THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS



October 6, 2024
ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:15am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave

9:00am | Choir Practice

9:30am | Education Hour with Sunday School,

Adult Forum

10:30am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave

and Online

11:30am | Coffee Hour

LIVESTREAMING

Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran 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 www.stpaularlington.org and clicking on SUBSCRIBE.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY ARE:

Jennifer Parker and Marie Breitenbach, *Altar Guild*Emily H, and Lucas S., *Acolyte*John Turner, *Lector*Marie Breitenbach, *Cantor*Dan Ries, *Usher*Matt Carter, *Livestream Broadcast*Peter and Hollie Schmidt, *Coffee Guild*

Cover Art:

Saint Francis Preaching to the Birds

Master of Saint Francis - some attribute to Giotto

Fresco

1297-1299

Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi, Assisi, Italy

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

Le cygne (The Swan) from Le Carnaval des animaux

Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 \pm 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.

* GATHERING HYMN

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

ELW 879



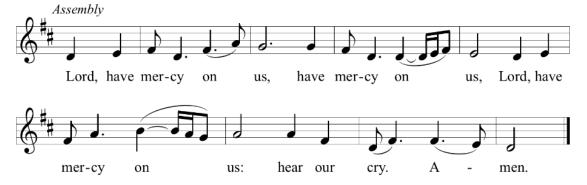
Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt. Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

*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.**

*KYRIE

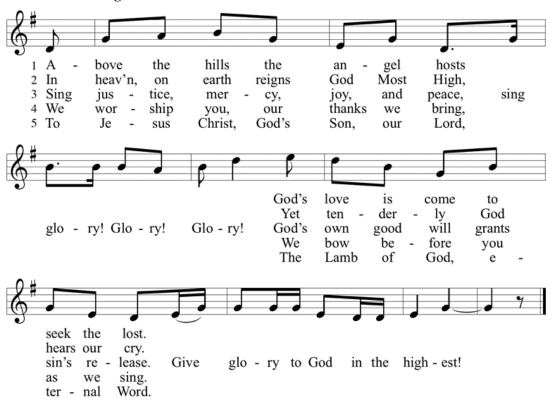




Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Kyrie Music: My Father, How Long, African American spiritual

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Above the Hills the Angel Hosts"



Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Gloria in excelsis Music: The Devil's Nine Questions, Appalachian traditional

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may, for love of you, delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING Job 39:1–18

At the end of the book of Job, after Job and his companions have argued about the cause of the great suffering Job endures, God finally speaks. These verses begin that speech, which is a grand vision of creation, describing God's ordering of the cosmos and inviting Job to marvel at its beauty.

Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer? Can you number the months that they fulfill, and do you know the time when they give birth, when they crouch to give birth to their offspring, and are delivered of their young? Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open; they go forth, and do not return to them. "Who has let the wild ass go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass, to which I have given the steppe for its home, the salt land for its dwelling place? It scorns the tumult of the city; it does not hear the shouts of the driver. It ranges the mountains as its pasture, and it searches after every green thing. "Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will it spend the night at your crib? Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes, or will it harrow the valleys after you? Will you depend on it because its strength is great, and will you hand over your labor to it? Do you have faith in it that it will return, and bring your grain to your threshing floor?

"The ostrich's wings flap wildly, though its pinions lack plumage. For it leaves its eggs to the earth, and lets them be warmed on the ground, forgetting that a foot may crush them, and that a wild animal may trample them. It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own; though its labor should be in vain, yet it has no fear; because God has made it forget wisdom, and given it no share in understanding. When it spreads its plumes aloft, it laughs at the horse and its rider.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Come forward with your pet or your pet's picture for a blessing.

PSALM (read responsively 8:15 am service)

Psalm 121



I lift up my eyes | to the hills;

from where is my | help to come?

My help comes | from the Lord,

the maker of heav- | en and earth.

The Lord will not let your | foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

Behold, the keep- $^{\scriptscriptstyle \parallel}$ er of Israel

will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;

the Lord watches ' over you;
the Lord is your shade at ' your right hand;
the sun will not strike ' you by day,
nor the ' moon by night.

The Lord will preserve you ' from all evil
and will ' keep your life.

The Lord will watch over your going out and your 'coming in, from this time forth for- evermore.

SECOND READING Acts 4:32–35

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL Luke 12:13–21

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Liz Senft

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom"

ACS 1064



Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, Columbian Harmony, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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.

Gathered together by the God who knows the mysteries of animals and our whole universe, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

God of our ancestors, we give thanks for the church in all times. May we listen for the prophets of this age who bear messages that stir the church toward renewal and justice. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Creator of every creature on earth, we give you thanks for pets who bring us companionship and wild animals who reflect your power and majesty. Direct our lives toward the renewal and sustaining of cattle, birds of the air, animals of the field, and those who share our homes. Reveal the ways we can work alongside creation for the health and well-being of all. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, we give thanks that you are mindful and benevolent to even us, mere mortals. Accompany us when hardness of heart gets in the way of justice between people and nations. Endow leaders with minds for justice and hearts for compassion. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Restoring Lord, grant healing and wholeness to those who are sick and suffering, especially Dan, Kai, Lynn, Marilyn, Meredith, Owen, Paul and Susan. Work through medical professionals to diagnose, ease pain, and give life to all who seek their wisdom and experience. Bless working animals who offer lifesaving services to those with physical and mental illnesses. Help God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Unifying God, humans were created for relationship with the earth, its creatures, and one another. Forgive us when division threatens companionship, mutual support, and unity

among us. May your love inspire us to build supportive communities of faith where all are cherished. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

God who wept for Lazarus, hear the cries of all who suffer from natural disasters, especially the survivors of Hurricane Helene's wind and flooding. Comfort those who grieve the death of loved ones and those who cannot make contact with friends and family. Transform our relationship with the earth from one of extraction and greed into a way of life rooted in love and respect for all of creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of resurrection, you prepare a place in the kingdom through Christ's death and resurrection. We give thanks for the saints who have taken their place at your heavenly banquet, especially Saint Francis, William Tyndale, and Henry Muhlenberg. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

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.

ANTHEM (10:30 only)

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

Refrain

The purple-headed mountain, The river running by, The sunset and the morning, That brightens up the sky; The cold wind in the winter, The pleasant summer sun, The ripe fruits in the garden, He made them every one;

Refrain

He gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well.

Refrain

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.

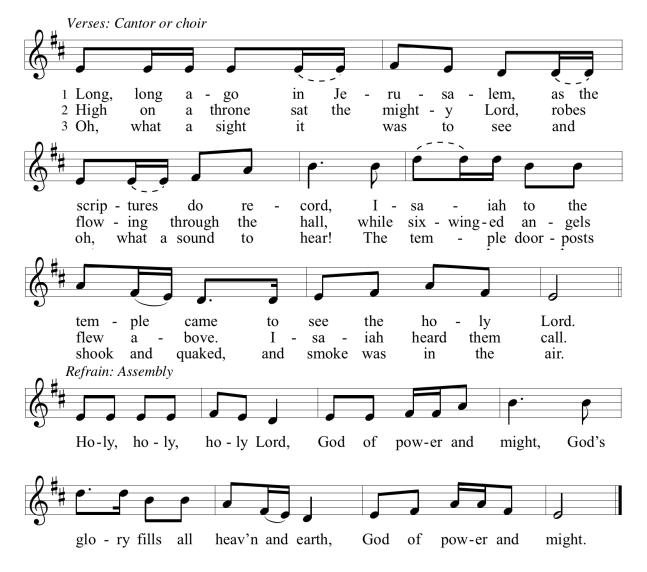
Lift up your hearts.

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:



Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Sanctus Music: Shady Grove, Appalachian traditional

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.

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.

* LORD'S PRAYER

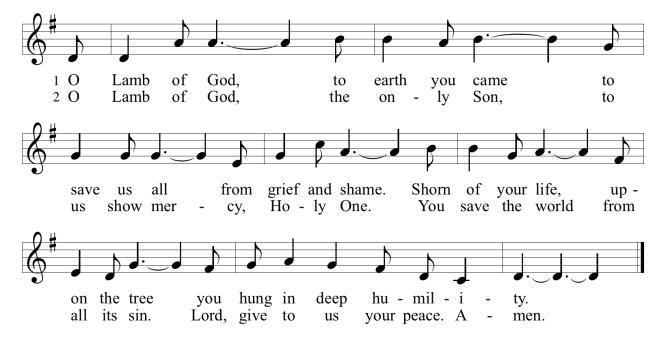
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

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.

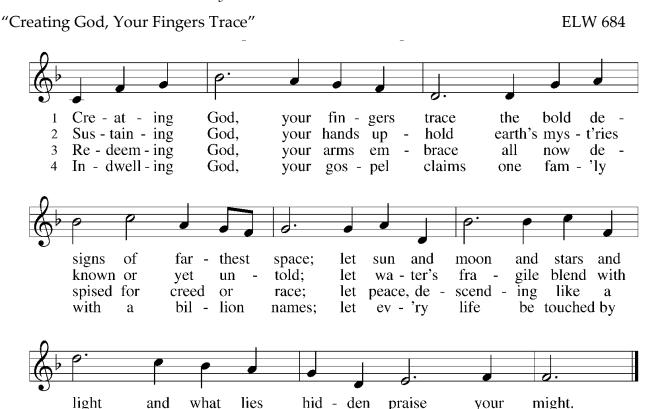
COMMUNION

All 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.



Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Agnus Dei Music: The Suffolk Miracle, Appalachian traditional



Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

air,

dove,

grace

Music: DUNEDIN, Vernon Griffiths, 1894-1985

en - a -

un - til

make known on

bling

we

* TABLE BLESSING

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

life,

earth your

praise you

pro - claim

heal

face

your

ing

to

care.

love.

face.

Amen.

* POST COMMUNION CANTICLE (10:30 only)



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr.

Music: Prospect, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey.
Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

May God bless and keep us. May God's face shine on us and be gracious. May God look on us with favor and + give us peace. **Amen**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING HYMN

"All Creatures, Worship God Most High"

ELW 835



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for give, all who in pain or sor row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful, throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night: clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare: fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -



- 5 And you, most gentle sister death, waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom, fair is the night that leads us home.
 Alleluia.
- O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia! All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One: Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623

* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Aquarium from Le Carnaval des animaux

Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921)

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

at SAINT PAUL



LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF DONATION OPPORTUNITY

We've all read headlines or heard reports from loved ones about Hurricane Helene's path of wreckage across the southeastern US. My college town of Greenville, SC was hit very hard and is still working on restoring power and clean water. To help those who are affected, consider donating to Lutheran



Disaster Response, a ministry of the ELCA that supports local short and long-term recovery efforts, using the QR code.

LUTHER LEAGUE PUMPKIN DECORATING AND HALLOWEEN CRAFTS | October 20, 7:00-9:00

5th graders and above are invitees to join us for a fun evening of decorating, snacking, and socializing with the youth. This is a great time to socialize and reconnect as we get ready for Halloween. Please RSVP

THEOLOGY ON TAP AT MIGHTY SQUIRREL BREWERY | October 27, 4:00-6:00

Join Vicar Sam for a time of community at a local brewery. All are invited to grab a beer or seltzer (non-alcoholic options available) and gather for a relaxed conversation about Martin Luther and the Reformation.

SUPPER CLUB AT ST. PAUL | November 2, 6:00, ongoing

Bring a dish to share with our community. We will be starting a Supper Club on the 1st Saturday of the month. Come when you are able, and enjoy some time with other members of the congregation. All are welcome to join!

AUTUMN ADULT FORUM | September 22 - October 27

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 OCTOBER NEEDS

As you go shopping in the next few weeks, consider putting some of our September Spotlight items on your shopping lists: **onion powder**, **garlic powder**, **chili powder**, **turmeric**, **oregano**, **ginger**, **cinnamon**, **paprika**, **cumin**, **pepper**, **red pepper flakes**, **and dish soap**.



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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
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Kerri Frick, Secretary
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