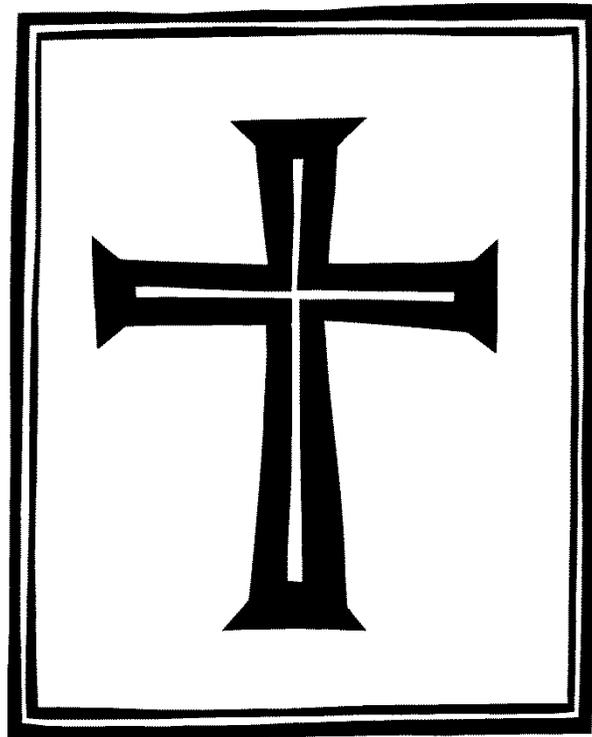


**THE THIRTEENTH
SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST**



September 8, 2019

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are happy you have joined us for worship today. Wherever you are on your journey with or toward God, you are welcome here—you are a blessing to this assembly. You are invited to fill out the registration book that you can find at the end of the pew. We would love the opportunity to connect so that we may welcome you more fully.

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

Lutherans believe, teach, and confess that in, with, and under the bread and wine in Holy Communion we receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. All who are drawn in faith are welcome to join in this confession and receive the Sacrament. Those not receiving the bread and wine may come forward for a blessing.

We invite and encourage your full participation in our worship this morning. With this service bulletin you can follow and participate in this morning's liturgy. Any hymns not printed here may be found in the red worship book in the pews; the hymns are in the second half of the book. The hymns are also available from the ushers as a separate bulletin.

Children are always welcome at services. Children's bulletins and crayons, as well as soft toys and story books, are available at the back of the church. Nursery care with trained child-care workers is available for infants and toddlers on the lower level. A changing table is located in the lower level restroom. Please speak to an usher if you need assistance.

Children's Church is held on the first Sunday of each month, on special occasions, and each week over the summer. After the children's time, children are invited to follow our Director of Children, Youth, and Families to one of the classrooms for a lesson. They will return for Communion.

Accessibility: Listening devices are available from an usher. If you would like assistance with a wheelchair or walker, or if you would like Communion to be brought to you in your pew, please see an usher for assistance.

Please join us for Coffee Hour each week immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall directly below the worship space.

New to St. Paul? Ready to make it your own? Questions about St. Paul, including transferring membership from another Lutheran church, or for beginning the process for baptism, confirmation, reception, or transferring from one of the other Christian traditions, may be directed to the Church Office at 781-646-7773 or parishadmin@stpaularlington.org.

*As we prepare for God's presence in worship, please be aware that some prefer to be quiet at this time.
You are invited, however, to greet your fellow worshipers.*

*When the instruction for standing * appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable.
At the †, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism.
The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Domine Deus, Rex cœlestis" from *Messe à l'usage des Paroisses*

François Couperin
(1668–1733)

WELCOME

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor, let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned against you, against one another, and against the earth entrusted to our care. We are worried and distracted by many things, and we fail to love you above all else. We store up treasures for ourselves and turn away from our neighbors in need. Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

When we are laid low by sin and guilt, God made us alive together with Christ, forgiving us † all our trespasses by taking our sins to the cross. For freedom Christ has set us free: Rejoice in this good news!

Amen.

* GATHERING HYMN

"Earth and All Stars!"

ELW 731

* GREETING

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.

* CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

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* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

While Paul was in prison, he was aided by a runaway slave named Onesimus. The slave's master, Philemon, was a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to his master and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -
lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

* GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-33

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks frankly about the fearsome costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

LET THE CHILDREN COME: BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

*Young children are invited to the front of the sanctuary to hear a message at this time. The Pastor gives a blessing for the backpacks, to which the assembly responds: **Amen.***

SERMON

"What's in It for Me?"

Pastor Ross Goodman

A brief silence for reflection follows the sermon.

* HYMN OF THE DAY

“All My Hope on God Is Founded”

ELW 757

* APOSTLES' CREED

In response to the Gospel, let us confess the faith of the church:

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.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained and nurtured by our generous God, we gather as one to pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Turn our hearts, O God. Make us attentive to your call to take up the cross-shaped way of life, and to share your good news with a world in need. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Turn our hearts toward life in all its infinite varieties. We pray especially for all vanishing and endangered creatures who struggle to find a home in this world. Open our eyes to the value of our interconnected relationships within your natural world. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Turn our hearts toward all who yearn for calm and fairness. Where there is violence and conflict, grant peace. Where there is disparity, grant justice. Where there is hatred and fear, grant compassion and empathy. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Turn our hearts toward all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We pray for those in bondage to sin, addiction, poverty, physical slavery or human trafficking, and those incarcerated or detained. For those in any need we pray. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Turn our hearts towards those in our midst. We pray for our members, especially Gladys, Janna, Karma, Lorraine, Louise, Lynn, Meredith, Paul, and Ross. Lord in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Turn our hearts toward the ministries of our congregations that feed the hungry, share with the needy, advocate for the silenced, and work for your justice. Embolden our hearts to labor without fear. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Turn our hearts toward your eternal reign. We give thanks for our sisters and brothers who have died, especially Gloria Grumney, trusting the promise of life forever with you. Marked by the cross of Christ, inspire us by their examples to live in faith. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Assured by your promise to hear us, we lay our prayers before your throne of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

* PEACE

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

MEAL

OFFERTORY

Improvisation on "Take up Your Cross"

* OFFERING HYMN

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

* OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, for the greening earth given for all, for the talents we are given to share, and for this bread and wine. Transform us to be the body of Christ, that, feasting on this food and drink, our lives may reflect your generosity; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

* GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

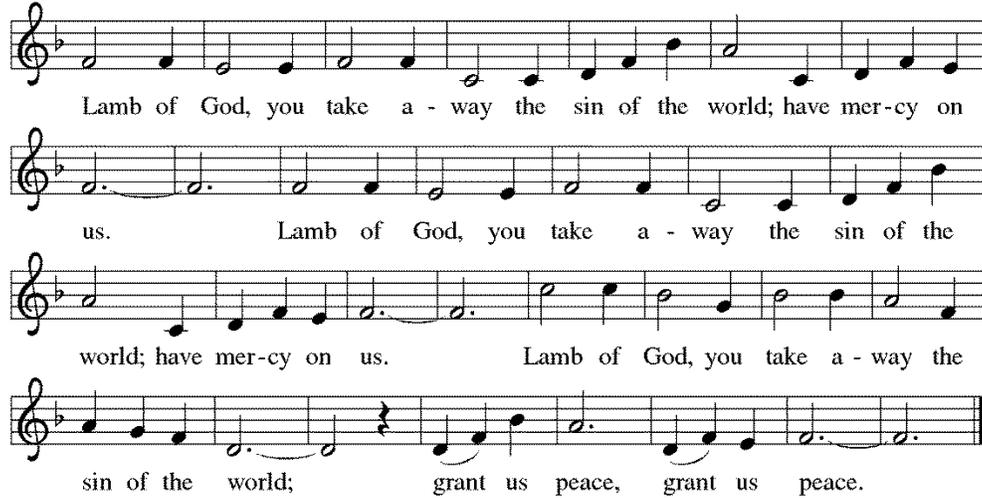
* LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION

All who are baptized are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please come forward via the center aisle at the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. The first cup of wine is for drinking, the second for intinction (dipping), and the trays have individual glasses of red wine and grape juice. Those not receiving the bread and wine may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come to the front, please notify an usher and Communion will be brought to you.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

COMMUNION HYMN

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

ELW 810

* TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him, and abound in thanksgiving; and the blessing of the holy Trinity, † one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING HYMN

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

ELW 804

* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Plein jeu, from *Suite du Deuxième Ton*

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault
(1668–1733)

*The chancel flowers this morning are given by Lisa Carlson-Hill
in gratitude for family and friends.*

SERVING THE LORD IN WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Ross Goodman	Preacher and Presider
Ryan Patten	Organist
Caroline David	Deacon
Lucas Smith	Acolyte
John Turner	Lector
Lisa Carlson-Hill and Nancy Tiedeman	Altar Guild
TBD	Ushers
Kim Fechtel	Coffee Hour
TBD	Tellers

*You are invited to take this bulletin home for reflection on the service
and as a reminder of the announcements. If you prefer to leave it behind,
please place it in the basket in the Narthex and it will be recycled.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Below are highlights from our announcements this week. For more information, please see our Weekly Update email. You can subscribe from our website (stpaularlington.org—click SUBSCRIBE in the navigation menu at the top of the page) or like us on Facebook! Please send announcements via email to parishadmin@stpaularlington.org by noon on Wednesday for inclusion in the coming Sunday's bulletin. Announcements received after that will be published the following week.

CHURCH NEWS

Fall Schedule starting next week! | Next week we will resume our Program Year schedule:

- 8:15am Worship with Holy Communion
- 9:15am Education Hour (Sunday school and Adult Forum)
- 10:30am Worship with Holy Communion
- 11:30am Coffee Hour

Social Ministry meeting today | The Social Ministry Committee will be meeting today after the congregational meeting to kick-off planning for the fall! New members are welcome, so come check us out! Meetings are generally the second Sunday of the month after the second service in Room 6.

Volunteer needed for Social Ministry | The Social Ministry Committee is looking for a volunteer to drive St. Paul's Arlington Food Pantry donations to their destination each Tuesday. If you are interested, please contact Kim Fechtel.

Name tags for our new Vicar, Samm | Please be ready to wear your nametags for the first few weeks that our new Vicar, Samm, is with us so that she may learn our names! If you do not have a name tag, please see an usher for the sign-up sheet.

Choir starting next week! | The Choir will be back with us in worship starting on September 15! Rehearsals start on Thursday, September 12 at 7:30pm in the choir loft. All are welcome to join! If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Patten: music@stpaularlington.org.

Luther League starting tonight! | Are you in fifth–eighth grade? You too can be part of St. Paul's youth group—the Luther League! We meet on the second Sunday of every month at St. Paul in the Fellowship Hall from 6–8pm for food, fun, and fellowship. Our first meeting is tonight. See you there!

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Upcoming Book Talk | Join Rev. Lenny Duncan at UniLu to discuss his new book, "Dear Church, A Love Letter to the Whitest Denomination in America" on Monday, September 16 (7pm–9pm).

New England Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering | "The Mystic Equation," Saturday, September 28 from 9am–2pm at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Harwich, MA. Keynote speaker will be Rev. Linda Forsberg; hands-on workshop "In the image of God" and Creative Variety. \$10 for early registration; \$15 and the door. See the Weekly Update for a registration form!



SAINT PAUL
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

929 Concord Turnpike
Arlington, Massachusetts 02476
Web: www.stpaularlington.org | Office Phone: 781-646-7773

ST. PAUL STAFF

The Reverend Ross Goodman, *Pastor*
Ryan Patten, *Director of Music & Organist, and Interim Parish Administrator*
Kourtni Patten, *Director of Children, Youth, & Families*
Paul Ricci, *Business Administrator*
Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday 9am–4pm



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



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