

A group of men in robes are walking away from the viewer along a rocky shoreline. The sun is setting over the ocean, creating a golden glow that reflects on the water and the wet rocks. The men are dressed in simple, light-colored robes, and their figures are silhouetted against the bright light of the sunset. The background shows a hilly coastline with some trees and a small boat on the water in the distance.

***“For I did not shrink from
declaring the whole
counsel of God”
Acts. 20:27***

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101
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10:45 a.m. Sunday, May 25, 2025
Sermon: "Saying Goodbye" Paul's Final Days Acts 20:13-38



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- A Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:45 a.m. Sunday, May 25, 2025

Servants of God's House Today:

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. James Travis

Praise Team Leader: Doris Hill

Usher: Tim Draube

Missionaries: Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf and the Siouxland Hispanic Ministry

Reader: Chaney Teut

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

AS WE GATHER It is almost the end of the Easter Season, and we would like it to continue. The non-festival half of the Church Year doesn't seem as, well, festive. But listen to the Readings! There are people, like Paul in the Reading from Acts, who need support today. Paul is leaving the people of Ephesus and commends them to keep hearing God's Word, hard work, and giving. The vision in Revelation showed John's readers the perfect city, ready to welcome all whose names are in the Book of Life (that's us)! We can hardly wait to get there.

In the meantime, there's no time to lose. "Ask," Jesus tells us in the Gospel, "and you will receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24). You see, even now He is with us. What would you like to ask Him?

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Let us pray. Heavenly Father, our Lord Jesus has returned to You, but He promised us to live with Him in the new Jerusalem. Grant us, by Your Spirit, steadfastness of faith, so that we never doubt but will live each day in joyful expectation of seeing Him again; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Worship Service

(The congregation is invited to respond in the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

The Hand of Fellowship

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

P: Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.

C: He showed me the holy city Jerusalem.

P: The city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,

C: for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

P: Ask, and you will receive,

C: that your joy may be full.

Opening Song

“Blessed Be Your Name”

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful,
Where your streams of abundance flow - Blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place,
Though I walk through the wilderness, Blessed be Your name.

Channel 1: Every blessing You pour out I turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord, still I will say

Chorus: Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name.

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me,
When the world's all as it should be, Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering
though there's pain in the offering Blessed be Your name.

Channel 1, Chorus, Chorus

You give and take away; You give and take away;
My heart will choose to say, Lord Blessed be Your name. (repeat twice)

Chorus, chorus, chorus)

(Words by Matt Redman, 2002 by Kingsway's Thankyou! Music, used by permission,
CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

Apostles' Creed

First Lesson Acts 20:17-38 (Paul sees the Ephesians for the last time.)

<p>¹⁷Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them:</p> <p>“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that</p>	<p>was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.</p>
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²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, ²⁷for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years

I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

³⁶And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

Second Lesson Revelation 21:9–14, 21–27 (John sees the heavenly Jerusalem.)

⁹Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

¹²It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— ¹³on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.

¹⁴And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. . . .

²¹And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

²²And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

(Please stand, as you are able, for the Gospel)

Holy Gospel John 16:23–33 (Jesus prepares the disciples for His leaving them.)

²³[Jesus said:] “In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

²⁵“I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

²⁹His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.”

³¹Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? ³²Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Confession and Absolution John 16:33

P: Let us ask God for forgiveness and guidance.

C: At times, O Lord, it feels like You have left us and gone into heaven, leaving us to fend for ourselves. We confess that we fail to remember Your word of promise about Your presence with us and Your love for us. We fear what might happen, and we regularly face our own desires and temptations. We forget that You “have overcome the world.” Forgive us and renew in us strong faith in Your presence and protection.

P: God has not left us alone. Christ is with us, and He has broken every barrier between us and the promised Jerusalem awaiting us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Children's Message

The Song of Instruction “Holy Forever”

[Verse 1]

A thousand generations falling down in worship To sing the song of ages to the Lamb
And all who've gone before us and all who will believe Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

[Pre-Chorus]

Your name is the highest Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions Your name stands above them all

[Chorus]

And the angels cry, "Holy" All creation cries, "Holy"
You are lifted high, "Holy", "Holy forever"

[Verse 2]

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed Sing the song forever to the Lamb
If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name Sing the song forever to the Lamb
We'll sing the song forever and amen

[Chorus 2]

And the angels cry, "Holy" All creation cries, "Holy"
You are lifted high, "Holy", "Holy forever"

Hear your people sing, "Holy" To the King of Kings, "Holy"
You will always be "Holy", "Holy forever"

[Pre-Chorus 2]

Your name is the highest Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all All thrones and dominion
All powers and positions Your name stands above them all

*Jesus, Your name is the highest Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions Your name stands above them all*

[Chorus 3]

And the angels cry, "Holy" All creation cries, "Holy"
You are lifted high, "Holy", "Holy forever"

Hear your people sing, "Holy" To the King of Kings, "Holy"
You will always be "Holy", "Holy forever" You will always be "Holy", "Holy forever"
Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Brian Johnson, Jenn Johnson
and Phil Wickham CCLI 11440148 and 20162974

The Word

“Saying Goodbye” Paul’s Final Days Acts 20:13-38

WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul's members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings.

Please place your offerings in the box upfront.

To our guest: Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

*Please pass your **Welcome Card** to an usher or acolyte.*

Psalm 50:14—Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform you vows to the Most High.

Offertory **"Gone"** Duet w/Haden Seibold and Chris Hannemann

The Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Going Out Song **"Forever"**

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King, His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things, His love endures forever
Sing Praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise.

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm, His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn, His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise, Sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful, Forever God is strong, Forever God is with us –
Forever, Forever.

From the rising to the setting sun, His love endures forever
By the grace of God, we will carry on, His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise, Sing praise, sing praise

Forever God is faithful, Forever God is strong, Forever God is with us, Forever

Forever God is faithful Forever God is strong, Forever God is with us –
Forever, Forever

(Words & music by Chris Tomlin, 2000 Worshiptogether.com Songs/Six Steps Music/

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