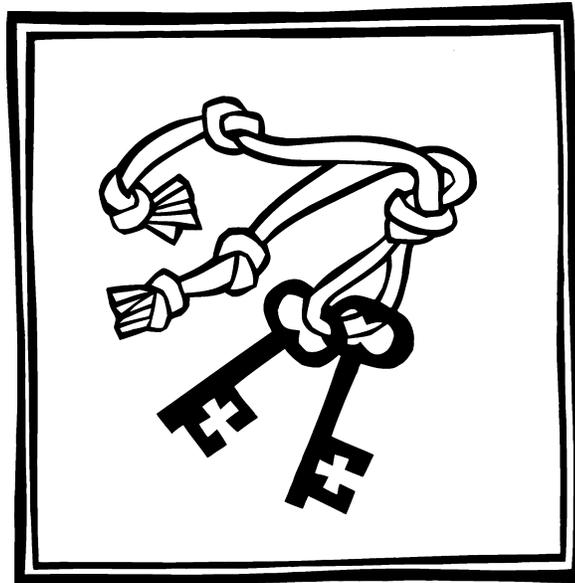

Service of the Word
Twelfth Sunday in Pentecost
Sunday, August 23rd, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.



In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith.

God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission.

Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

In God's Service

Pastor:	Matthew Muters
Ministers:	All Baptized People of God
Music:	Mary Groh
Reader:	Lori Angell

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

All Amen.

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Reconciling God,

**All we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.**

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

**By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, lead us;**

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life.

Amen.

P Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,

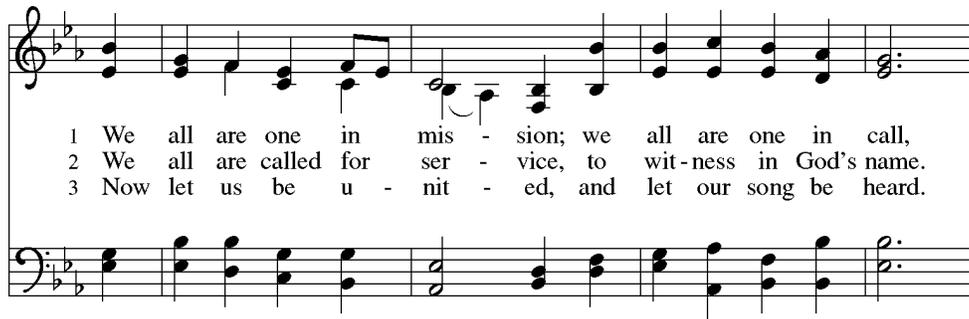
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GOD'S WORD

Isaiah 51: 1-6

The enduring foundation of God's salvation

Psalms 67

O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps 122:8)

Romans 12: 1-8

One body in Christ, with gifts that differ

Matthew 16: 13-20

The profession of Peter's faith

FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah:

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 138 (read responsively):

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;

before the gods I will sing your praise.

²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

³When I called, you answered me;

you increased my strength within me.

⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,

when they have heard the words of your mouth.

⁵They will sing of the ways of the LORD,

that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,

perceiving the haughty from afar.

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;

you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁸You will make good your purpose for me;

O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND READING

A reading from Romans:

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
 great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
 There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
 But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
 Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
 there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
 and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
 and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

OFFERING

Containers are marked for each congregation to place offerings in during the service.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

P God of goodness and growth,
 all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
 By your Holy Spirit, your Living Word, Jesus Christ is read in Scriptures, proclaimed
 in preaching, announced in forgiveness of sins and encountered in the bodily
 presence of the Christian community.
 All these signs we know and name as Your means of Grace.

**All Nourish us through all these gifts,
 that we might proclaim your steadfast love
 in our communities and in our world,
 through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

P Lord our rock, you are our foundation in Jesus Christ, your Son, whom we confess as the living God. Prepare your church for its mission in bearing witness to Christ, both here at home and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

P You call forth praises from the far reaches of the universe to the smallest of creatures. Join our songs to theirs, that a spirit of praise and thanksgiving will arouse us to cherish this wondrous home you give us. Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

P All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord. Direct leaders and lawmakers of the world to walk in your ways. Help them regard those in need with mercy and fulfill your loving purposes in the governance of peoples. Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

P Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

P You are the source of all goodness, O Lord. Send your blessing on our students, teachers, and support staff that they may be healthy and safe in our schools or wherever they may pursue wisdom and knowledge. Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

P You call us into a worshipping community together, in which we, though many, are one in Christ. May we recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

P You are the everlasting Rock from which we were hewn, and you restore your people to joy and gladness. In blessed memory and hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead (*especially*). Bring us with them to our heavenly home.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING



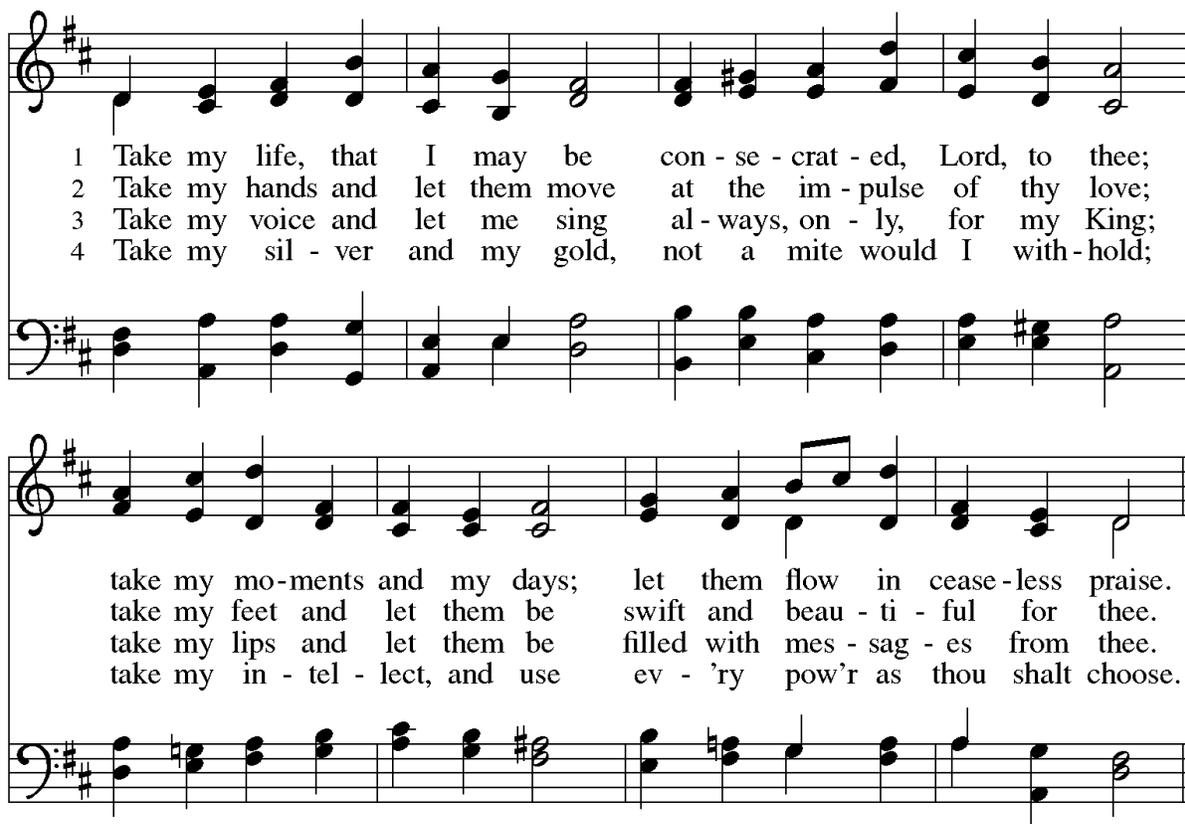
Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

BLESSING

P Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

All Amen.

verses 1, 2, 4, 5, 6


1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself, and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God!



Announcements

Polka in the Park - next Sunday at the East Park Bandshell!

Come join us for worship at the East Park Bandshell, Sunday, August 30th at 9:00 a.m. for our annual Polka worship service.

Outdoor Services in September will be held at St. Paul:

Parking on 1st Street SE will be for people who are remaining in their cars during worship, if you join us on the green space south of the building please park on South Connecticut Ave or East State Street.

St. Paul Church Office will be closed August 24-26th. If you need something, please call Pastor Matthew at 641-231-4418. Diane will be back on Thursday, August 27th.

“Wheels” needed: Our Saviour’s will be volunteering for Meals On Wheels from August 31st to September 4th, *and we’re in need of drivers.* Contact Nancy Nielsen at 641-420-6562.

School Kits for Lutheran World Relief: Today is the last day to bring donations to worship at Our Saviour’s, as we will be worshipping at East Park next week. You can still send a monetary donation to Our Saviour’s at 2502 S. Jefferson, Mason City, IA 50401 or contact Marilyn Martell at 425-9048 or the church office if you still have supplies or a donation. *Your generosity has been overwhelming!*

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St Paul Lutheran Church

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