



# St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost — August 28, 2022





## ST. PAUL CLINTONVILLE

31 North Park St  
Clintonville, WI 54929  
[www.stpaulclintonville.com](http://www.stpaulclintonville.com)

**Pastor Caleb Rothfuss**  
Cell: (989) 220-8833  
Church Office: (715) 460-3143

### Welcome Guests...

We are honored to have you with us here at St. Paul in Clintonville!

- **Guest Book:** Please sign our guest book near the doors to the worship area.
- **Restrooms:** If you need them, there are bathrooms just to the sides of the main entrance doors.
- **Children:** We are grateful and glad that they are here! If you feel the need to, you can take them to the parent's room or to the back gathering area. Let us know if there are other ways we can help you focus on the Word.
- **Changing Table:** If needed these are in the parent's room and downstairs restrooms.
- **Communion:** guests, please talk with our pastor before coming up for communion so that we can talk about what we believe about it first.

*This church is part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. [wels.net](http://wels.net)*



### PUT DOWN WHAT YOU LOVE; PICK UP WHAT YOU LOATH

*It is an unavoidable hard truth. Our relationship with Jesus will put us in situations where we must decide where love for him ranks compared to love for other people and things. And Jesus is not content to be one of many important things in our life; he wants to be first. He wants us to follow his Word unwaveringly, even when he asks us to do difficult things. As a result, following Jesus will force us to let go of things we love and embrace things we would naturally loath. Jesus is loving and honest. He doesn't hide this hard truth! Instead, he tells us up front that we must count the cost of following him. That means calculating what we might have to give up as his followers. He wants us to do that now, ahead of time, rather than waiting until we are in the heat of the moment and emotions are running high. However, our calculations should not only consider what we might give up for Jesus. They also entail calculating what we get through him! When we perceive the infinite blessings we find in Christ, the decisions we must make, while difficult, will be clear. Whatever is lost as we follow Jesus pales in comparison to what we gain.*

#### Vision

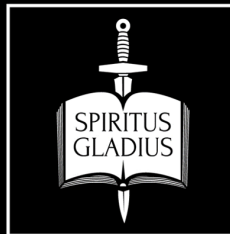
Our passion for the Gospel will make us the chosen place of worship in our community.


#### Mission

We will share the life giving and inerrant Word of God as written in the Bible.

#### Core Values

We will proclaim the law and the gospel so that all may have eternal life.



 Artwork by Ian M. Welch. Copyright 2015 Ian M. Welch. All Rights Reserved. [www.paramentics.com](http://www.paramentics.com)

The Bible translation used in today's service is NIV 11.

The service music and liturgy are used, reprinted, and livestreamed with permission through our [onlicense.net](http://onlicense.net) license A-720507.

—Gathering Rite on the Word—

Leading worship is Pastor Kevin Westra from Bethlehem Hortonville

Hymn 703

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down  
your head upon my breast.”  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting place,  
and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down and drink and live.”  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“I am this dark world’s light.  
Look unto me; your morn shall rise  
and all your day be bright.”  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I’ll walk  
till trav’ling days are done.

**Invocation** *Call to Worship*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen

**Gathering Rite on the Word**

*We start our service with a special confession and absolution. Amongst the stanzas of a hymn, we will first confess our sins to God. Then we will receive absolution or the declaration of God’s grace to us.*

Hymn 919 stanza 1

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

1 Blessed Jesus, at your Word  
we are gathered all to hear you.  
Let our hearts and souls be stirred  
now to seek and love and fear you,  
by your teachings, sweet and holy,  
drawn from earth to love you solely.

Oh, how I love your law!

**I meditate on it all day long.**

Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,

**for they are ever with me.**

I have more insight than all my teachers,

**for I meditate on your statutes.**

How sweet are your words to my taste,

**sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

*Psalm 119:97-99,103*

**Hymn** *919 stanza 2*

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

2 **All our knowledge, sense, and sight  
lie in deepest darkness shrouded  
till your Spirit breaks our night  
with the beams of truth unclouded.  
You alone to God can win us;  
you must work all good within us.**

All Scripture is God-breathed

and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,  
**so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

*2 Timothy 3:16,17*

Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it.  
For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his forgiveness.

**Holy and merciful Father,**

**I confess that I am by nature sinful**

**and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good.**

**For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.**

**But I am truly sorry for my sins,**

**and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray:**

**Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**Hymn** *919 stanza 3*

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

3 **Gracious Savior, good and kind,  
Light from Light, from God proceeding,  
open now our heart and mind;  
help us by your Spirit's pleading.  
Hear the cry your Church now raises;  
hear and bless our prayers and praises.**

God gave his Word so "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn** *919 stanza 4*

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

4 **Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
praise to you and adoration!  
Grant that we your Word may trust,  
confident of our salvation,  
while we here below must wander,  
till we sing your praises yonder.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O merciful Lord, you did not spare your only Son but delivered him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

## **First Reading** *Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

*Through Moses, the LORD sets two paths before Israel: one leading to life, the other to death. Life was found in listening to God's voice.*

<sup>15</sup>See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. <sup>16</sup>For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

<sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

<sup>19</sup>This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live <sup>20</sup>and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 1 *sung in unison*

Bless - ed are they, bless - ed are  
they who hope in the LORD.

**Blessed is the one who / *does not walk*  
in step with the / *wicked*  
or stand in the way that / *sinners take*  
or sit in the company of / *mockers*,  
but whose delight is in the law / *of the LORD*,  
and who meditates on his law / *day and night*.  
That person is like a tree planted by streams of / *water*,  
which yields its fruit in / *season*  
and whose leaf does not / *wither*—  
whatever they do / *prosper*.**

*Refrain*

**Not so the / *wicked*!  
They are like chaff that the wind / *blows away*.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the / *judgment*,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the / *righteous*.**

*Refrain*

**For the LORD watches over the way of the / *righteous*,  
but the way of the wicked leads to de- / *struction*.  
Glory be to the Father and / *to the Son*  
and to the Holy / *Spirit*,  
as it was in the be- / *ginning*,  
is now, and will be forever. / *Amen*.**

*Refrain*

## Second Reading *Philemon 1,7–21*

*The case of the escaped slave, Onesimus, returning to his owner, Philemon, is a perfect example of the cost involved in following Jesus.*

*Paul encourages Philemon to free Onesimus and embrace him as a brother.*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—

<sup>7</sup>Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, <sup>9</sup>yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—<sup>10</sup>that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

<sup>12</sup>I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. <sup>13</sup>I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. <sup>14</sup>But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—<sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. <sup>20</sup>I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

———*We stand out of respect for the words and works of Jesus.*———

## Gospel Acclamation *Luke 12:32*

Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

## Gospel Reading *Luke 14:25–35*

*Jesus teaches us that truly following him will come at a cost: the need to carry a cross, the need to give up everything. Count the cost.*

<sup>25</sup>Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: <sup>26</sup>“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

<sup>28</sup>“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup>For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

<sup>31</sup>“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

<sup>34</sup>“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? <sup>35</sup>It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

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

## Confession of Faith *Apostles’ Creed*

*The Apostles’ Creed is a brief statement of gospel truths taught by the apostles. This creed was created to teach and unite Christians in the truth of God’s Word. The Apostles’ Creed can be found on page 197 of the hymnal.*





## Hymn 694

- 1 Jesus, I my cross have taken,  
all to leave and follow you;  
destitute, despised, forsaken,  
you on earth once suffered, too.  
Perish ev'ry fond ambition,  
all I've ever hoped or known;  
yet how rich is my condition,  
God and heav'n are still my own!
- 2 Let the world despise and leave me;  
they have left my Savior, too.  
Human hearts and looks deceive me;  
you are not, like them, untrue.  
And, since you have smiled upon me,  
God of wisdom, love, and might,  
foes may hate and friends may shun me;  
show your face, and all is bright.

## Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

- 3 Go, then, earthly fame and treasure!  
Come, disaster, scorn, and pain!  
In your service pain is pleasure,  
with your favor loss is gain.  
I have called you Abba, Father;  
you my all in all shall be.  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather,  
all must work for good to me.
- 4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glory,  
armed by faith and winged by prayer;  
all but heav'n is transitory,  
God's own hand shall guide you there.  
Soon shall end this earthly story,  
swift shall pass the pilgrim days,  
hope soon change to heav'nly glory,  
faith to sight and prayer to praise.

## Sermon *Luke 14:25-35*

# COUNT THE COST

## Hymn 942

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.  
Amen.

## Create in Me a Clean Heart

## Offering

*Our offering is our reaction to God's Word. Do not feel obligated to give here, we are just thankful you are here. Your offerings here support the ministry here at this church, along with the mission work of our larger synod. The offering is collected in the golden plates by the entrance to the worship area.*

## **Prayer of the Church** *from Luther's German Mass*

I invite you to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me the Lord's Prayer as Christ our Lord taught us.

First, we pray that God our Father in heaven would look with mercy on all his children on earth. We ask him to give us grace that we might proclaim his Word faithfully and live our lives according to his will, for then we show that his name is precious to us. We also pray that he would keep us from any teaching and living which would dishonor his name.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

We pray that his kingdom and the rule of his grace might come to us and grow in us each day; that all who are still captives in Satan's kingdom might be brought to know Jesus Christ, his Son, so that the Christian Church might grow and prosper.

**Your kingdom come.**

We pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen us to do and accept God's will in life and death, in good times and in bad, and that we might have power to put down our own sinful will and its desires.

**Your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

We pray that our Father would also give us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish desires, and help us to trust that he will provide for all our needs.

**Give us today our daily bread.**

We ask that God would forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may rest and rejoice in a good conscience before him, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us.

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

We pray that God would protect us from all temptations and help us by his Spirit to put down our sinful flesh, to despise the world and its vices, and to overcome the devil and all his trickery.

**Lead us not into temptation.**

And finally, we pray that God would deliver us from all evils of body and soul now and forever.

**But deliver us from evil.**

All those who sincerely desire these things will say from their hearts "Amen," trusting without doubt that their prayers are answered in heaven, as Christ has promised: "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*Prayer Requests*

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

**Hear us for Jesus' sake.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn 831**

**1**  
Why should cross and trial grieve me?  
Christ is near  
with his cheer;  
never will he leave me.  
Who can rob me of the heaven  
that God's Son  
for me won  
when his life was given?

**2**  
When life's troubles rise to meet me,  
though their weight  
may be great,  
they will not defeat me.  
God, my loving Savior, sees them;  
he who knows  
all my woes  
knows how best to end them.



Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

**3**  
God gives me my days of gladness,  
and I will  
trust him still  
when he sends me sadness.  
God is good; his love attends me  
day by day,  
come what may,  
guides me and defends me.

**4**  
From God's joy can nothing sever,  
for I am  
his dear lamb,  
he, my Shepherd ever.  
I am his because he gave me  
his own blood  
for my good,  
by his death to save me.

**5**  
Since I know God never fails me,  
in his voice  
I'll rejoice  
when grim death assails me.  
Trusting in my Savior's merit,  
safe at last,  
troubles past,  
I shall heav'n inherit.

## Thanksgiving

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

Let us praise the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

**Amen.**

## Hymn 707

### Cling Tightly to the Word of God



- 1 Cling tight - ly to the Word of God and Christ's dis -  
2 Re - call in faith the pre - cious gift of your bap -  
3 For just as God raised up his Son from death by  
4 Be strong! Stand firm! Come, walk the path that saints be -



ci - ple be, for then, be - lov - ed, you will know the  
tis - mal day, when you were joined to Je - sus' death that  
his great might, so too, in Christ, we now may live as  
fore you trod, with read - y feet to bring good news of



truth that sets you free, the truth that sets you free.  
washed your sins a - way, that washed your sins a - way.  
chil - dren of the light, as chil - dren of the light.  
Christ, the peace of God, of Christ, the peace of God.

- 5 **Know that his body and his blood will feed your hungry soul like manna in life's wilderness, until you reach your goal, until you reach your goal.**
- 6 **Now fix your eyes on Jesus Christ; "Come, follow me," says he. "Deny yourself, take up your cross; come, lose your life for me, come, lose your life for me."**