



# ST. PAUL'S

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## LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Sunday, July 25, 2021**  
**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

*Welcome to our sanctuary worship service. If you haven't already done so, take a moment to check-in on social media to share that you are here before silencing any electronic devices, and breathe a bit to center yourself before we begin.*

*Directions from the pastor will invite you to stand or "rise in body or spirit" for that section, also indicated by an asterisk. Our digital assembly may choose to rise or remain seated.*

### **For Our Digital Worship Assembly**

Participation: You can find everything you need to participate in the service within the Facebook video description or alongside our website homepage. If you're joining the live feed through Facebook, comment to "say hello" and connect with one another. Feel free to use the "share" button and to help spread the reach of our ministry. If you are joining at the Table to celebrate Communion this day, please have your bread and wine close at hand.

Offering: In addition to sending your gifts to the church, you may also choose to give your offering gift electronically at [www.stpaulslutherville.org](http://www.stpaulslutherville.org). Thank you for your generosity!

### **For Our In-Person Worship Assembly**

Social Distancing: Please wear your mask throughout the service, other than briefly removing it to commune when directed by the Pastor. Remain in your space throughout the service, but if you need to leave your seat, please be aware of your proximity to others, keeping at least 6' of distance as much as possible.

Restrooms: The bathrooms outside the Wilkening Room are available for one person at a time (parents may accompany children if needed) - please use the signage on the door to indicate if/when that restroom is occupied. Please give one another space in navigating around the hallway.

Offering: An offering plate is at both doors in the worship space, where you may place your gifts as you come or go from the service. You may also choose to give your offering gift electronically at [www.stpaulslutherville.org](http://www.stpaulslutherville.org). Thank you for your generosity!

# GATHERING

## WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** *Arise, My Soul, Arise* – Finnish Folk Melody arr. Flor Peters

### \*RINGING OF THE BELL

*Please rise in body or spirit at the ringing of the bell.*

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.  
**Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin... God, our provider,  
**help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

**Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.  
**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG:** *Open Now thy Gates of Beauty* (ELW 533)

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### \*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

Let us pray. Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## WORD

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Children of all ages are welcome to come and gather close to the screen to join in a message just for them! Any children in the physical worship space are invited to listen from their seats. After we pray together, all will be invited to rejoin others in body or spirit for the readings of the day.*

### FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 11:1-15

*King David takes Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, then eventually has her husband murdered. The king, who should be at the battle but stays home, is contrasted in this story with the loyal and upright soldier Uriah.*

A reading from Second Samuel.

<sup>1</sup>In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. <sup>3</sup>David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." <sup>4</sup>So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. Now she was purifying herself after her period. Then she returned to her house. <sup>5</sup>The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

<sup>6</sup>So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. <sup>7</sup>When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. <sup>8</sup>Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. <sup>9</sup>But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. <sup>10</sup>When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" <sup>11</sup>Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." <sup>12</sup>Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, <sup>13</sup>David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

<sup>14</sup>In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. <sup>15</sup>In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:14-21**

*We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.*

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Paul writes: <sup>14</sup>For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through God's Spirit, <sup>17</sup>and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup>I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup>Now to the one who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup>to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **\*GOSPEL: John 6:1-21**

*In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup>A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup>Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, the festival of the Jewish people, was near. <sup>5</sup>When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said this to test Philip, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup>"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said, "Make the people sit down."

Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup>When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." <sup>15</sup>When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

<sup>16</sup>When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup>got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup>The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup>When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup>But Jesus

said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." <sup>21</sup>Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY: *Break Now the Bread of Life* (ELW 515)**

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### **\*APOSTLES CREED**

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

**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.**

**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.**

**Amen.**

### **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

We pray for the church. Bless the ministries of our neighboring congregations. Empower churches throughout the world and encourage missionaries who accompany global neighbors. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration, that all people may know your loving works. We pray for leaders throughout the whole Church: for our church-wide bishop, Elizabeth, and our local bishop, William. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and come to the aid of those enduring sweltering heat. Nurture wheat and barley crops grown for the nourishment of your people and conserve aquatic habitats and fish populations. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who govern. Cast out arrogance, selfishness, and corruption and instruct those who lead to practice compassion and humility. Inspire them with a vision of the common good and a commitment to ensure that all who hunger are fed. We pray for the service women and men of our country, and for peace-keepers and peace-makers everywhere. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those bowed down by heavy burdens: those who are unemployed or underemployed, those unable to find affordable housing, and those without health insurance. Console those who grieve and hear the cries of those who call to you for healing Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community of faith. Deepen our resolve to use what we have to serve those in need. When we worry that we do not have enough resources for ministry, assure us of your abundance. Guide the ministry of our LEAD journey: for our community partners and our neighbors in Lutherville. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for what remains in our hearts and minds. Listen to us as we offer these additional prayers, concerns, and thanksgivings to you — with our voices, in our hearts, and within this space... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who have died. As you sustained them through all their days, so dwell in our hearts, that we may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*You are invited to share the peace with a wave from your seat to those outside of your household group, and to use a greeting or gesture you would like to share within your group.*

## **MEAL**

### **PREPARING THE TABLE**

*If you will be joining in sharing the Meal of Holy Communion, now is the opportunity to prepare by making sure you have what you need close at hand. If you are a part of the In-Person Assembly and do not have what you need at your seat, please carefully make your way to the entrance to see a worship host. If you are a part of the Digital Assembly, now is the opportunity to prepare your home table with bread and cup.*

**\*GATHERING AROUND THE TABLE**

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.**

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,

in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals,  
the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,

you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death,

we await that day when all the peoples of the earth  
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,

so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

**SHARING THE MEAL**

*For our In-Person Assembly sharing in the Meal of Holy Communion, be careful as you peel back the foil to expose the bread and wine. You may pray or whisper the words "The body of Christ, given for you." as you consume the bread, and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." as you consume the drink.*

*For our Digital Assembly sharing in the Meal of Holy Communion, you may use the words "The body of Christ, given for you." as you share the bread with one another, and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." as you share the cup. You may choose to dip your bread into the cup, or to consume the bread and then drink from the cup.*

*If you are not sharing in the Meal today, please join in reflection and prayer, until we all regather.*

**REFLECTION SONG: *Pastorale* – C. Wesley**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BLESSING**

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✚ be upon you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: *Postlude in C* – J. Troutman**

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**OFFERING**

We encourage you to contribute your offering to help sharing in the ongoing mission and work of the church through making an online offering at [www.stpaulslutherville.org](http://www.stpaulslutherville.org). You can also mail your offerings in to the church office - we have a secured mailbox which is checked regularly.

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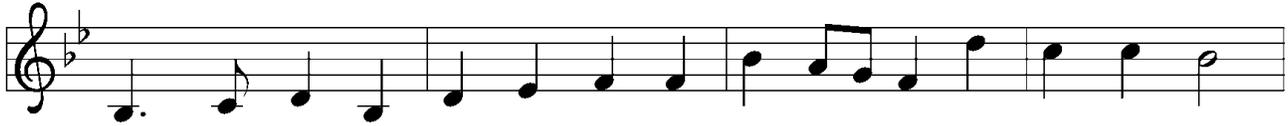
**TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

*Thank you for helping to lead our worship service this holy day!*

Reader, First Lesson	Mary Anne Karmann
Reader, Second Lesson	Mary Anne Karmann
Prayer Leader	Anne South
Traditional Worship Musician	Robin Schaefer

GATHERING SONG: *Open Now thy Gates of Beauty* (ELW 533)

## Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



- 1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
- 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
- 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
- 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.  
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.  
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,  
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thicken, may thy word still o'er me shine  
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!  
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!  
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.  
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

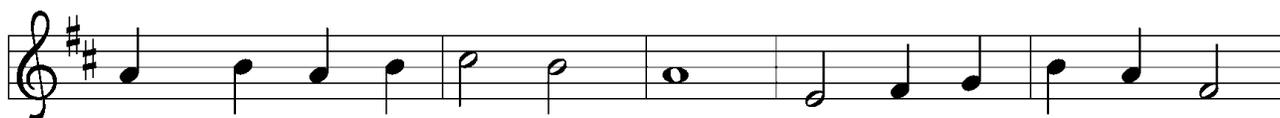
Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Break Now the Bread of Life* (ELW 515)

## Break Now the Bread of Life



1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you  
2 Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you  
3 You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, your ho - ly



broke the loaves be - side the sea. Be - yond the sa - cred page  
blessed the bread by Gal - i - lee. Then shall all bond-age cease,  
word the truth that res - cues me. Give me to eat and live



I seek you, Lord; my spir - it waits for you, O liv - ing Word.  
all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All - in - All!  
with you a - bove; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841–1913, alt.

Music: BREAD OF LIFE, William F. Sherwin, 1826–1888

SENDING SONG: *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine* (ELW 774)

**What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine**  
*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,  
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

*Refrain*



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929

Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924