

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

November 19, 2023 - 25th Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 am and 11:00 am are using Setting Ten Booklets

*Hymns will be found in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book
in the pew.*

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (ELW 858) by Johann Phillip Kirnberger*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

P Most merciful God,

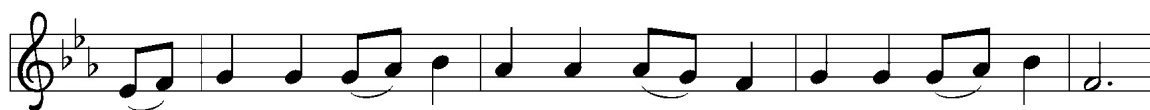
C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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.**

C **Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand



1 On Jor - dan's storm - y bank I stand, and cast a wish - ful eye
 2 All o'er those wide ex - tend - ed plains shines one e - ter - nal day;
 3 No chill - ing winds or poi - s' nous breath can reach that health - ful shore;
 4 When shall I reach that hap - py place and be for - ev - er blest?



to Ca - naan's fair and hap - py land, where my pos - ses - sions lie.
 there God the Son for - ev - er reigns and scat - ters night a - way.
 sick - ness and sor - row, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.
 When shall I see my Sav - ior's face and in God's bos - om rest?



I am bound for the prom - ised land, I am bound for the prom - ised land;



oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom - ised land.

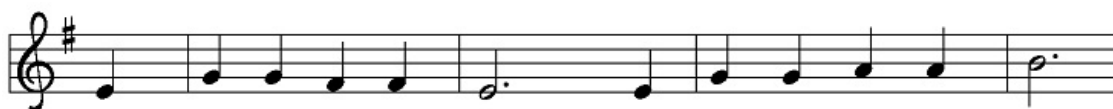
Text: Samuel Stennett, 1727–1795

Music: PROMISED LAND, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; adapt. Rigdon M. McIntosh, 1836–1899

APOSTOLIC GREETING AND KYRIE

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.”

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

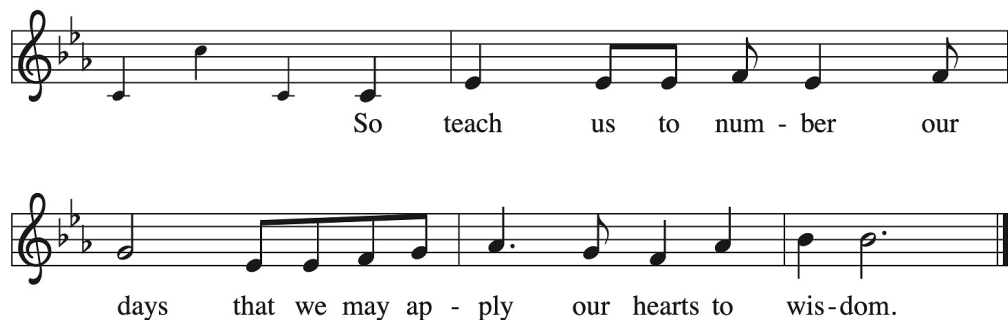
¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD’s wrath;
in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

response: Thank be to God.

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

Congregation sings Refrain and bold verses.

Refrain



¹Lord, you have | been our refuge from one generation | to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,
from age to age | you are God.**

³You turn us back to the | dust and say, “Turn back, O child- | ren of earth.”

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when ¹ it is past
and like a watch ¹ in the night; *Refrain***
⁵you sweep them away ¹ like a dream, they fade away suddenly ¹ like the grass:
⁶**in the morning it is ¹ green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried ¹ up and withered.**
⁷For we are consumed ¹ by your anger; we are afraid because ¹ of your wrath.
⁸**Our iniquities you have ¹ set before you,
and our secret sins in the light ¹ of your countenance. *Refrain***
⁹When you are angry, all our ¹ days are gone; we bring our years to an end ¹ like a sigh.
¹⁰**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength ¹ even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and ¹ we are gone.**
¹¹Who regards the power ¹ of your wrath? Who rightly fears your ¹ indignation?
¹²**So teach us to num- ¹ ber our days that we may apply our ¹ hearts to wisdom. *Refrain***

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

response: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*After the Gospel is announced, the people say: **Glory to you, O Lord***

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

*After the Gospel is read, the people say: **Praise to you, O Christ***

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Lord of Light



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

Text © Union of Welsh Independents

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APOSTLES' CREED

**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

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders (*leaders may be named*). Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you (*especially*), Barbara, Jan, Janet, Joyce, Ida, Phyllis and Larry, Bob and Ellie, Judy, Mary, John, Tom, Pat, Jim, Doug, Sharon, Larry, Alice, Charlie, Pat and Morris, and others we may name aloud or quietly in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith (*especially*) we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

Offertory – (8:30) *Improvisation on ELW 858*
(11:00) *A Gaelic Blessing by John Rutter*

Text:

Deep peace of the running wave to you

Deep peace of the flowing air to you

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you

Deep peace of the shining stars to you

Deep peace of the gentle night to you

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you

Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you

Deep peace of Christ to you

Offertory



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

ALL Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

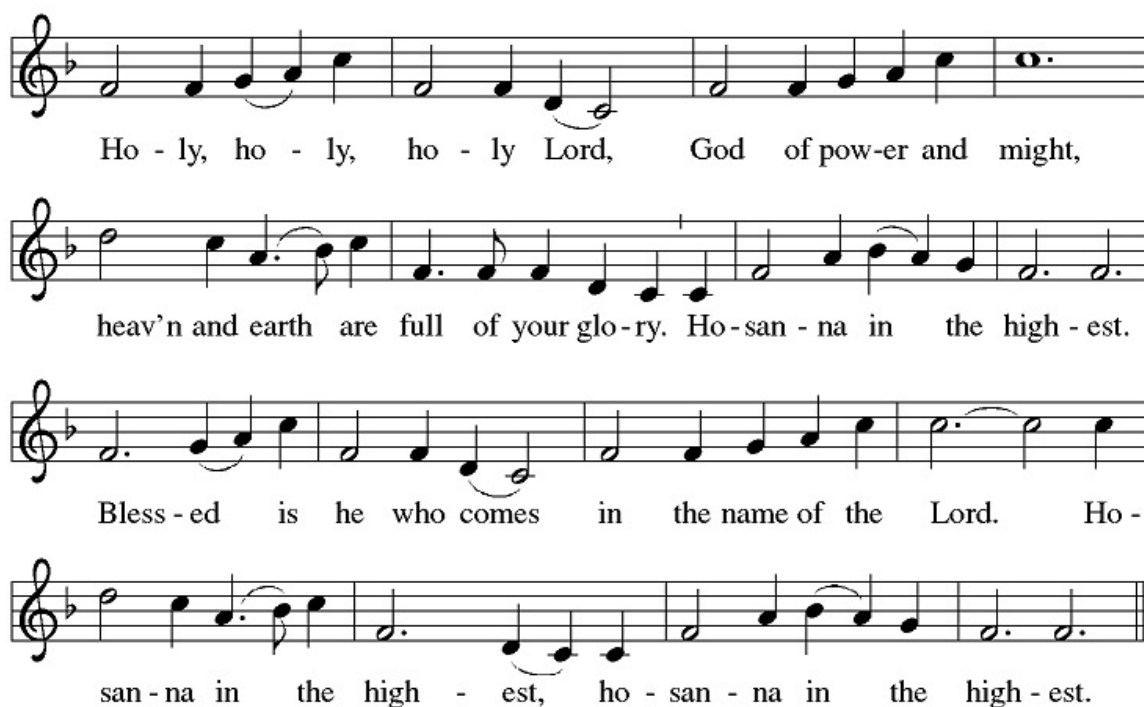
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P 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:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.**

THE 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

And each person may respond Amen.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!


Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has
been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion
which you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:
a light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,
is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

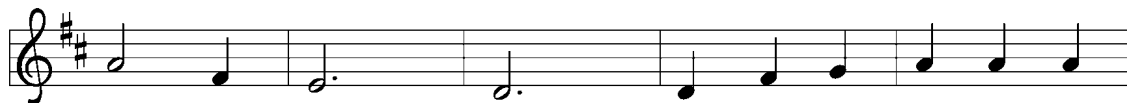
BLESSING

response: **Amen**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE - *Improvisation on ELW 815*

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The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God with the following recognitions:

✚ In memory of Nicholas and Adele Mauriello and George and Michael Murr by Sally and Mike Mauriello

Altar Flowers – If you would like to make a recognition through a request for Altar Flowers, please stop by the credenza under the TV monitor in the atrium. Sign up for the day(s) you would like to request, pick up an envelope and form in the lower box and turn in your request form(s) which should indicate your announcement for the bulletin, and payment (\$40) at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, speak with a staff person.

Prayer of the Church (Members): Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazey, Ida Elliott, Phyllis and Larry Jenkins, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Judy Schlegel, Mary Bader, John Friedrich, Tom Kraska, Pat Cashwell, Jim Shoaf, Doug Whitfield, Sharon Schulze, Larry Grovenstein, Alice Barnes, Charlie Bock, Pat and Morris Casper

Prayer List Changes – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time**, email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews and Robert Meissner [Tony Perrotte's mother and uncle], Diane Johnson (Penni Perrotte's friends), Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Virginia Hinshaw (great-grandmother of Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Eric Tabert (nephew of Deb Tabert), Armenia and Artsakh (friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (parents of Bill Wilson), Linda Leslie (mother of Sean Slane), Paul DeVries (brother of Bob DeVries), Gini Rinkus (friend of the Dominicks), Elaine Williamson (sister-in-law of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Paul (son-in-law of Jan Huntley), Richard Dominick (brother of Ted Dominick), Burr Hasselbeck, Josephine Economy and John Bigsby (friends of Bess Line), Wayne Coulter (brother-in-law of Marlene Coulter), Marie Watts (cousin of Pat Casper), Ruth Parker (aunt of Pat Casper), Ashley Collins (niece of Deb Tabert), Holly Cashwell (by Pat Cashwell), Patrick Howell (son of a friend of the Waughs), George and Pat Rose (friends of Debbie Fullbright), John and Connie Heinz, Gregory and Colleen Davidson, Richard and Claudia Steele (friends of Dean and Marcia Redman), Kirk Temple (brother-in-law of Deb Tabert), Debra Jetton (sister of Bill Wilson), Penny Wagner (niece of Marcia Wilson), Lydia Sumner (cousin of Marlene Coulter), Lynn Hladak (grandmother to Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Ginger Weaver (cousin of Marlene Coulter), Tim Holody (by Terry and Sharon Wilson), Kerry Bowars (friend of Megan Cunningham), Cole Cashwell (grandson of Pat Cashwell), Will and Caitlyn (by Pat Casper), Twila Dahl (sister-in-law of Bill Dahl and Martha Dahl), Dirk Davis (by Debbie Fullbright), H Y Chi (father of Curtis Chi), Dennis Leeper (lifelong friend of Mark and Nancy Dewhirst), Sally Robinette (mother of Claire Cooney), Brian Dissel (husband of Tracey Dissel), Barbara Dissel (mother-in-law of Tracey Dissel), Len Rose (father-in-law of Tracey Dissel), Lynn and Ray Slabaugh (friends of the Foremans), Rufous Coulter (brother-in-law of Marlene Coulter)

The church office will be quite empty this week. Staff is on vacation. If you need pastoral care, please contact Pastor David Franzen at 919-493-7177.

Articles and information for the December Cross Connections are due to Susan Esposito by **Monday, November 27**. You can drop them in her mailbox in the reception office or email to admin@stpaulsdurham.org. "Holy Folders" will meet on Friday, December 1 at 11:00 am to assemble the issue for the post office.

Adults – Join us for Sunday School this year 9:45 - 10:45 am in Trinity Hall

Nov 19 – Camp Destiny, lead by Tim and Kim Hoke, come and hear about the last two years of Camp Destiny, lots of photographs and commentary on how the community and the Camp integrated.
Nov 26 – Music of Advent (information provided by Tom Kraska) lead by Megan Cunningham
Dec 3 – Art of Advent (Part 1) by Janet Seiz

Youth Sunday School Class: All middle school and high school youth will gather during the Sunday School hour downstairs in the youth room (9:45-10:30 am). Classes will be the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, only missing December 24th. We look forward to seeing all youth in classes. Any questions please reach out to Joan Albright or Megan Cunningham.

Children's Sunday School meets in the Genesis Room downstairs, 9:45-10:45 am. Leaders are Betty Hinshaw and Carole Ostrowski. **They will not be meeting next Sunday, Nov 26.**

Put this date on your calendar -- Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 am -- Come and help put our Chrismons on the tree in the sanctuary! Many hands make light work!

Advent suppers and Worship! On Wednesdays, December 6, 13, and 20, there will be Advent Worship at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. On Dec 6 and 13 we will begin at 6:00 pm with our traditional Advent Suppers of soups, bread, and salad. If you would like to make a soup for one of these dinners, please contact Martha Dahl at 847-612-6687 or mjdahlhouse@gmail.com. The Christmas Dinner will be on December 20 at 6:00 pm. If you wish to help with preparations for that meal, you are encouraged to contact Martha at the above information.

Get to know our Committees, Groups, and Partnerships! Nine of our committees and/or groups, along with our Preschool/PMO, have uploaded informational videos to our Vimeo Website. They are short explanations of how the groups function and they offer opportunities for all of us to participate with them. You can view these videos at: <https://vimeo.com/stpaulsdurham/videos>. We can help other groups produce videos to promote our work for God at St. Paul's. Contact Pastor Scott if you want to participate.

If you are visiting our website (stpaulsdurham.org), you will find the uploaded informational videos under the tab: WHO WE ARE, subheading: leadership. While on the website, take a look around and you will find our announcements, links to Sign-Up Genius, links to the worship services, a calendar which can be viewed or downloaded and printed out. You may use the tab: GIVING to set up on-line giving and for specific donations.

Caring for Creation – Bring your used eyeglasses and batteries (sizes AA, AAA, C, or D), the pop tops from aluminum cans which go to the Ronald McDonald House – and place in the container next to the credenza in the atrium. St. Paul's Preschoolers have been learning about God's Creation and are interacting with nature during their learning time by planting and watching them grow. Contact persons are Tina Bessias, Diana Dominick and Marcia Redman.

Thursday Morning Bible Study: The topic for this Bible Study is "Half Truths". They meet on Thursdays at 10:30-11:45 am in the Conference Room and by Zoom. Study notes will be emailed before the meeting. **NOT MEETING ON NOVEMBER 23!** Join Zoom Meeting.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82845097165?pwd=YWEyd1o1TmQvTXVPaFJwYi9SZkFVQT09>
Meeting ID: 828 4509 7165 Passcode: 165276

UMD (Urban Ministries Durham) Food Prep! We will volunteer our services on the third Saturday of each month, 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Next date is **December 16, 2023**. During the shift, you will prep for the dinner meal and serve lunch. Sign up online at this site: http://bit.ly/UMD_Signup Urban Ministries is located at 410 Liberty St, Durham NC 27701. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Anderson at andersona1129@gmail.com

Young Adult Activity – Our Young Adults are starting back on **Friday, December 1, 2023 at 7:00 pm** with a hot chocolate and s'mores around the fire pit event at Church. Megan Cunningham will provide details.

Duke Lutherans Christmas Open House Lunch – Duke Lutherans alumni, supporters, and friends: please join us for a special catered lunch on **Tues, Dec 5 at noon** and see our (still new!) campus ministry home. The Duke Lutherans Center will be decorated for Christmas as we give thanks for this Spirit-filled ministry that we share. Please RSVP to Sandra Cline (scline50@gmail.com) by Fri, Dec 1.

Drivers Needed – Nurturing Committee Ministry is in need of volunteer drivers that can help transport people to medical appointments, chemo appointments, pharmacy. It can be a drop off and come back later to transport home, or a short wait for the appointment. If you have time to help, please contact dmredman251@gmail.com.

Handbells and Choirs! Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings. Handbell rehearsal will be in the choir loft from 6:30-7:15 pm, and choir rehearsal is in Whitesell Hall and runs from 7:15-8:30 pm. For any questions, please contact Minister of Music, Ted Turner, music@stpaulsdurham.org.

PASTA for PARKTOWN!! Please continue to help stock the "Pasta Shelf" at Parktown Food Hub. It would be helpful if you could add a package – or two – of dry pasta to your shopping cart to support this important community ministry and keep the St. Paul's Pasta Shelf well stocked. Place donations in the collection box by the bulletin board. The Women's Connection Group is leading this initiative to support the Parktown Food Hub, a ministry of South Durham Connections, led by Pastor Sharon Schulze.

Growing thru Grief

Here is the current schedule:

- Nov 21: "Strategies for Coping," with Janet Stolp
- Nov 28: "Befriending Your Grief Waves," with Donna Kaye

We meet at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 pm. First timers will need to show proof of Covid vaccination and booster(s). All are welcome. Growing thru Grief is a coalition of area religious and civic organizations who offer support and education to those grieving the loss of a loved one. For more information check out: growingthrugrief.org

The Tongue and Thimble group creates small quilts which are distributed to the nurseries at local hospitals for their critical patients. They meet downstairs in the Fiber Arts/Music room off of the Genesis Hall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am - 12:00 noon. So far this year, 105 quilts have been donated.

The Dropped Stitch Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the last Friday of the month at 1:00 pm in the sofa area of the atrium to create prayer shawls by knitting or crochet. The prayer shawls will be blessed on Sunday, December 3. There is no meeting of the group in November because of Thanksgiving.

Sign-Up Genius Links

Please visit the Sign-Up Genius links which we use to enable volunteers to fill in where needed, for both services. Click on the link and fill in your name on the date(s).

♦ **Sunday Worship**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1>

Sign up for: lector, worship assistant, altar guild, and ushers. Staff will be glad to provide guidance for any of these tasks.

♦ **Sunday morning Communion Assistants and Lock-Up**

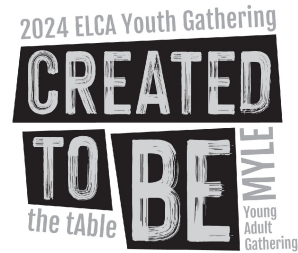
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-communion>

♦ **Devotions** – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1>

Send your devotions to Vicar Gina Schaeffer - vicar@stpaulsdurham.org

Insert:

Our Youth Group is going to New Orleans in July of 2024 for the National Youth Gathering.



Here is how you can help them on their journey.

We have six youth and two adult leaders heading to New Orleans in July of 2024 for the National Youth Gathering. This is a time for our youth to grow in their faith and as an overall youth group. You will see the youth active in different ways throughout the year and we ask that you help us get to New Orleans.

We need to raise about \$9,000 for everyone and we cannot do it without the gracious help of our St. Paul's family. In the atrium is a yellow bulletin board with 8 airplane seats, 8 hotel beds, and 8 plates broken into 3 pieces so you can see the progress as we get ready for this adventure. You can help in a variety of ways, including purchasing a whole airplane seat or hotel bed, or if you can just help with a meal for someone.

How to "purchase" a specific item is broken down:

- ▶ 1 airplane seat cost \$400 (this is for roundtrip)
- ▶ 1 hotel bed cost \$350 (this is for the entire week)
- ▶ 1 meal costs \$25 or a whole day of meals costs \$75 (this is for 1 person)

As we raise funds, watch the airplane take off from RDU (Durham, NC) to MSY (New Orleans, LA).

Donations can be made online through the church website (under the giving online option) or during the offering time in service. Please note on your donation (Youth Gathering – purchase item" (i.e. "Youth Gathering - airplane seat" or "Youth Gathering - 1 meal").

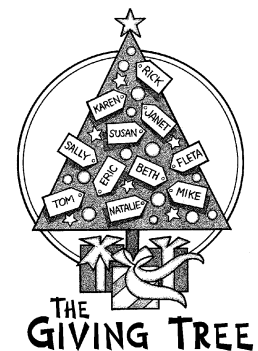
Thank you for all your help and prayers as we prepare for this unbelievable experience!

Christmas Giving Opportunities 2023

★ Food Lion Gift Cards for Parktown Food Hub

★ Target or Walmart gift Cards for Burton Elementary

There is a Christmas tree in the atrium which is decorated with envelopes. You may choose an envelope, then purchase the requested gift card and return it in the provided envelope. Food Lion Gifts cards (\$25, \$50) are requested for the Parktown Food Hub. Target or Walmart gift (\$25 or \$50) cards will go to Burton Elementary. All envelopes with gift cards inside may be returned to the offering plate, or put in the Finance Office wall slot in the staff hallway -- by **Sunday, December 3.**



★ Direct Donation to South Durham Connections

If you want to participate but won't be able to shop, feel free to make a cash donation at <https://soduco.org/donate> and we will make sure that our families are shown a little extra love by purchasing what is most needed.

★ Amazon Stocking Wish List for Parktown Food Hub

Christmas stockings for kids (needed by **Monday, 11/27**) – we want every child whose family receives food from the Parktown Food Hub to have the joy of a Christmas stocking. We have volunteers who have generously offered to help assemble the stockings, and now we just need the stuffers! To make it easy we have set up an Amazon Wishlist.

You can order the items and they will be shipped directly to us. We need the items by **Monday, November 27** so the volunteers have time to assemble the stockings. Here is a link to the Amazon Wishlist: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2OD4D7YEAGJML?ref_=wl_share