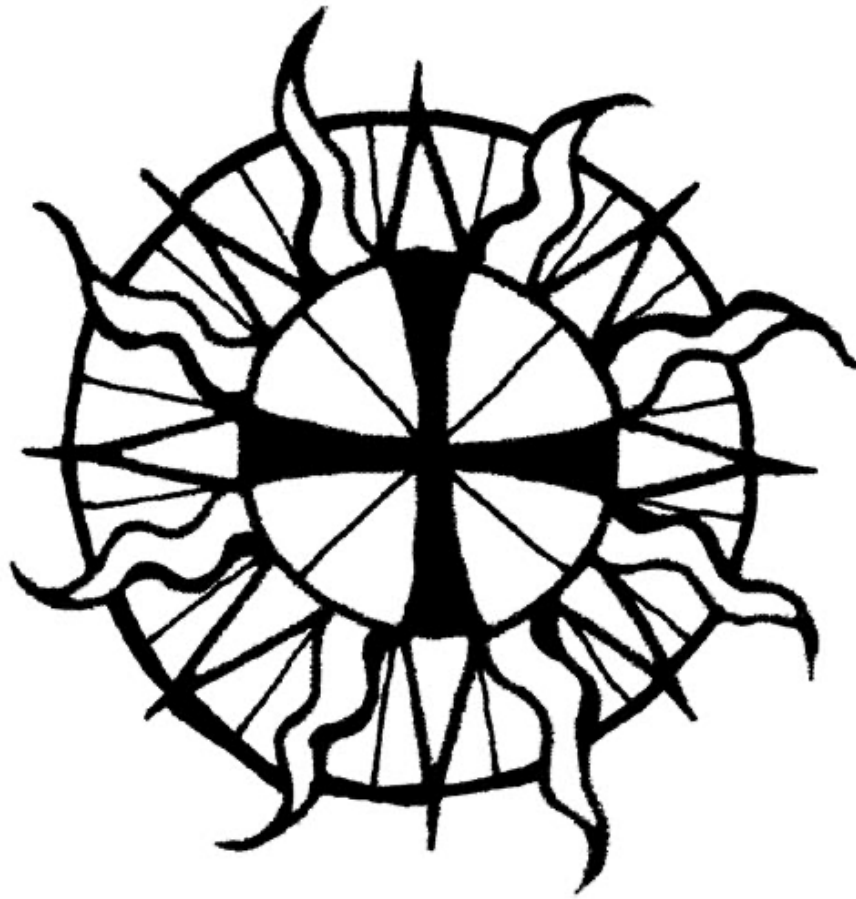


St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Sunday, November 9, 2025
Lectionary 32, Year C



Introduction

Why Jesus? We worship on the first day of the week because Jesus was raised on that day. Every Sunday is a little Easter. This Sunday feels more like Easter than many as the appointed texts celebrate God's promise of the resurrection. Live it up this Lord's day. Our God is the God of the living.

Welcome

Be Thou My Vision – 2025 Stewardship Campaign Question from Last Week – Why Jesus?

Last week we gave out 4 questions: What is your faith story? Why the Church? Why Lutheran? and Why Jesus? You were asked to give SHORT but meaningful answers to these questions – to create your “elevator speech.” Share one of your answers with your small group.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.
Faithful God,

**you have shown us the ways of your heart,
yet we stray from your paths.
We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression
and do not embrace the freedom
of your faithful promises.
We ignore our neighbors.
We exploit the earth.
We reject your abundance,
trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.
Repair our relationships,
restore what we have broken,
renew our hearts,
and bring us to new life.
Amen.**

Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you,
✠ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.
Amen.

Hymn: Jesus, We Are Gathered - ELW – 529

Je - su, ta - wa pa - no, Je - su, ta - wa pa - no,
Je - sus, we are gath-ered, Je - sus, we are gath-ered,

Je - su, ta - wa pa - no, ta - wa pa - no mu zi - ta re - nyu.
Je - sus, we are gath-ered, we are gath-ered, Lord Je - sus, for you.

Text: Patrick Matsikenyiri

Music: JESU, TAWA PANO, Patrick Matsikenyiri

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Prayer of the Day

O God, our eternal redeemer, by the presence of your Spirit you renew and direct our hearts. Keep always in our mind the end of all things and the day of judgment. Inspire us for a holy life here, and bring us to the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Haggai 1:15b—2:9

Haggai called on the exiles who had returned from Babylon to rebuild the temple. The rebuilt temple, however, pales in comparison with the first temple, built by Solomon. Haggai's message of encouragement and promise of future splendor gives hope to the people and to their leaders.

A reading from the prophet Haggai.

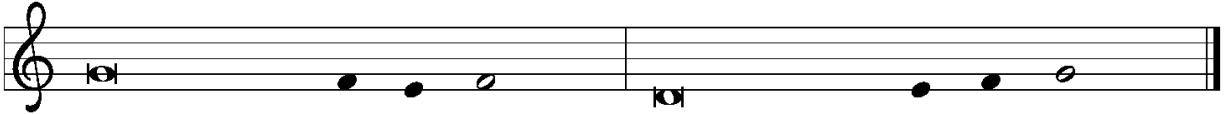
^{15b} In the second year of King Darius, ^{2:1} in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai, saying: ²“Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say: ³Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? ⁴Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the LORD; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the LORD; work, for I am with you, says the LORD of hosts, ⁵according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. ⁶For thus says the LORD of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land, ⁷and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the LORD of hosts. ⁸The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the LORD of hosts. ⁹The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts, and in this place I will give prosperity, says the LORD of hosts.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 98

ELW - Psalm Tone 6



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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Cantor: Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

**ALL: O LORD, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed
your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**

Cantor: You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

**ALL: Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**

Cantor: Sing to the LORD | with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.

**ALL: With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.**

Cantor: Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.

**ALL: Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
who comes to | judge the earth.**

Cantor: The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

¹ As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way, for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. ⁴ He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

¹³ But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ For this purpose he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Je - su, ta - wa pa - no, Je - su, ta - wa pa - no,
Je - sus, we are gath-ered, Je - sus, we are gath-ered,

Je - su, ta - wa pa - no, ta - wa pa - no mu zi - ta re - nyu.
Je - sus, we are gath-ered, we are gath-ered, Lord Je - sus, for you.

Text: Patrick Matsikenyeri
Music: JESU, TAWA PANO, Patrick Matsikenyeri
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Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

Some Sadducees, who do not believe in the resurrection of the dead, try to trap Jesus. They formulate the convoluted case of a serial widow who marries a succession of seven brothers. Jesus responds by teaching about God to whom all are alive and in whom all relationships are fulfilled.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke:
Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁷ Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to [Jesus] ²⁸ and asked him a question: “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; ³⁰ then the second ³¹ and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. ³² Finally the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.”

³⁴ Jesus said to them, “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶ Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is God not of the dead but of the living, for to him all of them are alive.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Pr. Anne Harman

Hymn of the Day: The Church of Christ, in Every Age – ELW 729



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Please stand

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you brought us into intimate relationship with you through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus and have made us your own and 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.

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.

Prayers of Intercession

Please respond to each invocation: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A Sign of Peace and Reconciliation

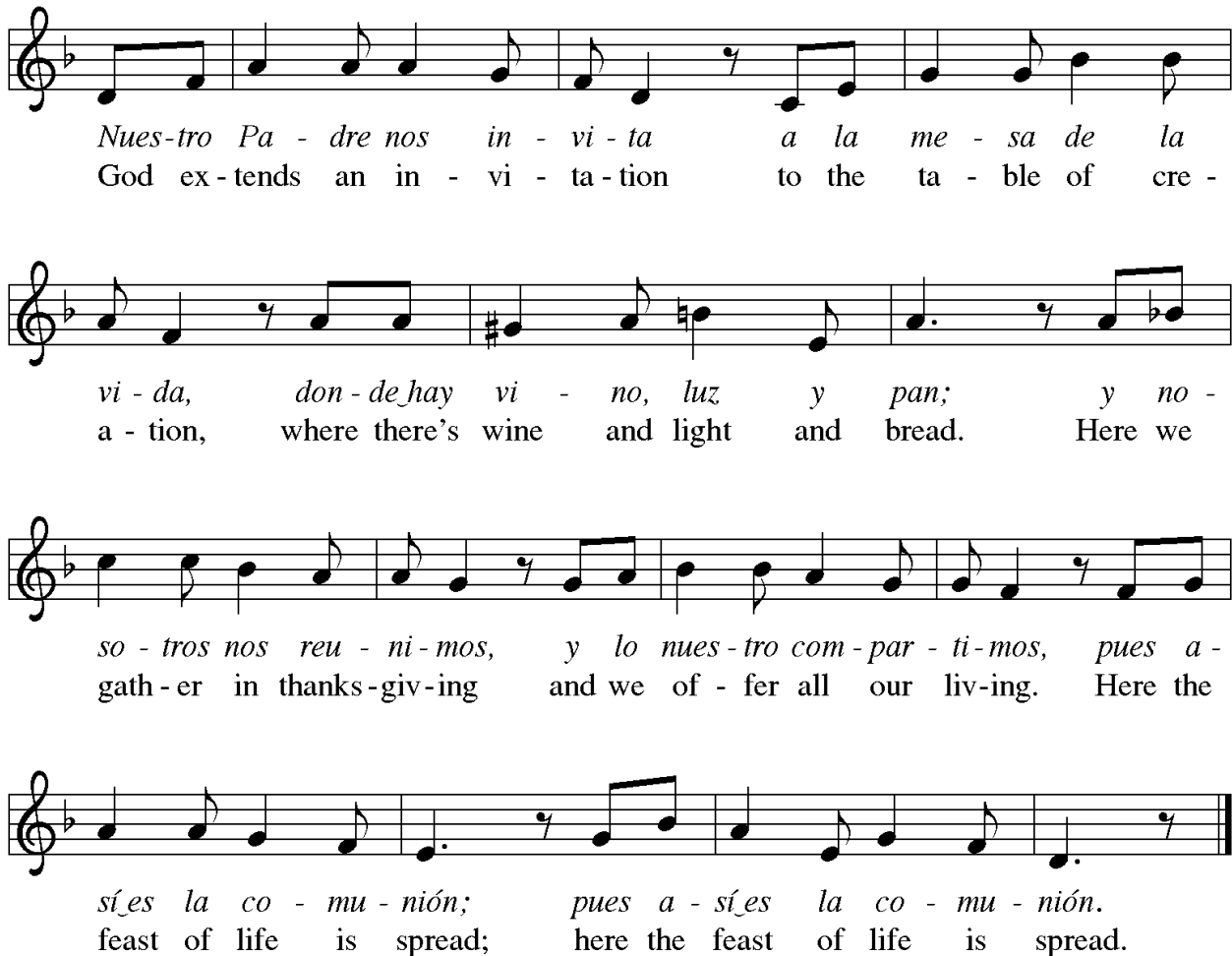
Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

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: God Extends an Invitation – ELW 486



Nues-tro Pa - dre nos in - vi - ta a la me - sa de la
God ex - tends an in - vi - ta - tion to the ta - ble of cre -

vi - da, don - de hay vi - no, luz y pan; y no -
a - tion, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we

so - tros nos reu - ni - mos, y lo nues - tro com - par - ti - mos, pues a -
gath - er in thanks - giv - ing and we of - fer all our liv - ing. Here the

sí es la co - mu - ni - ón; pues a - sí es la co - mu - ni - ón.
feast of life is spread; here the feast of life is spread.

Text: Miria T. Kolling; English and Spanish tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: NUESTRO PADRE, Miria T. Kolling
Spanish and English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.
Music © Miria T. Kolling.

Offering Prayer

God of healing and hope,
you bless those who are hungry,
promising to fill them with good things.
Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.
Nourish us with the abundance of your feast
and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior,
now and forever.
Amen.

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

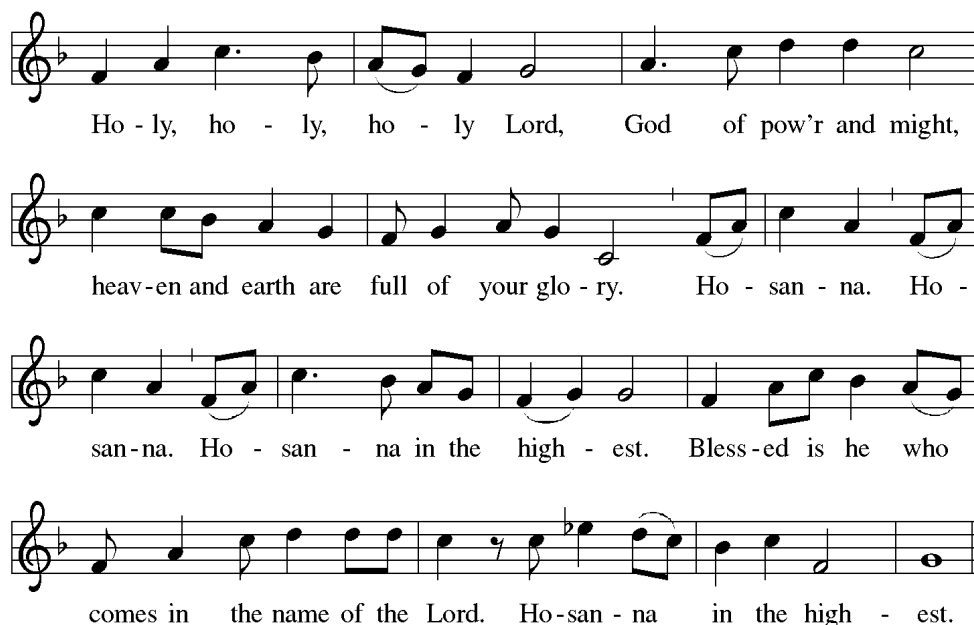
Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

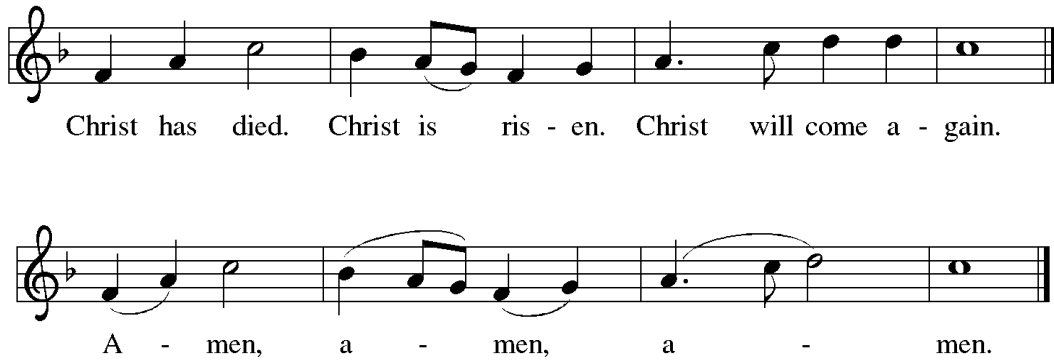
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Preface and Prayer of Thanksgiving adapted
from the book Eucharistic Prayers.



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.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

Hymn: I Am the Bread of Life – ELW 485

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less . . . of you . . . eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . .
 5 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve that . . .

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man . . . and . . .
 I . . . am the life. . . If you be -
 you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat . . . of this bread, you shall . . live for -
 drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his
 lieve . . . in . . . me, e - ven . . though you
 Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . have . . .

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to . . . the . . . world. . .

Refrain
 All

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,

and I will raise you up on the last day."

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6
 Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM
 Text and music © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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Hymn: Lord, Jesus You Shall Be My Song As I Journey – ELW 808



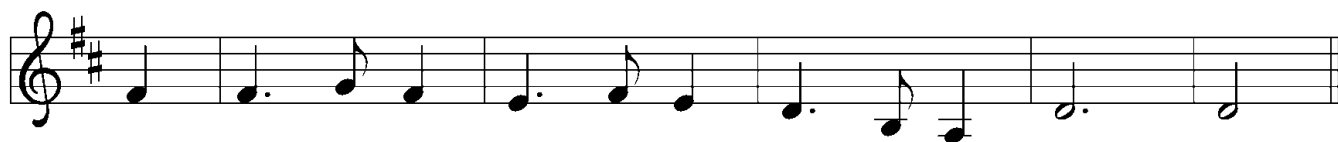
1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an-non-cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
 I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,



Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Prayer after Communion

God of field and flower, wheat and grape,
you have nourished us with the bread of heaven
that gives life to the world.

Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son,
send us out to gather your good gifts for all who
hunger and thirst,
and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

Amen.

Announcements:

Blessing

The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,
God the Son save you,
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.

The holy Trinity bless you ✚
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart
now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Here On Jesus Christ I Will Stand - ACS - 1024

Refrain



Kwa - ke Ye - su na - si - ma - ma, ndi - ye
Here on Je - sus Christ I will stand. He's the



mwam - ba ni sa - la - ma. Ndi - ye mwam - ba ni sa - la -
sol - id rock of my life. He's the sol - id rock of my



ma, ndi - ye mwam - ba ni sa - la - ma.
life. He's the sol - id rock of my life.



1 There's no oth - er place I can hide till the
2 It is not the work of my hands that has
3 When my days on this earth are done, and I



storm that rag - es sub - sides. My voice cries to God from the
washed a - way all my sins. I'm re - deemed, and all of my
stand at God's ho - ly throne, my heart will not have an - y



Refrain

flood, and I'm saved be - cause of his blood.
days, Je - sus Christ will be my heart's praise.
fear; in Christ's righ - teous - ness I am here.

Text: Kenyan hymn; adapt. Greg Scheer, b. 1966

Music: KWAKE YESU NASIMAMA, Kenyan melody; adapt. Greg Scheer

Text © 2007 East African Annual Conference, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

English adapt. and arr. © 2007 Greg Scheer, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

Please pick up a NOVEMBER NEWLETTER

Thanksgiving Dinner/Taizé Prayer – Sign Up

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service – Tuesday, November 18

We will collect items for the Thanksgiving Service collection in addition to the Baskets for Belcher Elementary.

Items needed are:

Microwave small hearty meals such as chef Boyardee SpaghettiOs and mac and cheese. Small pop-top canned pork & beans or chili, tuna or chicken pouches, Vienna sausage, beef jerky, single serve peanut butter cups, cereal in a cup, shelf stable single serve milk, shelf stable pudding cups.

Please pick up your 2026 Stewardship Campaign Information Package.

We have moved the Lunch and Learn to Sunday, November 16

More information on that next week from the Stewardship Committee and Pr. Anne. Pizza and salad will be served.

**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.

November:

- Tuesday, November 11 – Drum Circle – 10:30 AM
- Wednesday, November 12 – Thanksgiving Dinner/Taizé Prayer with St. John’s – 6:00 PM
- Sunday, November 16 – Lunch and Learn: Stewardship
- Sunday, November 16 – Choir Rehearsal for Interfaith Thanksgiving Service – 4:00 – 6:00 PM
- Tues, November 18 – Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, November 19 – WELCA Bible Study – 11:00 AM
- Wednesday, November 19 – Silver Foxes – 1:00 PM
- Thursday, November 20 – Quilt Ministry – 9:00 AM

December:

- Wednesday, December 3 – Book Club – 11:00 AM
- 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

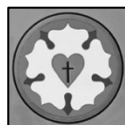
Email: office@stpaulsclearwater.org

Website: <https://www.stpaulsclearwater.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/st.paulslutheranchurch.clearwater.fl>



To reach Pastor Anne
pastoranneharman@gmail.com



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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