THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



September 8, 2024

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES

9:30am | Service with Holy Communion in the Nave and Online 10:30am | Coffee Hour LIVESTREAMING Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Arlington Facebook page. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, however, without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

Sign up for Weekly Update newsletter by going to our website at <u>www.stpaularlington.org</u> and clicking on SUBSCRIBE.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY ARE:

Kelli Oliver and Lydia Zuehsow, Altar Guild John Turner, Lector Marie Breitenbach, Cantor Dan Ries, Usher Matt Carter, Livestream Broadcast Peter and Hollie Schmidt, Coffee Guild When the instruction for standing * appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable. At the \boxtimes , you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism. The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Where He Leads Me/He Leadeth Me

Arranged by Brant Adams Tunes: Norris by John S. Norris and He Leadeth Me William B. Bradbury

Mark Olson, trumpet

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

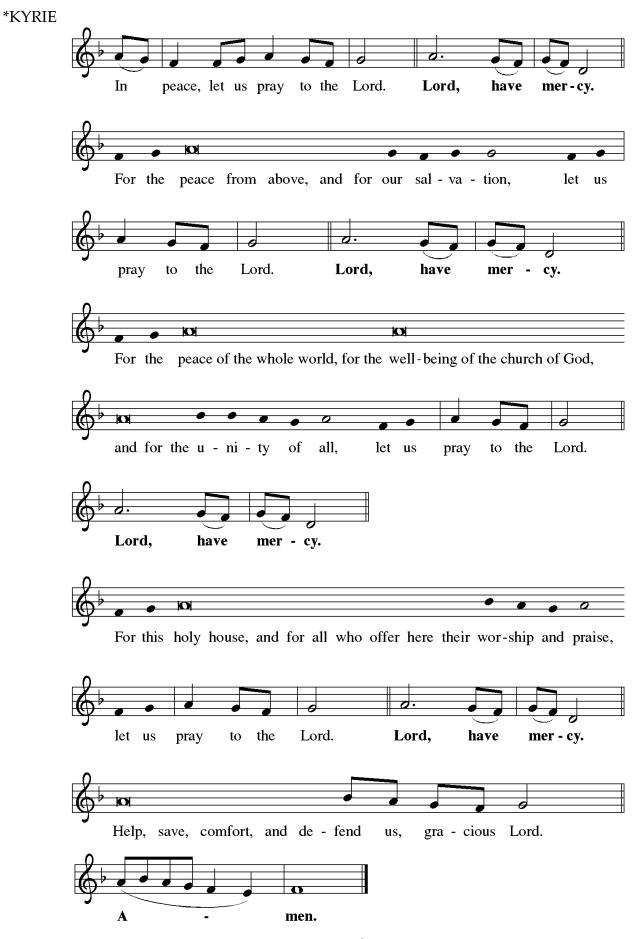
"Earth and All Stars"



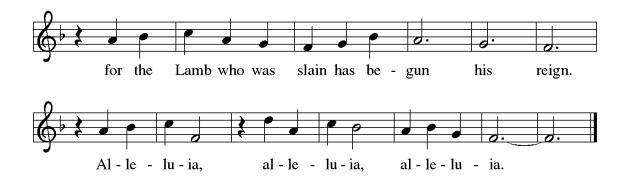
Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

*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.**







* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

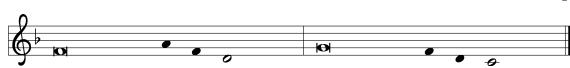
Isaiah 35:4–7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

S ay to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

Psalm 146



Hal- | lelujah! Praise the Lord, 'O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long | as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. Put not your ¹ trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there ⁺ is no help. When they breathe their last, they re-¹ turn to earth, and in that day | their thoughts perish. Happy are they who have the God of Jacob⁺ for their help, whose hope is in the ¹ Lord their God; who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that ' is in them; who keeps promis- ¹ es forever; who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to 1 those who hunger. The Lord sets the ' captive free. ⁸he Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down; the Lord | loves the righteous. The Lord cares [|] for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way ¹ of the wicked. The Lord shall ' reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

PSALM

James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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



* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter - nal life.

* GOSPEL

Mark 7:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in

private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

SERMON

Pastor Liz Senft

* HYMN OF THE DAY





Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version Music: YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic tune

APOSTLE'S 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 into hell. 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

The leader will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read aloud the other prayers as they feel called.

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Help us remain committed to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships, and especially to our neighbors who share our building, Sichem SDA Church and The Cambridge Korean Presbyterian Church. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**.

Be present with all who are returning to places of learning. Guide students, teachers, parents and all workers and volunteers who help schools run smoothly. We especially pray for protection in the wake of the school shooting at Apalachee High School in Georgia. Comfort the friends and families of those who were killed. Change our hearts to respond to tragedy with laws that protect against gun violence and promote peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict, especially the Middle East, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Pakistan, and Haiti. Strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**.

Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Tend to those who are close to our hearts, especially Clifford, Dan, Lynn, Marilyn, Meredith, Owen and Susan. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you. Today we remember the faithful examples of Peter Claver and John Chrysostom. May their witness guide us in our daily life with you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

* PEACE

Keep your hands close together or make the peace sign if you'd rather not pass the peace with touch.

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

MEAL

* OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code:



* GREAT THANKSGIVING

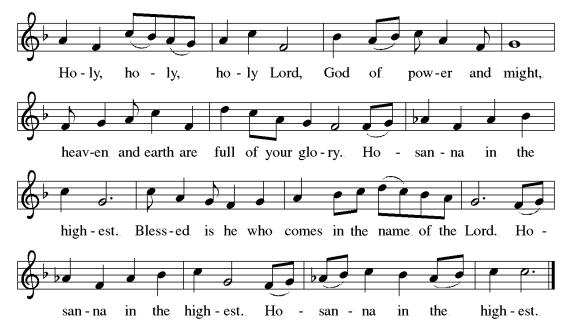
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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:



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.

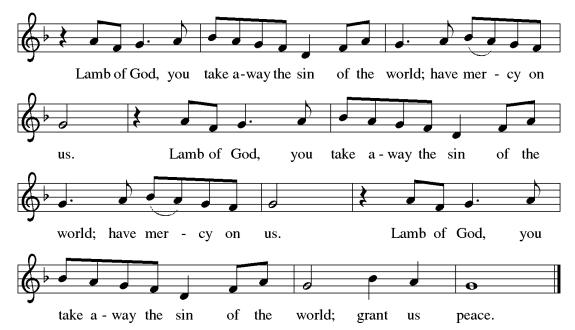
* LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,	as we forgive those	
hallowed be thy name,	who trespass against us;	
thy kingdom come,	and lead us not into temptation,	
thy will be done,	but deliver us from evil.	
on earth as it is in heaven.	For thine is the kingdom,	
Give us this day our daily bread;	and the power, and the glory,	
and forgive us our trespasses,	forever and ever. Amen.	

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers are available on request. Both wine and grape juice are available in each tray; the wine is red and the grape juice is white.

Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.



COMMUNION HYMN

"O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True"

Ο Christ, light, Ο our Ra diance shine forth on 1 true, diance Fill 2 with the ra of your grace the wan - d'rers re all 3 Lord, o pen luc _ tant ears and take a -4 Lord, let your mer cy's gen tle ray shine down on up - lift - ed, 5 Make theirs with ours a sin gle voice 0

ELW 675

\$#		
	those es-tranged from you, lost in er - ror's maze. way the need - less fears oth - ers strayed a - way. ev - er to re - joice	and bring them to your home a - Set free all those whose hearts and of those who trem - ble to ex - To those in con - science wound - ed
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	gain,wheretheirdemindssomedeepdepressthefaiththeirsoreshowheaven'spraisetoyou,O	light shall nev - er end. - lu - sion haunts and binds. in - most hearts con - fess. wait - ing, o - pen door. Lord, for bound - less grace.
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Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite Music: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT, Gesangbuch, Nürnberg, 1676

* 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

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING HYMN

"God, Whose Almighty Word"

ELW 673



* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Gospel Medley

Arranged by Brant Adams Tunes: Assurance by Phoebe P. Knap, Showalter by Anthony J. Showalter, O How I Love Jesus, Trad. American melody and Heaven by Emily D. Wilson

Mark Olson, trumpet

Pastor Liz Retires

Dear wonderful people of Saint Paul,

Greetings to you all in what is so far a lovely September. After much prayer and thought, I have made the decision to retire from my role as a pastor of Saint Paul Lutheran Church.

It is hard to believe, but we have been together for five years. I came to you as a veteran pastor, as a relatively new widow, and as someone looking for ways to be. Pretty soon after my first visit to Saint Paul, Ross, whom I had met years before, found ways for me to assist in the pastoral schedule at Saint Paul. We continued on that path with Vicar Samm through the early winter. And then came the pandemic.

We all needed to find new ways to be the church and the congregation of Saint Paul in a world in which actually being together was not safe. With Ross's leadership, Samm's technical expertise, and a lot of determination on all of our parts, we began to have regular worship. We also had regular adult forums and coffee hours and began to have a sense of ourselves as a congregation once again. As the pandemic shut-down dragged on, we found ways to be the church in a whole new dimension. And everyone contributed to that effort!

And eventually, though it took years, we began to return to "normal." As all of this occurred, my "helping out" expanded and I embraced the congregational council approved role of associate pastor. I have truly enjoyed being with all of you, moving through the church year and its rhythms. It has brought me both peace and happiness.

After these years of a fulfilling vocation exercised once again, it is now time to retire anew. Because I had previously retired, the synod does not hold me to the general requirement that pastors must leave their congregations upon retirement. However, I must be very quiet and truly make a break with my role as pastor here, especially for the first few months. I will ask your help in all of this, indeed as you have all helped me so very much in the past five years. My last Sunday as pastor will be the Feast of All Saints, 3 November.

You, the people of Saint Paul, have truly given me a gift. I cannot thank you enough.

In Christ's peace take care,

Liz

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

at SAINT PAUL



NEW SCHEDULE STARTS | September 15

We will be returning to a new Fall schedule on September 15. There will be an early worship service at **8:15 am**, choir practice at 9:00 am, a 9:30 am education hour with Sunday school and the Adult Forum, a 10:30 am worship service that will also be streamed online on Facebook, and a coffee hour at 11:30 am. Confirmation class will begin October 6 during the education hour.

AUTUMN ADULT FORUM | September 15 - October 27

<u>September 15</u>: Vicar Sam will introduce herself during this first Adult Forum. <u>September 22-October 27</u>: The Gospel of John – A Beginner's Guide to the Way, the Truth and the Life. As so many of us have found, the Gospel of John can be problematic. But its beauty and depth also form some of the core tenets of our faith. Pastor Liz will be the primary leader of this six week session on the Gospel of John.

ARLINGTON EATS NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER

For the month of September items that would help the most are:

- Oil
- Almond Butter
- Jam & Jelly (low sugar options are great!)
- Cereal Bars
- Pretzels

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

The Social Ministry Committee invites the congregation to participate in an 8-week effort to support the academic success of local children impacted by housing insecurity and poverty. Many families do not have the means to obtain the supplies needed at the beginning of the school year. As you gather school supplies for your own children, or if that stage is in your past and you miss the potential of those new items, please help us gather basic school supplies over the coming weeks. Our collection of basic school supplies will be delivered to 2 locations, one at the end of August, and one at the end of September: Menotomy Manor, Arlington's state-subsidized housing for low-income families with children under the age of 21. These children generally attend the Thompson School. Delivery on August 26 for same day distribution through their food pantry and the beginning of the school year and Arlington Public Schools for children experiencing housing challenges during the year, or who enter they school system mid-year. Delivery at the end of September 27.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Pencils (#2 Ticonderoga standard yellow wood)
- Pens Blue or Black ink
- Crayons Crayola box of 24
- Pencil sharpeners (with covers)
- Markers broad tip 8 pack
- Large Erasers
- Highlighters
- Glue Sticks
- Pocket Folders
- Single subject notebooks
- Marble Notebooks
- Pencil box or zippered pouches



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Staff

The Reverend Ross Goodman, Pastor The Reverend Liz Senft, Pastoral Associate Samantha Menapace, Vicar Ana Zecic Jeffers, Director of Music Paul Ricci, Business Administrator Sarah Carter, Children, Youth and Families Director Jennifer White, Parish Administrator Dennis O'Brien, Church Property Manager

Church Council and Officers

Elizabeth Heichler, President Monique Airasian, Vice-President Eric Haugen, Treasurer Kerri Frick, Secretary Norma Ofsthun, Financial Secretary Mark Olson, Financial Secretary Kristen Anderson Eric Carlson Peter Hedlund Kevin Kreutter Bob Sniffen Sandy Walker Taryn Walsh





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