



## Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 22, 2024

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.



## GATHERING

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

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*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 ☩ 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

#526 God is Here

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



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

## 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.*

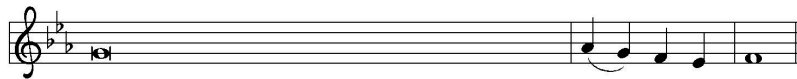
# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



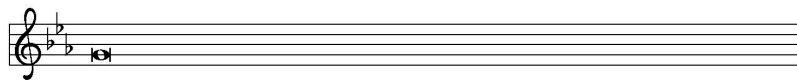
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*



## WORD

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

## FIRST READING Jeremiah 11:18-20

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;  
then you showed me their evil deeds.

But I was like a gentle lamb  
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me  
that they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,  
let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,  
who try the heart and the mind,

let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

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

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

*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.*

The first staff of music is written on a treble clef. It contains the following notes and rests: a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter rest, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, a quarter note G5, a quarter note A5, a quarter note B5, and a half note C6.

it is the LORD who sus-tains my life.

Render evil to those who | spy on me;  
in your faithful- | ness, destroy them.

I will offer you a | freewill sacrifice  
and praise your name, O Lord, for  
| it is good.

For you have rescued me from | every  
trouble,  
and my eye looks down | on my  
enemies. R

and my eye looks down | on my  
enemies. R

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

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

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

## GOSPEL Mark 9:30-37

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

[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN SERMON

# SERMON



## HYMN OF THE DAY

#712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,  
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;  
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light  
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:  
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,  
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;  
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.  
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.  
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.  
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

## 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.*

Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer or ill. 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. Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life 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 **PEACE** child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

*Then, 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.*



## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*


### OFFERING

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

### OFFERTORY

*The assembly stands.*

### OFFERTORY HYMN



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*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.**

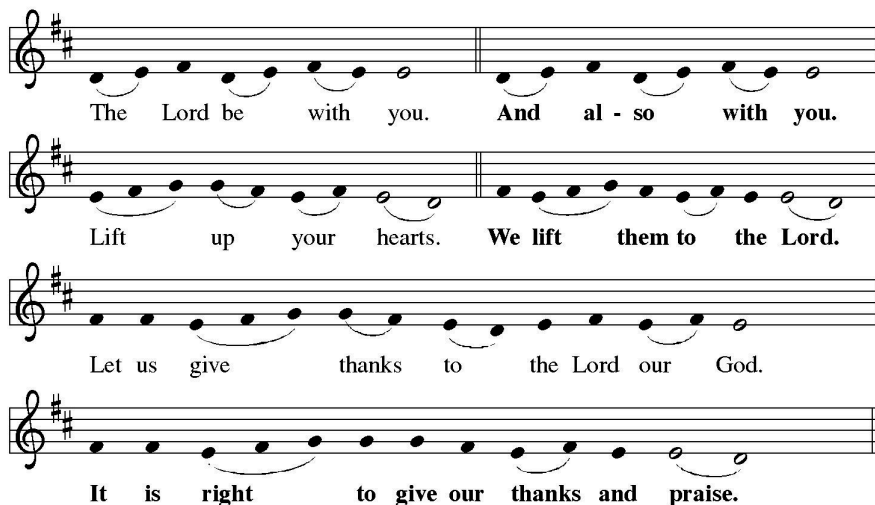
**By these gifts and with our lives,**

**help us to serve one another and all in need,**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

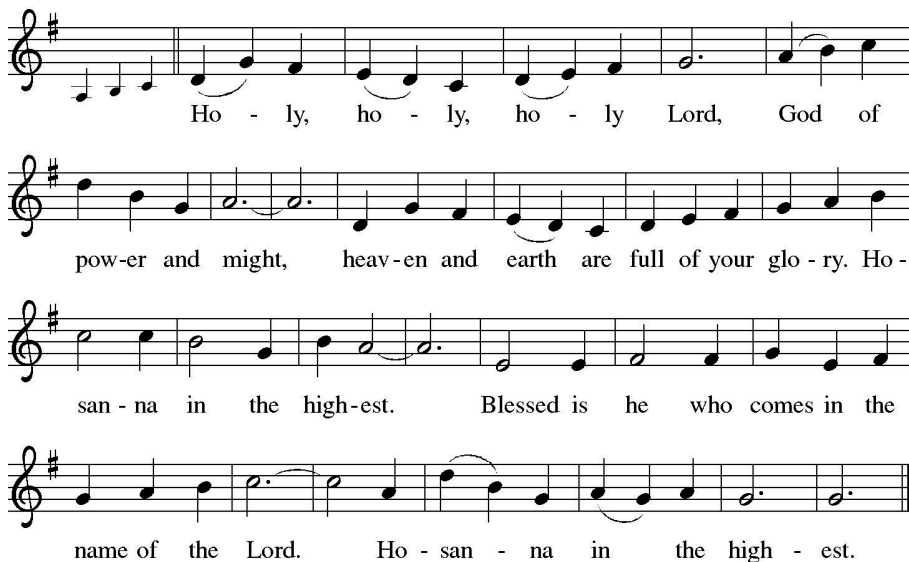


*In the meal part of our liturgy we prepare to come to Christ's table. In the Great Thanksgiving we focus on being thankful for all God has done and for all God has given to us. In the Eucharistic Prayer, we ask God to send the Holy Spirit to this meal and we ask that Christ will fulfill his promise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

## 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



## **EUCCHARISTIC 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*

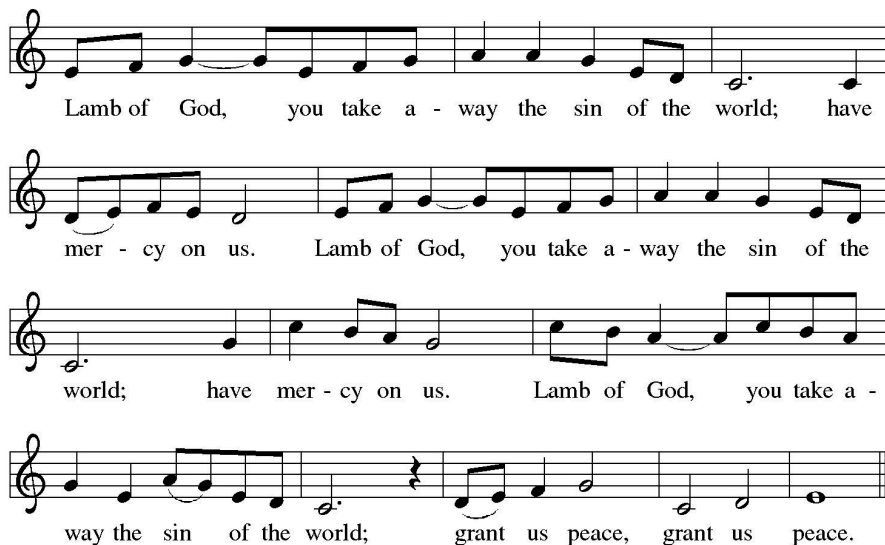
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Each person may respond: Amen.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD



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, grant us peace.

*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

#883 All People That on Earth Do Dwell



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the  
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our  
 3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with  
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy  
 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his  
 aid he did us make. We are his folk, he  
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his  
 is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times  
 heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the



praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice.  
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.  
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.  
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.  
 an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

*The assembly stands.*

## TABLE BLESSING

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



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.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

**Holy God,**

you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.

Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



## SENDING

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

## 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

## #765 Lord of all Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:  
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953  
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional  
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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## DISMISSAL

*The assembly is sent into mission.*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

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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**

**President**

Joan Albright

**Vice-President**

Katie Benjamin

**Secretary**

Megan Cunningham

**Co-Treasurers**

Angela 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

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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**

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Scott Anderson	<a href="mailto:pastor@stpaulsdurham.org">pastor@stpaulsdurham.org</a>
<b>Duke Lutherans Pastor/</b>		
<b>Associate Pastor</b>	Rev. Amanda Highben	<a href="mailto:Amanda.highben@duke.edu">Amanda.highben@duke.edu</a>
<b>Vicar</b>	Ashley Bowman	<a href="mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org">vicar@stpaulsdurham.org</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Susan Esposito	<a href="mailto:admin@stpaulsdurham.org">admin@stpaulsdurham.org</a>
<b>Office Assistant</b>		<a href="mailto:assistant@stpaulsdurham.org">assistant@stpaulsdurham.org</a>
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Dr. Ted Turner	<a href="mailto:music@stpaulsdurham.org">music@stpaulsdurham.org</a>
<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Alan Rigsbee	<a href="mailto:bookkeeper@stpaulsdurham.org">bookkeeper@stpaulsdurham.org</a>
<b>Preschool Director</b>	Candace King	<a href="mailto:preschool@stpaulsdurham.org">preschool@stpaulsdurham.org</a>

## **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

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