

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

*Gathering at St. John's Episcopal Church
1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL 33764*

**Sunday, October 19, 2025
Lectionary 29, Year C**



Introduction

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

Welcome

**2026 Stewardship Campaign - Be Thou My Vision
Question from Last Week – Why St. Paul's?**

Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful and loving God,

**we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found. In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

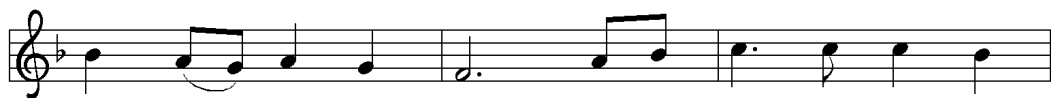
Hymn: All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

A reading from the book of Genesis.

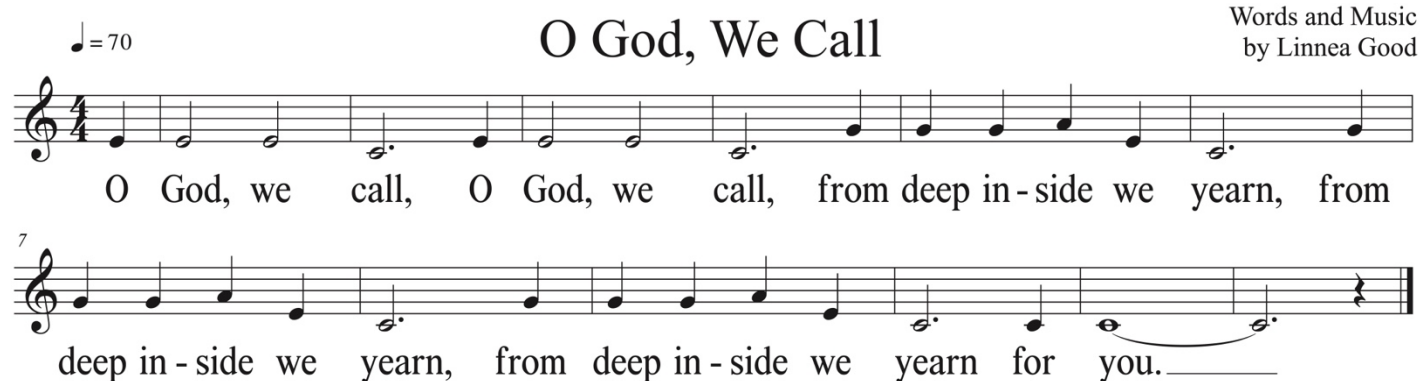
²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. (Ps. 121:2)



O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep in-side we yearn, from
deep in-side we yearn, from deep in-side we yearn for you.

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Women: I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

Men: My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.

Women: The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

Men: Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;

Sung: O God, we call...

Men: The LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

Women: the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

Men: The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

Women: The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.

Sung: O God, we call...

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

A reading from the second letter to Timothy.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



Music: Caribbean traditional

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The Gospel of the Lord

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon: Pr. Anne Harman "Church: Where We Learn to Wrestle with God!"

Hymn of the Day: Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying - ELW 752



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Please stand

Beloved of God, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. We give you thanks and praise for the healing and wholeness you offer through baptism and Eucharist. Grant that through the gift of faith and fellowship we may always be a place of welcome, a community of compassion and healing for each other and the world.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: And so I ask:

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**ALL: 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.**

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**ALL: 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**

Pastor: Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

ALL: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

ALL: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, bring healing and wholeness, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people 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.

Sung: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Prayers of Intercession

Please respond to each invocation: God of grace, receive our prayer

A Sign of Peace and Reconciliation

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

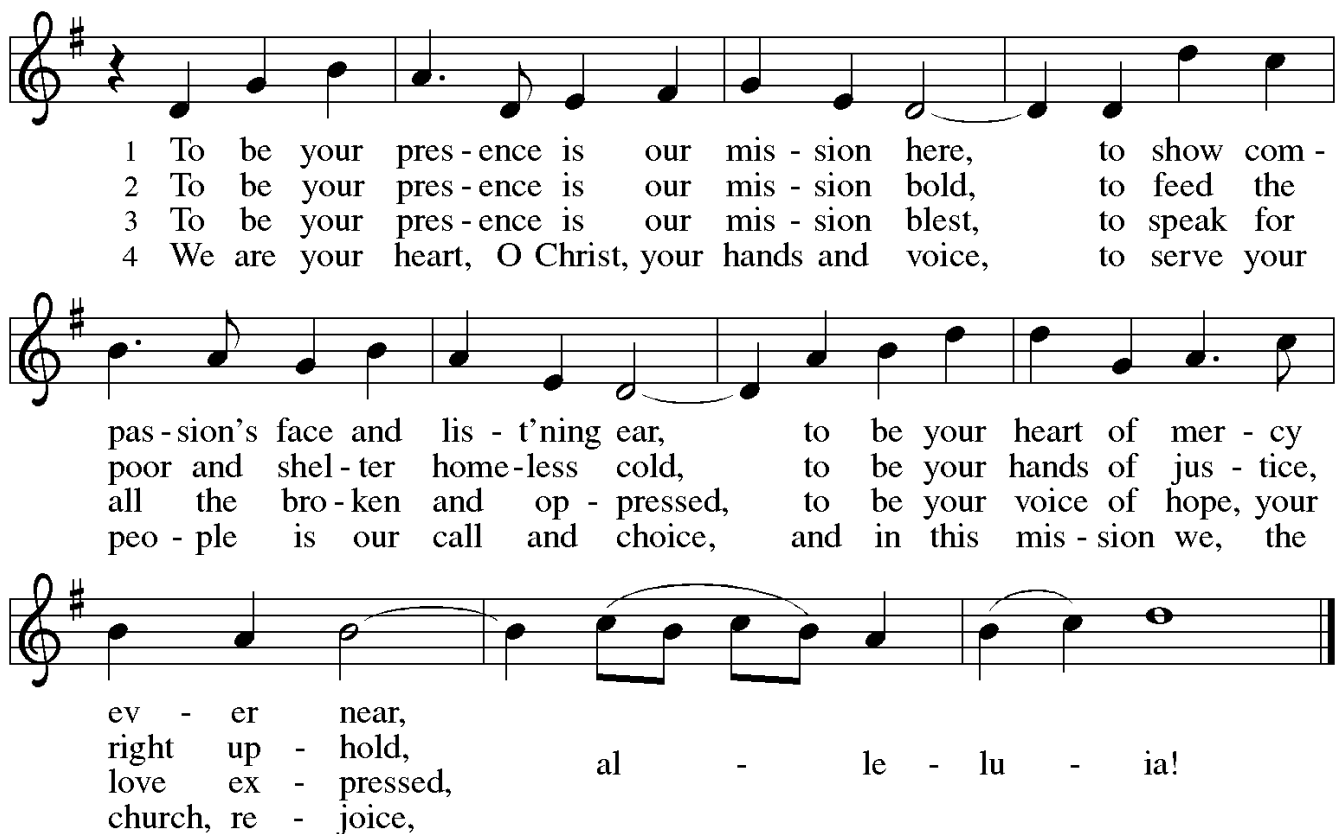
And also with you.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Offering

All that we have, physically and spiritually comes from God.
Our offering, of time, talent and treasure is a response to our awareness
that God is the creator of all things and that we are redeemed
through life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Your support of this ministry and the faith life of this community is appreciated.

Hymn: To Be Your Presence – ELW 546



1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -
2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the
3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your

pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy
poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,
all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your
peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the

ev - er near,
right up - hold, al - le - lu - ia!
love ex - pressed,
church, re - joice,

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924

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Offering Prayer

Lord of the harvest,

**we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

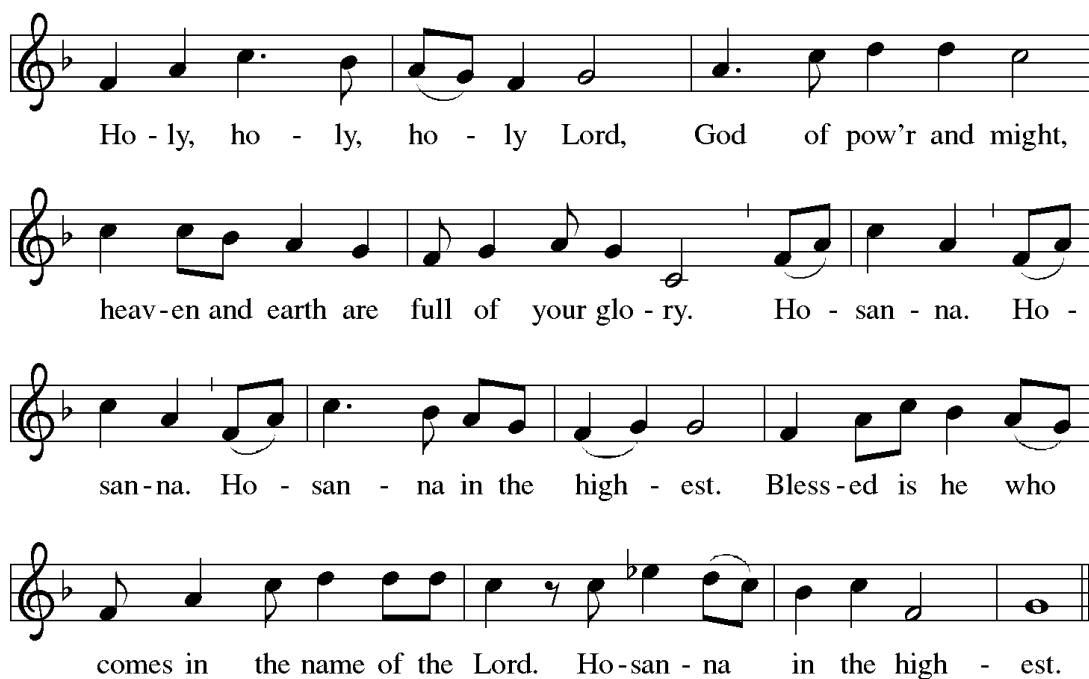
Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

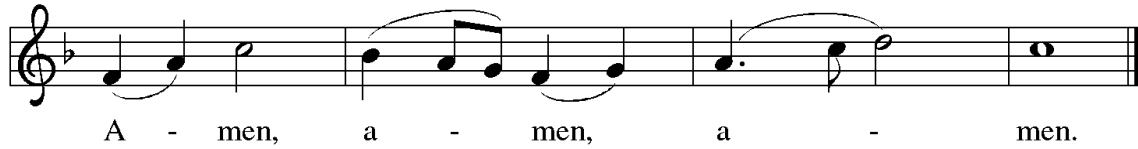
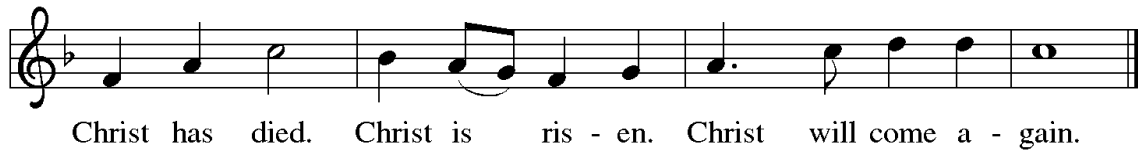
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



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

We believe that Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus. In this sacrament we are invited to have a personal experience of Christ's presence. This is the Lord's table. All who desire to be in relationship with Christ are welcome to receive.

We receive communion using bread and wine. If you need to receive a gluten free host, please ask the communion minister. For those who prefer to receive grape juice rather than wine you will find white grape juice in the center of the trays as communion is given. If you have a question, please ask the minister as you receive. The bread and wine should be consumed here in the church before you return to your seat. If for some reason, you are unable to consume either the bread or wine please bring what was not consumed to the ushers or the pastor as soon as the service is completed.

Communion Hymn: Bread of Life from Heaven ELW 474

Refrain



Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1	Break	now	the	bread	of	Christ's	sac -	ri -	fice;		giv -	ing
2	Seek	not	the	food	that	will	pass	a -	way;		set	your
3	Love	as	the	one	who,	in	love	for	you,		gave	him -
4	Dwell	in	the	one	who	now	dwells	in	you;		make	your
5	Drink	of	this	cup	and	de -	clare	his	death;		eat	this



thanks,	hun -	gry	ones,	gath -	er	round.	Eat,	all	of	you,	and	be
hearts	on	the	food	that	en -	dures.	Come,	learn	the	true	and	the
self	for	the	life	of	the	world.	Come	to	the	one	who	is
home	in	the	life -	giv -	ing	Word.	Know	on -	ly	Christ,	Ho -	ly
bread	and	be -	lieve	Eas -	ter	morn;	trust	his	re -	turn	and,	with

Refrain



sat -	is -	fied;	in	Christ's	pres -	ence	the	loaves	will	a -	bound.
liv -	ing	way,	that	the	full -	ness	of	life	may	be	yours.
food	for	you,	that	your	hun -	ger	and	thirst	be	no	more.
One	of	God,	and	be -	lieve	in	the	truth	you	have	heard.
ev -	'ry	breath,	praise	the	one	in	whom	you	are	re -	born.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD; Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas
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♩ = 70

O God, We Call

Words and Music
by Linnea Good

The musical score is written on two staves in 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep in-side we yearn, from deep in-side we yearn, from deep in-side we yearn for you." The first staff ends with a comma, and the second staff ends with a period and a line for a final note.

O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep in-side we yearn, from
7
deep in-side we yearn, from deep in-side we yearn for you._____

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Prayer after Communion

O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Announcements:

Blessing

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Take Christ to the world.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen - ELW 548



1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;



from this meal of love and grace;
 af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;
 God has called us to re - ceive;
 cour - age be our dai - ly breath;



may we through such love en - vi - sion
 bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed
 pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,
 mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion



whose we are, and whose, our praise.
 to re - lease and to con - sole.
 Spir - it - ed then let us live.
 from this day and un - to death.



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



God, the won - der of our days.
 Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
 Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
 Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: SURGE ECCLESIA, Timothy J. Strand, b. 1958
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“Pop-Up” Food Giveaway at St. Paul’s Property – 407 S. Saturn – Every Thursday from 11:00 – 12:45. Please reach out to Sandy Weaver or Mary Pheasant for more information.

Dates to put on your calendar now! Events to Invite Family and Friends!

October:

- Wednesday, October 22 – 7:15 PM – Prayer for Creation
- Wednesday, October 22 – 11:00 AM – Book Club
- Wednesday, October 29 – Grief Forum: Grief 101 and Prayer of Remembrance

November:

- Sunday, November 9 – Lunch and Learn: Stewardship
- Wed, November 12 – Thanksgiving Dinner and Taizé Prayer with St. John’s – 6:00 PM
- Tues, November 18 – Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 7:00 PM

December:

- Saturday, December 6 – Advent Retreat Day
- Saturday, December 20 – 4:00 PM – Christmas Party – St. Paul’s/St. John’s



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Gathering at St. John's Episcopal 1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a Reconciling in Christ congregation, embodies God's love, and promise of salvation through faith in Christ by extending inclusion and welcome to all.

We welcome the full, active participation of all who worship and minister with us. If you are interested in learning more about Jesus, God's life and action in the world and our lives, the Lutheran faith, or this congregation and how you can be more involved, please reach out to Pastor Anne.

Phone Number: 727- 446-7718

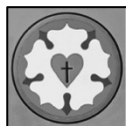
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To reach Pastor Anne
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St. Paul's Spirituality Center
an outreach ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



From sundaysandseasons.com.

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