



***VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
CLOSING SERVICE***

***ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
JUNE 15, 2025***

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Stand

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

P We begin our closing celebration in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P We pray:

C Dear Jesus, thank You for being our Savior and our faithful guide through the journey of life. You call us, lead us, teach us, save us, and send us to share Your love with others. Help us always to trust in You. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Sit

EPIC AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE

As we explored the wonders of Australia in Vacation Bible School this week, we were reminded that Jesus guides us through life and is the only way to eternal life. We looked in the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explored five Bible accounts that teach how God the Father loved the world so much that He sent Jesus, His only Son, to save us. Now, we'd like to share highlights from our VBS with all of you!

Each day of VBS began and ended with songs that remind us what our Savior, Jesus, does for us! We invite you to the gym following the service to watch some of the pictures of our children as they enjoyed our Epic Australian Adventure.

HYMN: ♪"HARK, THE VOICE OF JESUS CRYING"

LSB 826

1 Hark, the voice of Jesus crying,
"Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting—
Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth;
Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I, send me, send me"?

2 If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked
With the judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior's waiting arms.

**3 If you cannot be a watchman,
Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
Off'ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what God commands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's hands.**

**4 Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the multitudes are dying
And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly,
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth,
"Here am I, send me, send me!"**

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Our small groups, or Teams, started together in the Opening, where they sang and watched skits. Then the Teams and their Team Leaders went to six sites: Storytelling, Bible Exploration, Snacks, Crafts, Music and Games. At each site, they heard about the many ways that Jesus loves us, cares for us, and guides us.

MONDAY: GOD CALLS MOSES BIBLE

Our first Bible lesson is recorded in Exodus 3. In this lesson, we learned how God called eighty-year-old Moses to lead His people out of Egypt and to the Promised Land. Our loving God wants everyone to be saved. He calls people through His Word, inviting them to trust in Jesus for salvation. Jesus knows each of us by name, He invites us to be part of His family, and He promises to be with us always.

Our Take-Home Point for Lesson 1 is JESUS CALLS US. Whenever we hear the Take-Home Point, we respond with "Jesus is the way, and the truth, and the life!" Let's try it together! JESUS CALLS US.

🔊 JESUS IS THE WAY, AND THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE!

SONG: ♪"WHO'S CALLING MY NAME?"

Our Bible Memory Verse for this lesson is Isaiah 43:1.

🔊 I have called you by name, you are Mine. Isaiah 43:1

On Monday we learned that Jesus calls us. On Tuesday we learned how Jesus leads us!

TUESDAY: GOD LEADS HIS PEOPLE TO THE PROMISED LAND

Our second Bible lesson comes from Joshua chapters 3 and 4. After their escape from Egypt, God's people wandered in the wilderness for forty years because they had not trusted God. A new generation trusted the Lord, and He led them safely through a raging river into the Promised Land. Jesus is our leader. He does not leave us to wander alone in this world. He is always with us, caring for us and guiding us.

Our Take-Home Point for Lesson 2 is JESUS LEADS US.

G JESUS IS THE WAY, AND THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE!

SONG: ♪ *"JESUS IS THE WAY"*

Our Bible Memory Verse for this lesson is Joshua 1:9.

G The Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Tuesday we learned that Jesus leads us and on Wednesday we learned how Jesus teaches us!

WEDNESDAY: THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

We find our third Bible lesson in Luke 10:25–37. A teacher of the Law asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" In reply, Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan, illustrating that our neighbor includes all people, especially those who need our help. Jesus is the Good Samaritan, who sees our needs and comes to save us. He teaches us what it means to love others, and He empowers us to show mercy, even to those who might seem difficult to love.

Our Take-Home Point for Lesson 3 is JESUS TEACHES US.

G JESUS IS THE WAY, AND THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE!

HYMN: ♪ *"ON GALILEE'S HIGH MOUNTAIN"*

LSB 835

- 1 On Galilee's high mountain
Christ gave the great command
In words of strength and promise
Which all can understand:
"All pow'r to Me is given
To do what I shall choose;
Therefore I send My children,
Their witness I will use."
- 2 The Lord who, born of Mary,
Came down as man and died,
Who preached to all who listened,
For us was crucified—
This Lord, our living brother,
In pow'r at God's right hand,
Has chosen us to carry
His truth to ev'ry land.

- 3 His strength within my weakness
Will make me bold to say
How His redeeming power
Transforms my stubborn clay;
His touch of fire ignites me,
With courage I am sent,
My tongue-tied silence broken,
With grace made eloquent.
- 4 And not alone to nations
In faraway retreats,
But ev'rywhere I broadcast
His love through crowded streets:
The lives that my life touches,
However great or small—
Let them through me see Jesus,
Who served and saved us all.
- 5 That ev'ryone He chooses,
For reasons of His own,
Will find in Christ his calling
To live His love alone.
His presence always leads us
Till time no more shall be;
Christ's strength, His love, His comfort
Give us His victory.

△6 Lord, gather all Your children,
Wherever they may be,
And lead them on to heaven
To live eternally
With You, our loving Father,
And Christ, our brother dear,
Whose Spirit guards and gives us
The joy to persevere.

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Our Bible Memory Verse for this lesson is 1 John 4:19.

📖 We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

Wednesday we learned that Jesus teaches us, then Thursday we learned how Jesus saves us!

THURSDAY: PETER AND JOHN RACE TO THE TOMB

The fourth Bible lesson, the account of Jesus' death and resurrection, comes from John 20:1–10, 19–20. From the time of the very first sin as recorded in the book of Genesis, God made a promise to save His people and bring them back to Him. Jesus is the fulfillment of that promise. Jesus lived a perfect life in our place, died to pay the punishment for our sins, and rose again, defeating sin and death. Because Jesus lives, we will live!

Our Take-Home Point for Lesson 4 is JESUS SAVES US.

G JESUS IS THE WAY, AND THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE!

SONG: "COME AND SEE"

Our Bible Memory Verse for this lesson is John 11:25.

G Jesus said . . . , "I am the resurrection and the life." John 11:25

Thursday, we learned that Jesus saves us and on Friday our focus was that Jesus sends us!

FRIDAY: JESUS ASCENDS TO THE FATHER

Our final Bible lesson is recorded in Luke 24:44–53 and Acts 1:1–11. After Jesus rose from the dead, He remained on earth for forty days, teaching and opening the minds of the disciples to understand all the Scriptures had prophesied about Him. He told His disciples to go and preach the forgiveness of sins in His name to people everywhere. When Jesus returned to the Father, He did not say goodbye to us. Jesus is still with us! He sends His Holy Spirit to help us share the Good News about Him with people everywhere.

Our Take-Home Point for Lesson 5 is JESUS SENDS US.

G JESUS IS THE WAY, AND THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE!

SONG: ♪ "GET UP AND GO"

Our Bible Memory Verse for this lesson is Acts 1:8.

G You will be My witnesses . . . to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8

OFFERING

SONG: ♪ "GOD IS NEAR"
♪ "JESUS LOVES ME"

As offerings are brought forward the congregation stands and sings.

OFFERING HYMN: ♪ "WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN

LSB 781 V. 1-2

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**
- 2 May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!**

Text: William W. How, 1823–97 Text: Public domain

NICENE CREED

G I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified

also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

G And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

G We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

G It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

G Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

LORD'S PRAYER

P 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.

G For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

AGNUS DEI

G O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ♪“IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE”

LSB 802

- 1 Immortal, invisible,
God only wise,
In light inaccessible
hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious,
Thy great name we praise.**
- 2 Unresting, unhasting,
and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting,
Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains
high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains
of goodness and love.**
- 3 To all life Thou givest—
to both great and small—
In all life Thou livest,
the true Life of all;
We blossom and flourish
as leaves on the tree
And wither and perish—
but naught changes Thee.**
- 4 Great Father of glory,
pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee,
all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render:
O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor
of light that hides Thee.**

Text: Public domain

- 1 Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.**
- 2 Crown Him the virgin's Son,
The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose,
Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows,
The babe of Bethlehem.**
- 3 Crown Him the Lord of love.
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes
At mysteries so bright.**
- 4 Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.**

**5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is king of all.**

Text: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ♪"OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN"

LSB 384

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.**
- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.**
- 3 This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.**
- 4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.**

△5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Text: Public domain

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

☞ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

☞ and His mercy endureth forever.

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

P The Lord be with you.

☞ And with thy spirit.

P Bless we the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

We've had an awesome time at Epic Australian Adventure VBS! Jesus worked in and through the servant hearts of many people to share His saving love! We thank all those listed who have helped this week and a special thank you to all who donated supplies to help make this Epic Australian Adventure a success.

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER.

☞ Dear Jesus, as we journey through life, we know that You care for us and You are here for us. You have shown Your great love for us by calling us to be Yours, leading us through life, teaching us Your will, saving us through Your death and resurrection, and sending us to share the Good News with others. Be with us as we share Your love with everyone we know so that more and more people can know and trust in You as their Savior. In Your name we pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen, amen, amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: ♪"SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING"

LSB 643

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended.
O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving
To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us,
With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

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SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS