

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church of  
Smithfield  
Pastor Deb Staniszewski  
August 10, 2025  
8:30am & 10:30am**



**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

## **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Silent Meditation**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

Please stand if able

## **LITANY FOR MISSION**

Let us be beacons of hope, standing tall

**Like lighthouses on the shores of despair**

Our spirits, prisms that fracture the dark

**Into rainbows of infinite possibility**

We are the torchbearers, the dream-casters

**Crafting tomorrow from the threads of today**

Who but us can rekindle the flames of faith?

**In our hands, we hold the embers of change.**

So let us rise, radiant with mission

**Our hearts, constellations guiding the lost**

For in this twilight of uncertainty

**We are the dawn that breaks, unfailing**

Together, we'll paint the sky with divine designs

**A masterpiece of resilience and grace**

For hope is not found, but forged in souls

**And we are its guardians, its voice, its home.**

Throw from the future the Rope of Hope.

## O Master, Let Me Walk with You



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly  
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,  
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,  
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;  
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward  
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith  
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.  
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.  
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,  
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.  
 Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

## 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

(ELW 142)

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

please be seated

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### A READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

<sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### PSALM: Psalm 33:12-22 (RESPONSIVELY)

<sup>12</sup> Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!  
Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

<sup>13</sup> **The LORD looks down from heaven,  
and sees all humankind.**

<sup>14</sup> God sits firmly enthroned and watches  
all who dwell on the earth.

<sup>15</sup> **God fashions all their hearts  
and observes all their deeds.**

<sup>16</sup> A king is not saved by the size of the army,  
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

<sup>17</sup> **The horse gives vain hope for victory;  
despite its great strength it cannot save.**

<sup>18</sup> Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,  
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

<sup>19</sup> **to deliver their lives from death,  
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

<sup>20</sup> Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,  
our helper and our shield.

<sup>21</sup> **Surely, our heart rejoices in you,  
for in your holy name we put our trust.**

<sup>22</sup> Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,  
even as we place our hope in you.

please stand if able to welcome the gospel

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW 142)



## GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

The holy gospel according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup> "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup> "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup> "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

please be seated

## SERMON: Pastor Deb. Staniszewski

please stand if able

## Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,  
Maker of all things.**

**We believe in his Son Jesus Christ,  
Lord and savior of the world.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
Giver of life and light.**

**We belong to the Body of Christ, the Church,  
God's family everywhere. AMEN**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

*A brief silence.*

Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth, especially where life and habitats are threatened (*places may be named*). Guide the work of astronomers and all who teach us about the stars and galaxies. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for peace. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be on those in need (*especially*). Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Calm the fears of migrants and refugees who set out, not knowing where they go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of Global Refuge and other means of support and advocacy. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We celebrate the ancestors in the faith who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance (*especially Lawrence, deacon and martyr*). Sustain us in our hope of things not seen. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**Amen.**

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## PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.



**From your seat, greet someone around you with Christ's Peace.**

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

please stand if able

Offering Plates are located at the back of the church on the table when you leave.  
A reminder that you can also use the QR code at the back of the bulletin to give.

### OFFERING PRAYER

S&S Summer

Creator God,  
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good  
and the harvest is plentiful.  
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth  
and our labor,  
that we may work for the good of all;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

(ELW 144)

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.**

### PREFACE

ELW Sunday

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

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(ELW 144)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

S&S Summer

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.

**Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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 SONG "LAMB OF GOD"

(ELW 146)

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.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

S&S Summer

The kingdom of God is set before you.  
Eat and rejoice.

\*\* We practice continuous Communion.

## **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen.**

please stand if able

## **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

S&S Summer

Mothering God,  
you gathered us to your table  
and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## **BLESSING**

S&S Summer

The love of God abound in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;  
and the life of the Spirit  
✠ bless you and give you peace.  
**Amen.**



## SENDING HYMN

(ELW 618)

### Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield me with your might-y arm, shield me with your might-y arm.  
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.  
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

## ANNOUNCEMENTS DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

S&S Summer