

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost September 15, 2024

Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Moderato Cantabile from Organ Symphony VII by Charles-Marie Widor Please quietly reflect and prepare for worship during the music.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ⊕ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

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 \mp Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The prelude's purpose is to prepare your heart, your hands, and your mind for worship. The Lord is worthy of our preparation and the prelude provides us a time to do just that.

Washed in water and marked with the cross, the baptized children of God are united with Christ, and through him, with other believers, we confess our sins and return to our baptism. In forgiveness God raises us up again.

The paraments, which are the hangings on the altar, pulpit, and lectern, are green for ordinary time.
For growth and discipleship.

GATHERING HYMN

#806 Oh God, My Faithful God

When dan-gers gath - er round,

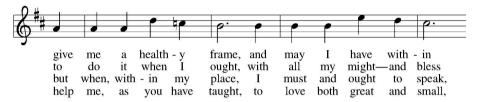


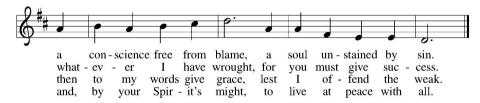
keep me calm and

fear - less;

The Hymns proclaim the Gospel in song. We sing a variety of hymns to help us tell God's story.







Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT, Ahasuerus Fritsch, 1629–1701

GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.

The Apostolic Greeting is given by the Pastor using the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Cor 13:13. In this greeting the assembly is rooted in the Triune life of God.

KYRIE



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CANTICLE OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

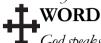
Let us pray.

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

The prayer of the day is typically a prayer focused around the scripture texts for the day.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.



♣ God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face

from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me;

therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me;

who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

The Word part of our liturgy, is where we hear "the living voice of the Gospel." We experience this in the Biblical readings, a sermon based around these readings, and the hymn of the day.

PSALM Psalm 116:1-9



I love the Lord, who has | heard my voice,

and listened to my | supplication, for the Lord has given | ear to me whenev- | er I called.

The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me; I came to | grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name | of the Lord:

"O Lord, I pray you, | save my life."
R

Gracious is the | Lord and righteous; our God is full | of compassion.

The Lord watches o- | ver the innocent;

I was brought low, | and God saved me.

Turn again to your rest, | O my soul. for the Lord has dealt | well with you. For you have rescued my | life from death,

my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling;

I will walk in the presence | of the Lord in the land | of the living. R

SECOND READING James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



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

GOSPEL Mark 8:27-38

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

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

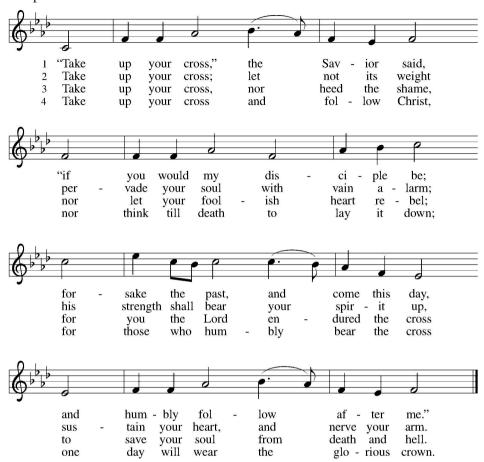
The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN SERMON SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

#667 Take up the Cross Your Savior Said



THE APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in hope and trust, let us confess our faith together. 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.

As Lutheran Christians we have three creeds to articulate our faith. The Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds.
Through the Apostles' Creed we confess our faith in the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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*.

We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships, and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who govern nations, tribes, and cities. Open them to the cries of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and well-being of all who struggle with hunger and housing insecurity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve. Especially Jan, Janet, Joyce, Phyllis, Larry, Bob, Ellie, Mary, John, Pat, Karl, Otti, Anna, Fran, Pat, Susan, Charlie, Amanda, Rick, Ron, Marilyn, Dean, and all those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff, and all who support the education of young people. Sustain them as they shape learning communities, rooted in equity and authenticity. We pray for children of all ages in their learning. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember our beloved dead, who with the great cloud of witnesses bear witness to your saving grace. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we too place our hope and trust in 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

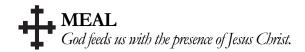
The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ. The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation is invited to share a sign of God's peace with one another The assembly sits.

The passing of the peace is traditionally part of the liturgy, so that anyone in the gathered assembly may have a time to be reconciled to one another before sharing the meal.

The prayers of intercession are prepared in advance by writers from across the Church based around the scripture for a given week.



OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERTORY

Day by Day by Martin How (Choir at 11:00am)

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY HYMN



A musical offering is given to God in our worship as the gifts of the assembly are collected.
This is a reminder of God's abundance. We offer back to God just a small portion of what God has given us, so that the mission of God can be realized.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

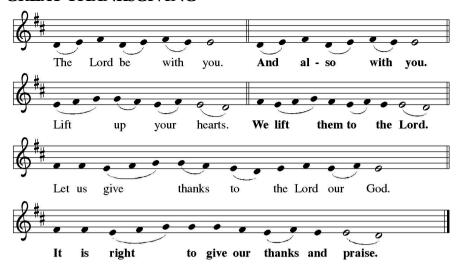
Let us pray together.

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

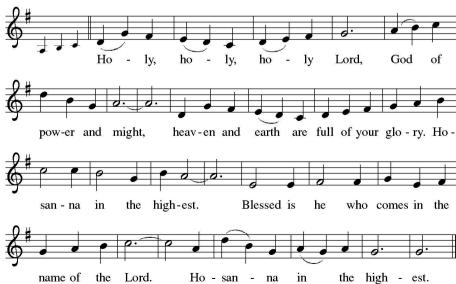
GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE

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



In the meal part of our liturgy we prepare to come to Christ's table. In the Great Thanksgiving we focus on being thankful for all God has given to us. In the Eucharistic Prayer, we ask God to send the Holy Spirit to this meal and we ask that Christ will fulfill his promise to be in the bread and wine.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

COMMUNION

This is the Lord's table. Jesus is the host. We are Christ's guests. Jesus welcomes everyone to come, to eat and be nourished, fed and forgiven. Visitors and children are welcome to receive communion. Those who do not receive communion are welcomed forward to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. The pastor and communion assistant will come to the pews of those unable to come forward.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

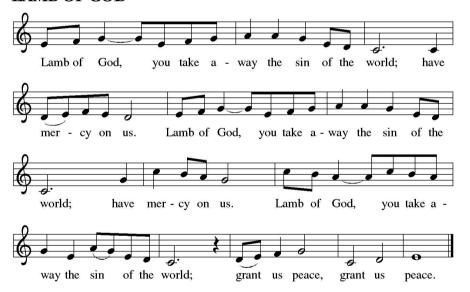
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Each person may respond: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

LAMB OF GOD



The Lamb of God is a title for Jesus that appears in John 1:29. It is here that we are reminded that our Lord is present and we are to behold his glory.

COMMUNION HYMN

#815 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



The assembly stands.

TABLE BLESSING

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



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and to serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.



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.

Our final part of our liturgy is the sending. We are sent out into the world reminded of God's mission and strengthened by the presence of Christ and one another through the power of the Holy Spirit.

SENDING HYMN

#810 O Jesus, I Have Promised



Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.

Music: MUNICH, Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693

DISMISSAL

The assembly is sent into mission.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on All People That on Earth Do Dwell

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"The Mission of St. Paul's Lutheran Church as a part of the family of God is to share God in Christ with the World by equipping one another through worship, learning, witness, service and support."

Congregation Council

PresidentJoan AlbrightVice-PresidentKatie BenjaminSecretaryMegan Cunningham

Co-TreasurersAngela Maine, John Foreman **Co-Financial Secretaries**Rod Runestad, Phil Hart

Council Members Joan Albright, Megan Cunningham, Mike Mauriello, Katie Benjamin, Jayce Getz, Emily

Pauline, Ken Knudsen, Michelle Meadors, Steve Myzk

Welcome to St. Paul's

In celebrating God's beauty and strength created through diversity, we welcome, value, and include all of God's children regardless of race, culture, age, sexual orientation, gender expression, ability, appearance, or citizenship. St. Paul's is committed to racial equality.

Admission to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is by invitation of our Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized. If you are unable to receive Holy Communion at the altar, please notify an usher to receive communion at your seat. All are welcome at the table for a blessing. We use red wine and bread at communion, and offer grape juice and gluten-free wafers. Inform your server at the rail if you desire either.

Distribution of the Communion Elements take place as follows:

Exit the pew to the side aisles. Empty cups are obtained from the trays located by the front exit. Proceed to the altar. Persons on the right side (lectern side) proceed to the back of the altar rail and fill forward towards the front. The left side (pulpit side) proceed to the front of the altar rail and fill towards the back. After communing, depart down the center aisle to your seat. Please place your cup in one of the baskets.

St. Paul's Live Stream Policy

- 1.St. Paul's Lutheran Church live streams the 11:00 AM service every Sunday. The service is posted to Vimeo and Facebook. In addition, special services may be live streamed.
- 2. The 8:30 AM service is not live streamed and is available for attendance by those who do not wish to be recorded. For live streamed services there will be a "No Video Zone" designated in the Narthex.
- 3. It is recommended that all livestream services include a disclaimer about the service being recorded, posted on a visible location at the entrance of the sanctuary and written in the bulletin.
- 4. Children must have a signed waiver from their parent or guardian before being recorded.
- 5. We will not share personal or identifying information while a service is being live streamed, this includes during announcement, prayer requests, or the sermon.

Staff of St. Paul's

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, North Carolina Synod