

We ask that all members join the Women of ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning, and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley, Aria & Hudson Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes, Maevis Shock; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, Kaylin, Emma, Bryce, Marah, Bria, Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Tyler & Jaden Bever; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Callie Fleming; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Emma Elder; Bryson Lamb, Elizabeth Wildes; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon & Ellory Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Watson & Duke Sebranek, Violet Ford, Hunter Puhl, Eason Kelbel, Cole, Caleb & Connor Redding; Brooke, Claire, Grace & Bree Olson; Alayna, Alivia & Levi Wyttenbach; Luke Kroeger; Peyton Oelson, Greyson Resop; Dominic Young; children throughout the world.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for all children every where, that you would keep them in your care.

In Jesus name I pray.

Amen



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

October 20, 2024

**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ's Family  
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?*

***\*(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)***

*Announcements*

### **Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

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

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,  
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us  
cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first  
we make distinctions among ourselves.  
We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.  
In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.  
Draw near to us with grace in time of need,  
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity  
and to remember our sin no more.  
By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of † Jesus Christ,  
the source of eternal healing,  
your sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**

**Hymn                      “You Servants of God”                      ELW#825**

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**  
**Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the  
peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom,  
and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

**Word**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**First Reading**

*This reading is from the last of four passages in Isaiah that are often called “servant songs.” Christians are probably most familiar with this servant song. In light of Christian faith, the servant’s healing ministry and redemptive suffering are understood to be fulfilled in the life and death of Christ.*

**CALENDAR**

Wed., Oct. 23	Confirmation	5:00 PM
Sun., Oct. 27	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Choir Practice	11:30 AM

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

A special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 3, 2024, immediately following the regular worship service. The agenda items are as follows:

1. Approval to enter into a contract with Access Elevator, Inc., La Crosse, WI for the installation of a Bruno Commercial Curve Stairlift at a cost of \$19,500.00.
2. Presentation of recommendation by Church Council for replacement of existing front steps.
3. Approval to enter into a contract with HSR Associates, La Crosse, WI, in the amount of \$40,750.00. (Phase 1: Construction Documents: \$32,750 Lump Sum; Phase 2: Bidding and Construction Administration: \$8,000 Lump Sum; Total \$40,750.00)

**CHOIR**

For those of you interested in participating in a church choir, please plan to attend practice on October 27, immediately following worship.

**NEWSLETTER**

Please have any items you would like placed in the November/December Newsletter to the church office no later than noon on Monday, October 28.

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy God,  
you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**Blessing**

God all mighty,  
God most merciful ✠ bless you,  
keep you, and give you peace.

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn**                      **“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”**                      **ELW#538**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THOSE SERVING TODAY**

Ministers: All God’s People; Minister: Reverend George “Bill” Pursley;  
Organist: Kirstin Arndt; Reader: Linus Arndt; Altar: Bob & Louise Buchholz;  
Communion Server: Justin Arndt

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, Laurie Switz Johnson, Heidi Stenerson, Dan Paulson, Richie Vlasak, Kristy Gwin Solovey, Bud Speicher, Kathy Von Ruden, Lyle Schindler, Florence Dougherty, Connie Summerfield, Gordy O’Rourke, Marilyn O’Rourke, David Forbes, Mary Ann Arndt, Cole Brandau, Jeremy Munson.

**IN THE MILITARY**

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Allen Roscovious, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton.

**A reading from Isaiah 53:4-12**

<sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.  
<sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.  
<sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way,  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.  
<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.  
<sup>8</sup>By a perversion of justice he was taken away.  
Who could have imagined his future?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people.  
<sup>9</sup>They made his grave with the wicked  
and his tomb with the rich,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.  
<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.  
When you make his life an offering for sin,  
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;  
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.  
<sup>11</sup>Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.  
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.  
<sup>12</sup>Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;  
because he poured out himself to death,

and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 91:9-16

<sup>9</sup>Because you have made the LORD your refuge,  
and the Most High your habitation,  
<sup>10</sup>**no evil will befall you,  
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**  
<sup>11</sup>For God will give the angels charge over you,  
to guard you in all your ways.  
<sup>12</sup>**Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**  
<sup>13</sup>You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;  
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.  
<sup>14</sup>**I will deliver those who cling to me;  
I will uphold them, because they now my name.**  
<sup>15</sup>They will call me, and I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.  
<sup>16</sup>**With long life will I satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.**

### Second Reading

*Using imagery from scripture and from Jewish worship practices, Jesus is presented as the great high priest who was obedient to God's saving plan. Through his suffering and death he has become the source of eternal salvation*

### A reading from Hebrews 5:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. <sup>2</sup>He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; <sup>3</sup>and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. <sup>4</sup>And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

### Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

\*Great Thanksgiving

ELW p. 190

\*Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p. 190

### \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

### \*LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

P: Jesus welcomes you to this table.  
Come, here is your God.

***Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.***

"Lamb of God"  
Distribution

ELW p.191

Empowering One, fill the leaders of governments with a spirit of service that prioritizes those on the margins due to job loss, underemployment, unsafe working conditions, and immigration status. May economic equity be achieved for all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Restoring One, send your angels to watch over, rescue, and protect those who are injured or ill. Nurse those who suffer hardship, disease, injury, or difficulty with your comfort and peace especially Gloria, Darlene, Laurie, Heidi, Dan, Richie, Kristy, Bud, Kathy, Lyle, Florence, Connie, Gordy, Marilyn, David, Mary Ann, Cole, and Jeremy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding One, you call pastors to shepherd the congregation toward faithful living as servants and followers of Jesus. Inspire all ordained ministers and seminarians to ministry that challenges, engages, and comforts those in their care. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Saving One, we give thanks for the disciples James and John and all saints who have faithfully served you. We rejoice in a promised place at the feast of victory that we receive by your grace alone. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

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

**OFFERING**

**\*Offertory Hymn      “Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”      ELW # 691**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Blessed are you, O God,  
source of every gift of your creation.  
By these gifts and with our lives,  
help us to serve one another and all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

<sup>5</sup>So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”;

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

**“Alleluia”**

**ELW p. 188**

**GOSPEL READING**

*On the way to Jerusalem the disciples ask Jesus to grant them seats of honor. Jesus responds by announcing that he and his followers will “rule” through self-giving service.*

**The Holy Gospel according to Mark 10:35-45**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>35</sup>James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” <sup>36</sup>And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” <sup>37</sup>And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” <sup>38</sup>But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” <sup>39</sup>They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; <sup>40</sup>but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

<sup>41</sup>When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. <sup>42</sup>So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among

the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. <sup>43</sup>But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup>and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup>For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** Reverend George “Bill” Pursley

### **Presentation of New Member**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Karla Richie, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as a new member into the life and ministry of this congregation.

### **\*Apostles’ Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called 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.

Karla, our sister in Christ,

do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God’s people in this place?

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

People of God,  
do you promise to support and pray for Karla in her new life in Christ?  
**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

### **WELCOME**

Let us welcome Karla in Christ to this community of faith.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.  
Together we will give thanks and praise to God  
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

**Hymn “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant” ELW#659**

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

Challenged by God’s Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, we give thanks for all servant leaders of the church. Bless bishops, pastors, and deacons with humble wisdom and ground them in your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creative One, we give thanks for the delicate balance of the natural world. Kindle in us a spirit of caring strength in the preservation of habitats, food availability, and centers of refuge, that all wildlife may thrive. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**