & Jan Przybycien
Rosa Richardson
Lori (Freeze) Safstrom
Dawn Schumann
Kurt Seehofer
Beverly Sellers
Norma Silinski
Carol Small
Melva Smith
Delores Stegemann
Bill Volk
Susan E Volk
Wayne Volk

**Please pray for these
friends and family of
our members:**

Lisa Anglin
Barbara Apt
Devon Abt
Carrie Aspan
Lance Barrientos
Cathy Becker
Sue Berg
LeRoy Bitner
Henry Bonder
Gigi Browning
Lenny Browning
Sharon Bryant
Selma Carmichel
Frank Coglina
Judy Collins
Mike Cyganiewicz
Steve Czerniejewski
John Darge
Dana DeAngelis
Rudy DeAngelis

Bridget & Nick DeAngelo
Shirley Demyres
George Dodaro, Sr.
Tom Domogal
Justin & Ashley Fasel
Diane Fauser
Tristan Ferry
Gloria Folsom
David Franzone
Tom Groh
Jerry Gross
Ted Gross
Donald Hakanson
Shawn Harland
Charley Heitz
Amanda Hermansen
Ann Herold
Elaine Hoffstetter
Doreen Holford
Carl Hoppe
Louise Hrynkow
Kyle Hughes
Rich Huscher
Marissa Jiminez
Dana Kahn
Monica Kato
Debby Kehrli
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.
Julie King
Debbie Kleeman
Herb Kleeman
Zech Kleeman
Evelyn & Ron Konieski
Neil Koning
Christopher Kosary
Jerome "Jerry" Kreten
Glen Krietsch
Dorothy Kroll

The Lamberth Family
Margaret Lundgreen
Bob Marcinkowski
Adrian Martinez
Iris McCoy
Carol Jean & Tim McPhillips
Audrey Metes
Carol Milazzo
Marie Miller
Daniel Musser
Roberta & Carlos Owens
Pam Palhegyi
Patricia Paulsen
Jorene Pierzga
Sandy Plath
Jackie Plichta
Barb Potter
Guillermo Ramirez
Raquel Rameriz
Kimberly Rooney
Sophia Salus
Elmo Schultz
Rhonda Scott
Allyson Seehofer
Linda Shuman
Al Silinski
Gail Skelly
Kim Skelton
Sarah Skelton
Janet Trierweiler
Bernadette & Rich Trusk
Jose Urena
Vicki Warren
Michael Watkins
Gene Wawrzyniowski
Cindy (Joens) Wendel
Katherine Zeleny
Jean & Al Zirbel