

Welcome to St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
September 17, 2023, 9AM Worship for the 16th Sunday of Pentecost

Prelude (*When I Look into Your Holiness (Perrin)*)

Welcome (*Pastor*)

Hello everyone! Welcome to worship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, I'm Rev. Maggie Ainslie (*personal greeting*). Our worship assistant is Eleanor Uber.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of our parents, Robert & Betty Stoudt Sr, and sisters Roberta Stoudt and Renae Stoudt Boone presented by their immediate family.

The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Betty Heintz, presented by her loving family.

Confession & Forgiveness (*Please stand as you are able.*)

Pastor: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ☩ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Steadfast and faithful God,

**ALL: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused, known and unknown,
forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation,
forgive us.
For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor,
forgive us.
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.
Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,

ALL: Amen.

The Greeting

Pastor: The peace 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.

Pastor: Let us greet one another and share a sign of God's peace.
(please share a verbal greeting and refrain from shaking hands)
(Please be seated)

Hymn *(Green Book #328 - All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! (vs 1, 3, 5 & 7)*

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792, sts. 1-5; J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, sts. 6-7 Printed with ownership of sufficient copies

- 1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all.

- 3 O seed of Israel's chosen race
now ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace
and crown him Lord of all.

(continued on next page)

5 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet
and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your trophies at his feet
and crown him Lord of all.

7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

Prayer of the Day (*Pastor*)

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.
Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight
in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: Amen.

The First Reading is from Genesis chapter 50 verses 15-21 (*Assistant*)

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Special Music - ("*Wayfaring Stranger*" - vocalist Janet Hill)

(Please Stand as you are able)

Gospel is from St. Matthew chapter 18 verses 21-35 (Pastor)

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ** (Please be seated)

(Dismissal to Sunday School) The Children's Message is Online

Song *(Green Book #501 - He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!)*

Text: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1834-1918 Printed with ownership of sufficient copies.

1 He leadeth me: oh, blessed thought!
Oh, words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

(continues on next page)

Refrain He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me.
His faithful foll'wer I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

2 Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. **Refrain**

3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. **Refrain**

4 And when my task on earth is done,
when by thy grace the vict'ry's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me. **Refrain**

The Message: Rev. Maggie Ainslie

Song (*Spirit Song*) CCLI License No. 1083898

O let the son of God enfold you with His Spirit and His love,
Let Him fill your life and satisfy your soul.
O let Him have the things that hold you and His Spirit, like a dove,
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Chorus: Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs,
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.

O come and sing the song of gladness as your hearts are filled with joy,
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name.
O give Him all your tears and sadness, give Him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus name. **Chorus**

Apostles' Creed. (*Please stand as you are able*)

(Assistant): Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith sharing together the words of the Apostles' Creed....

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again 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.**

Prayers of Intercession (*Assistant*)

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy, especially those on our prayer list. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of grace, we ask that you continue to move among us, inspiring us to worship and to serve you and others in Jesus' name. Stir up your Spirit in the heart of a rostered leader so that he or she may be moved to seek a call in our Synod and congregation. Guide and inspire the work of those who serve on this church's Call Committee and Congregation Council as they move forward with their work during this time of transition. Merciful God, **receive our prayers.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Offering & Prayer (*Please stay standing as you are able*)

Song (*Make Me a Servant*) CCLI#1083898

Make me a servant, humble and meek;
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.

Repeat

Pastor: Thank you for your continued support of our ministry here at St. Paul's! Your offerings are greatly appreciated and enable us to reach out in witness and service to our community.
Now let's take a moment to ask God's Blessings upon our offerings...

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: Amen

Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord or God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await His coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

ALL: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

ALL: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

ALL: Amen

The Lord's Prayer

ALL: 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.**

Holy Communion

Pastor: The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry,
all who are thirsty, Come. (*Pastoral instructions for communing*)

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you
in His Grace.

All: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Pastor: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray.

ALL: Amen.

The Blessing

Pastor: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

Announcements from the Congregation

Song (*The River is Here - Words Please*) Andy Park © 1994 Mercy/Vineyard
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Down the mountain, the river flows,
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes;
Through the valleys and over the fields,
The river is rushing, and the river is here. (*continued on next page*)

Chorus: The river of God sets our feet to dancing,
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer;
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter,
And we rejoice, for the river is here.

The river of God is teeming with life,
And all who touch it can be revived;
And all who linger on this river's shore
Will come back thirsting for more of the Lord. **Chorus**

Up to the mountain we love to go,
To find the presence of the Lord;
Along the banks of the river we run,
We dance with laughter, giving praise to the Son. **Chorus**

Dismissal

Pastor: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed
‡ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

ALL: Amen

Pastor: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Postlude (*The River is Here*)

We Remember in Our Prayers

Colleen; Leonard Finkboon; Bonnie Haines; Janet Hill; Branson Hoglund;
Nancy Jewell; Laverne & Shirley Keyser; Jerry Landis; David Leight;
Alma Leister; Barbara Lloyd; Barry Miller; Alice Oliver; Jonie Ramcharitar;
Alan Richard; Baby Axel Rivett; Edith Stevens; Bonnie Thomas; Ryan Weaver;
Mary Lou Weber; Linda Wood

Worship notes: Special thanks to Rev. Maggie Ainslie for leading worship today, to our worship assistant Eleanor Uber, and to our ushers for their help today.

An altar flower sponsor is still needed for the 24th. Please let the office know before Wednesday the 20th if you are able to Sponsor the Altar next Sunday.

Worship Assistant List for Sept. 17 to Dec. 17 (changed):

9/24 Emily Foreman	10/1 Diane Landis	10/8 Donna Gerhart
10/15 Marianne Uber	10/22 Sandy Bergey	10/29 Jenna Langenback
11/5 Jenn Eisenberger	11/12 Emily Foreman	11/19 Donna Gerhart
11/26 Diane Landis	12/3 Eleanor Uber	12/10 Marianne Uber
12/17 Sandy Bergey		

Thank you to all those who helped with and donated to the 1st Monday Meal held on September 11th. Many were served and the community as well as St. Pauls is so very grateful for all you did to help! Thank you also to all who volunteered and helped with Community day last weekend, you did a great job!

Teen Tribe meets on September 24th at 4pm in fellowship hall. We welcome all our youth in 7th grade and up to join the fun. Contact Laura & Bob Foreman with any questions. Foreman3@hotmail.com.

Help the Outreach Ministry Team: Please donate cards to our Outreach Ministry Team. Please bring them in and place them in the "CARDS" box in the fishtank hallway or UPCCC office. Also, if you have a member in your family who needs a card sent, let Debbie Walter know by emailing dwalter927@yahoo.com with the details & mailing address.

Prayer List Request from St. Paul's. We updated the list for today and so, if a person you still need prayers for is not on today's prayer list please let us know and we will put them back on the list. Thank you. If you would like someone you've placed on the prayer list to receive a note, or card, please contact the church office at 215-679-5553 ext. 110. If cards are not wanted please let us know that as well.

MEMBER MEETINGS There are 3 upcoming meetings for members. Please be sure to mark your calendars.

- The proposed budget for 2024 will be presented on December 3, 2023 at 10AM in the fellowship hall. Members are encouraged to attend.
- The Budget for 2024 will be presented on December 17, 2023 at 10AM in the fellowship hall. This is a voting meeting. Members are encouraged to attend.
- The Annual Meeting covering 2023 will be held on January 14, 2024 at 10AM. This is a voting meeting. Officers will be elected. Members are encouraged to attend.