

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Growing in faith. Growing in community. Welcoming all in Jesus' name.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday, June 30, 2024

10AM Service of
Holy Communion

A woman finds healing by touching Jesus' cloak, and a girl is restored to life when he takes her by the hand. In both cases a boundary is crossed: in Jesus' time the hemorrhaging woman was considered ritually unclean, polluting others by her touch, and anyone who touched a corpse also became unclean. In Mark's gospel Jesus breaks down barriers, from his first meal at a tax collector's house to his last breath on the cross as the temple curtain is torn in two. We dare to touch Jesus in our "uncleanness" and to live as a community that defines no one as an outsider.

Catch the excitement! Witness the joy! Shape the vision!

ST. PAUL'S VISION STATEMENT (adopted 02/25/2018)

- To worship as a diverse community of all ages
- To engage in faith formation as a community grounded in God's word
- To maintain with depth and integrity the work of feeding the hungry and housing the homeless
- To nurture a strong foundation of generosity, giving, and caring for creation
- To provide a music ministry that encompasses congregation and surrounding communities

Worship at Home and Away

When we cannot be together in person, we can still hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Therefore, we offer the 10AM service through simultaneous live streaming to St. Paul's Facebook page. The service is then posted to the website, www.stpaulsnewarkde.org and can be found by clicking the bulletin tab at the top, where you will find the worship folder, sermon, and livestream for each week.

**Large print worship folders and hearing assistance devices
are available in the narthex. Ask an usher for assistance.**

**A Prayground is available for young children
in the rear of the sanctuary.**

✠ GATHERING ✠

*Worship begins with God who takes the initiative and calls us into being.
We gather at the Holy Spirit's invitation and assemble as the community of faith
on the first day of the week, the day of Christ's resurrection.*

*Upon entering the sanctuary, the people pray silently or engage in quiet meditation
allowing the music to focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.*

The sanctuary doors will be closed as worship begins with the prelude.

PRELUDE

“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”

arr. Manz

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

INVOCATION AND DIALOG

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Amen.

With friends and strangers,
with family and neighbors, we gather:

**Come among us, Healing God,
with that love which never ends.**

With faith reaching out to touch,
with hearts straining to trust, we hope:

**Come among us, Friend of the broken,
with your compassion which makes us whole.**

With word and wonder,
with silence and song, we wait:

**Come among us, Dryer of our tears,
to lift us to our feet to follow you.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
ELW 733 (harmony)

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

Text and music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
 let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm and danger, that we may live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Be seated.

✠ WORD ✠

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

FIRST READING

Lamentations 3:22-33

Great is the LORD's faithfulness

A reading from Lamentations:

²² The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
the mercies of God never come to an end;

²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ "The LORD is my portion," says my soul,

“therefore in the LORD I will hope.”

²⁵ The LORD is good to those who are patient,
to the soul that seeks after God.

²⁶ It is good that a warrior should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

²⁷ It is good for a warrior to bear
the yoke in youth,

²⁸ to sit alone in silence
when the Lord has imposed it,

²⁹ to put his mouth to the dust
(there may yet be hope),

³⁰ to give his cheek to the smiter,
and be filled with insults.

³¹ For the Lord will not
reject forever.

³² Although causing grief, the Lord will have compassion
out of an abundance of steadfast love;

³³ for the LORD does not willingly afflict
or grieve anyone.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 30

Antiphon: Ps. 30:1

I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up.

I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up.

¹ I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

² O LORD my God, I cried out to you,
and you restored me to health.

³ You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

⁴ Sing praise to the LORD, all you faithful;
give thanks in holy remembrance.

I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up.

⁵ God's wrath is short; God's favor lasts a lifetime.

Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

⁶ While I felt secure, I said,

“I shall never be disturbed.

⁷ You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains.”

Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.

⁸ I cried to you, O LORD;

I pleaded with my Lord, saying,

⁹ “What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?

Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

¹⁰ Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me;

O LORD, be my helper.”

I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up.

¹¹ You have turned my wailing into dancing;

you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

¹² Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;

O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.

I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Excel in generosity, following the Lord Jesus

A reading from Second Corinthians:

⁷ Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

⁸ I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. ¹⁰ And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—¹¹ now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. ¹² For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. ¹³ I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between ¹⁴ your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. ¹⁵ As it is written,

“The one who had much did not have too much,
and the one who had little did not have too little.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.

WELCOMING THE GOSPEL

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

ELW 610 (Verse 1)



1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.



How can we fail to be re-stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 5:21-43

Christ healing a woman and Jairus's daughter

The Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw Jesus, fell at his feet ²³ and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.” ²⁴ So Jesus went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵ Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶ She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.”

²⁹ Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” ³¹ And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” ³² Jesus looked all around to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

³⁵ While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say,

“Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?”³⁶ But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.”³⁷ Jesus allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James.³⁸ When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly.³⁹ When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.”⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was.⁴¹ Jesus took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!”⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement.⁴³ Jesus strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

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

CELEBRATING THE GOSPEL

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come
 ELW 610 (Verse 4)

4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com-mu - ni - ty may find
 the whole-ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man-kind.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
 Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
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Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Barbara Melosh



Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

ELW 617

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

God of abundance, you fill your church with a multitude of gifts. Sustain those among us who feel they are not valued. Open our hearts to the wondrous breadth of all who call upon your name. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of creation, your goodness abounds. Multiply the fruits of the earth and rescue it from our wastefulness. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of justice, you reign in steadfast love. Bring peace between nations ravaged by war or strife and illumine paths of justice and freedom for those who lead them. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of compassion, your touch brings healing and your word revives us for life. Hear our prayers for Hugh, Rob, Ann, Judy, Traci, Robin, Christopher, Susan, Marie, Susan, Michael, JoEllen, Elizabeth, Brent, Melissa, Ginny, Gary, Anne, Isabella, Heyward, Olive, Jim and all who are in need, and for doctors, nurses, and health care workers who provide care. Turn wailing into dancing and weeping into joy. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of community, you gather us at your table of plenty. Where there is hunger among us, open our hands. Where we are indifferent to the needs of others, open our hearts. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of steadfastness and never-ending love, touch us and our partners in ministry, especially the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Wilmington and Lutheran housing projects throughout Delaware, with your healing grace that, restored to wholeness we may live out our calling as your resurrection people. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of the ages, great is your faithfulness. We remember in thanksgiving our beloved dead, especially Kenny, Susan, Connie, and Carl, who with all the saints sing without ceasing in your realm of glory. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The people exchange signs and words of peace and reconciliation,
saying: **Peace be with you.***

Be seated.

***At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad** (the black folder) found at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. We ask **visitors** to provide us with contact information so we can thank you for enriching our worship experience. We ask **members** to update any changes to their information so our records can be maintained.*

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, we offer our gifts for service and mission.

OFFERTORY

“The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe”

Waldemar Åhlén

Summer Choir

Please stand, as you are able.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

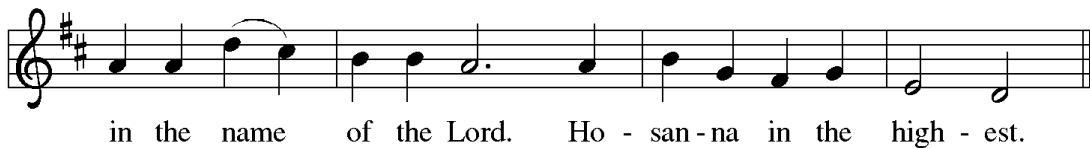
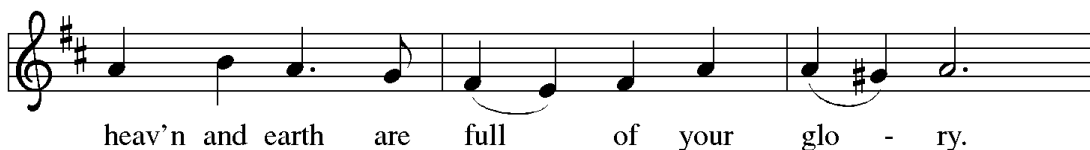
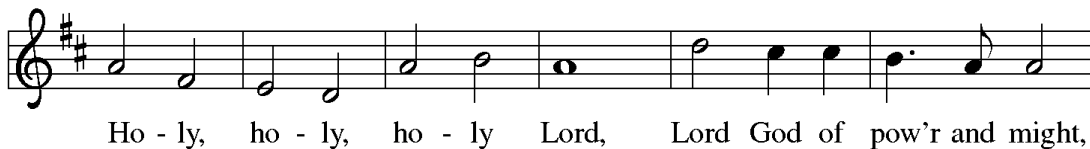
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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 acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

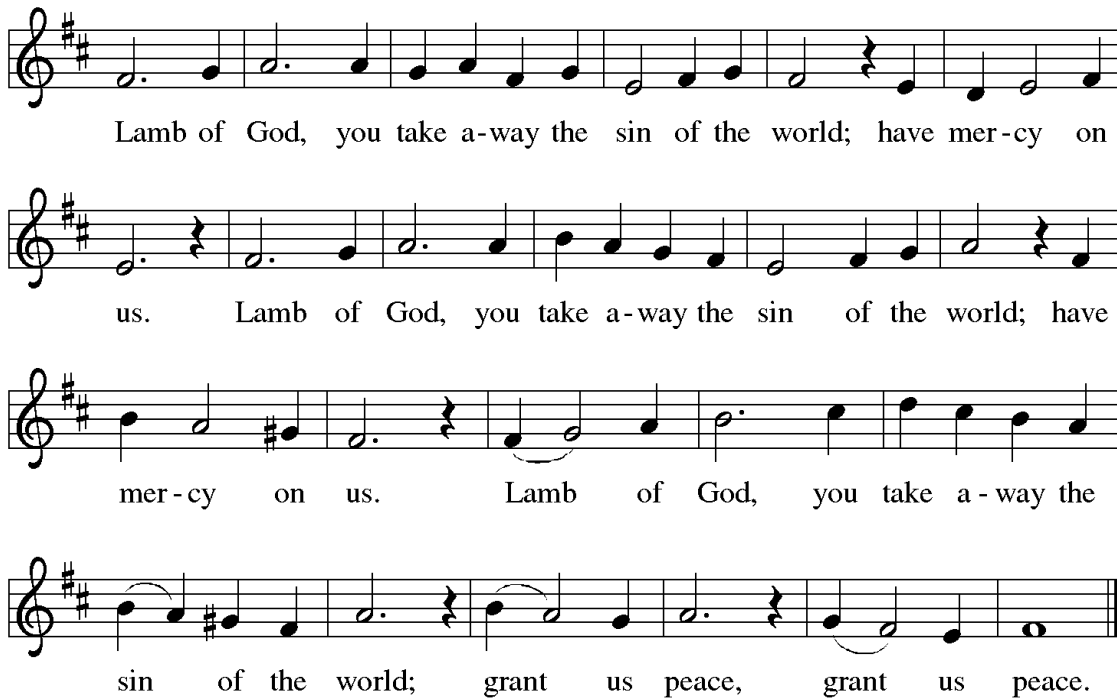
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD



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.

Be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.

Non-alcoholic grape juice and gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.

All who desire individual prayer and anointing are invited to receive Holy Communion, then go out to the prayer station in the narthex, located to the right of the sanctuary doors.



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

ELW 470 (harmony)



1 Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
 Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
 Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.

Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958

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If You But Trust in God to Guide You

ELW 769 (harmony)

Found on p. 17

If You But Trust in God to Guide You



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite
Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark
Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress

*After all have returned to their places,
please stand, as you are able.*

BLESSING AND PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your
own life. In your name we pray.

Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

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

RECOGNITION OF MINISTRY

We are honored to celebrate Pastor Ronald Mease on the occasion of his seventieth
anniversary of ordination.

BENEDICTION

The blessing of God, who provides for us,
feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
ELW 859 (harmony)

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the God of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise the Al - might - y, o'er all life so won - drous - ly reign - ing,
3 Praise the Al - might - y, who pros - pers your work and de - fends you;
4 Praise the Al - might - y! In won - der my spir - it is soar - ing!

The musical score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff.

My heart is long - ing to of - fer up sweet ad - o - ra - tion.
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 see from the heav - ens the show - ers of mer - cy God sends you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es out - pour - ing.

Mel - o - dy make; dul - ci - mer, harp, now a - wake.
 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 God's peo - ple a - gain,

Sound forth your praise, ev - 'ry na - tion.
 sent by God's gra - cious or - dain - ing.
 in - fi - nite Love here be - friends you.
 glad - ly for - ev - er a - dor - ing.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1690; tr. composite
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665
 Text © 2000 Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.
You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

arr. Leavitt

LOBE DEN HERREN

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Marjorie Chin
Lector:	Marjorie Chin
Bread Provider:	Judy Runkle
Altar Guild:	Cheri Simons
Flower Guild:	Janet Mease



*The flowers in the chancel are given
to the glory and praise of God
in honor of The Reverend Ronald F. Mease
on the seventieth anniversary of his ordination.*

COMMENTS FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

How often have I felt my soul awakened by thy Light and warmed by the fire of thy Love—then I approach thee—I find thee—but Alas instantly after I lose thee—often I think myself received—then fear I am rejected—and in this continual change of interior dispositions I walk in darkness and often go astray—I desire and know not how to desire, I love, and know not how to love, nor how to find what I love. Ah Lord I know not what I ought to say to Thee: but hear the Voice of Thy love and of my misery; Live always in me, and let me live perpetually in Thee and for Thee as I love only by Thee. Enlighten me, O Divine Light! Conduct me, O Supreme Truth! Raise me again, O increated Life! Separate me from everything that displeases Thee. Suffer me to remain at thy Feet.

—Elizabeth Seton, *Elizabeth Seton: Selected Writings*,
ed. Ellin Kelly and Annabelle Melville
(New York: Paulist Press, 1987), 228-229

JESUS' POWER IS ENOUGH

Today's story of two healings in a single reading appears to present a horrific choice: should Jesus hurry to the dying daughter of a rich man, or pause to heal an outcast woman? The urgency of both requests before him presents a real dilemma, one we might be tempted to resolve in a variety of either/or ways. Either he keeps his commitment to Jairus, or he pauses to help the woman before him who is so obviously suffering. He either helps an important person who can help him further his ministry, or gives help to someone who has no other resource at all.

We see these apparent zero-sum equations in our ministry all the time. The church council meets over the budget and feels the pull between benevolence outside the congregation and the increasing costs of health care for the church's employees. The building's windows need repair, but we know another congregation across town that can barely pay its pastor. The needs "inside" and the needs "outside" always seem in competition.

Individuals feel these tensions as well: people are sandwiched between the needs of aging parents and the needs of small children; parents feel stretched to meet their vocational obligations and spend time with their families; students want to serve others but feel pressed to just get their own work done.

Of course, in the face of Jesus' power, none of these really are either/or propositions, even though they seem like dead ends. In Mark's gospel, Jesus' power is enough to provide new life for both the rich man's daughter and the poor woman. How often do we assume that God's power is not enough to bring life out of the seemingly impossible choices we make? We are challenged to open up the interruptions and hard choices of our lives to Jesus' power to bring life out of death.

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ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 23, 2024

LECTIONARY 13, PROPER 8 (YEAR B)

The Christian assembly gathers each Lord's day to praise God's faithfulness and steadfast love. With faith we come to hear the word and share the meal, and to know the healing that sets us free from sin and the ailments of body, mind, and soul. We go in peace to tell others of God's power to bring life from death.

A REMINDER FROM STEWARDSHIP

With Memorial Day behind us and the summer months ahead of us, remember as you head off on vacation that St. Paul's doesn't disappear when you're away. We continue to worship and minister throughout June, July, and August, so please keep up your giving and think of us while you are relaxing in the sun!

BREWING THEOLOGY

Fun-loving adults, age 21 and over, are invited to join in conversation and laughs while enjoying a beverage at the home of Linda and David Grund, on Wednesday, July 24. Join us at 7PM at 46 Arizona State Drive in Newark, for fun and fellowship.

HOLY HIKE

Outdoor adventurers of any age are invited to hike on Sunday, July 21, after worship. Location will be provided in the coming weeks.

SUMMER CHOIR

Like to sing? Come at 9:30AM to rehearse a simple anthem to be presented in worship by the Summer Choir, an intergenerational pick up group. Come, make a joyful noise!

TAKE ME OWLT TO THE BALLGAME

The next "OWLing" will be at Frawley Stadium to take on the Brooklyn Cyclones, Friday, July 12, 6:35PM game time. The cost is \$18 for field box seats on the third base side (sun at our backs). Special event – Fireworks Friday post-game. Carpool will leave church parking lot (school side) at 5:30PM. Please RSVP to host Linda Grund with payment no later than this Sunday, June 30.

OWLS HEAD TO SIGHT AND SOUND

The Older Wiser LutheranS will travel to the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, August 14, for the 11AM performance of *Daniel*. To make a reservation, please provide Bill Saylor (bsaylor2@verizon.net; 302-834-4074) with a check or cash (\$85 per person) for the performance, plus your email address and cell phone number no later than this Sunday, June 30.

BOOKS AND BANTER

St. Paul's Book Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1PM in the Youth Room. If you have a book that you would like to share with the group, please let us know. Please join us for conversation and fellowship on July 24 as we discuss "The Swan's Nest" by Laura McNeal.

THINKING OF YOU

Have you noticed recently that a friend in our congregation hasn't been in church for a while? If so, please take a moment to send them a card to let them know you care. Cards and addresses are located on the table between the rear doors of the sanctuary.

PRAYER SQUARES

Do you know someone who could use a hug, comfort or love? Take a pocket prayer square from the basket in the rear of the sanctuary and deliver this reminder that God loves them and so do you!

SUMMER CONCERTS A SUCCESS

We thank everyone who attended our tenth annual Concerts for a Summer Holiday. The community chorus, orchestra, and handbells presented a spectacular program of music through the centuries and decades. We will have a figure in the near future as to what will be contributed to Seafarers International Union once all of the receipts are accounted for the event. If you missed the concerts and wish to make a donation to the SFU's Disaster Fund, please make a check payable to: St. Paul's and mark the memo: CFSH 2024.

Our Savior Jesus Christ has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

2 Timothy 1:10



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: www.stpaulsnewarkde.org

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.



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Interim Pastor

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Church Council

Anne Sullivan, *President*

Barb Rhodes, *Vice President*

Heidi Burch, *Secretary*

Mary Collins, *Treasurer*

Kristine Cassar, Winnie Hull, Greg Johnson,

Susie Olson, Emily Pierce

Early Childhood Administrator

St. Paul's Lutheran School

302-368-0064 ext. 118

stpaulschool@comcast.net

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

Articles due into the church office
by Wednesday morning (10AM)

St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

prayonstpauls@gmail.com

or contact Pastor Barbara Melosh

Church Office Email: splcstaff@gmail.com

**WISH TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES
OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH?
THEN SCAN THIS QR CODE**

