

# **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.*

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Sunday, August 25, 2024**

**10 AM Service of  
Holy Communion**

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

**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](http://www.stpaulsnewarkde.org) and can be found in the upper right hand corner of the home page, along with a digital copy of this worship folder, as well as a copy of the sermon.

**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

“Blessed Assurance”

arr. Franklin D. Ashdown

ASSURANCE

### WELCOME

*Please stand, as you are able.*

### GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Jesus said: 'I am the Bread of Life . . .  
whoever eats this Bread will always live.'

**This is a tough teaching, too tough to swallow.**

Jesus said: 'Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God  
like a child shall not enter it.'

**This is a tough teaching, too tough to hear.**

Jesus said to all he met: 'Follow me.'

**We have accepted Jesus, and seek to be faithful,  
no matter how tough it is to follow him.**

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.

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our  
choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live  
in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### ENTRANCE HYMN

**When Morning Gilds the Skies**  
ELW 853 (harmony)

1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:  
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:  
 3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known  
 4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:  
 5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,

may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer  
 than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round  
 sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,

this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"  
 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.  
 Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

## 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.**

## PEACE

As forgiven and reconciled people of God, let us greet one another with signs and words of peace and reconciliation.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly exchanges Christ's peace  
in word and gesture,  
saying, **Peace be with you.***

*Be seated.*

## ✠ WORD ✠

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

## FIRST READING

**Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18**

*Joshua calls all Israel to serve the LORD*

A reading from Joshua:

<sup>1</sup>Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads,

the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve the LORD in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the deities that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. The LORD protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for the LORD is our God.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **RESPONSIVE READING**

## **Psalm 34:15-22**

*Antiphon:* Ps. 34:15

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous.

**The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous.**

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,  
and God’s ears are open to their cry.

<sup>16</sup>The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,  
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.

<sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them  
and delivers them from all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup>The LORD is near to the brokenhearted  
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.

**The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous.**

<sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers them from every one.

<sup>20</sup>God will keep safe all their bones;  
not one of them shall be broken.

<sup>21</sup>Evil will bring death to the wicked  
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

<sup>22</sup>O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,  
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

**The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous.**

## SECOND READING

## Ephesians 6:10-20

*Put on the armor of God*

A reading from Ephesians:

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of the Lord's power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?*

*ELW Setting 3*

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 6:56-69**

*The bread of eternal life*

The Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] <sup>56</sup>“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son-of-Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Barbara Melosh

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Father, We Thank You**

**ELW 478**

*Found on p. 8*

Of considerable interest to many contemporary scholars is the document called The Didache, “the Teaching of the Apostles.” From its passages about the eucharist, several hymns have been constructed, including our Hymn of the Day. Singing the first stanza allows us to complement our New Testament readings with other first-century words. The second stanza fits well with the Ephesians’ warning against the power of evil.

# Father, We Thank You



1 Fa - ther, we thank you that you plant - ed your ho - ly name with -  
2 Watch o'er your church, O Lord, in mer - cy, save it from e - vil,



in our hearts. Knowl - edge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je - sus your  
guard it still; per - fect it in your love, u - nite it, cleansed and con -



Son to us im - parts. Lord, you have made all for your plea - sure,  
formed un - to your will. As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides,



and giv'n us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the  
was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all lands your



bread e - ter - nal; yours is the pow'r, yours be the praise.  
church be gath - ered in - to your king - dom by your Son.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; para. F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.  
Music: RENDEZ A DIEU, attr. Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561  
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## PROFESSION OF FAITH

## Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**



**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy, and local climate justice advocates. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts, especially Earnie, Silas, Pat, Margaret, Sheri, Jay, Kara Beth, Naomi, Hugh, Rob, Christopher, Marie, Susan, Michael, JoEllen, Elizabeth, Melissa, Ginny, Gary, Isabella, Heyward, Olive, and Jim. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of grace, you feed us with the spiritual milk of your love and deliver us from darkness to light. Encompass us and our partners in ministry, especially Hope Lutheran Church in New Castle and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Dover, in the circle of your protection, that, secure in your sustaining power, we may find the wisdom and strength to challenge the evils of our time. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have completed their baptismal journeys, especially Anne, Chris, Bill, Catherine, and Reginald. Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully until our journey's end. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers.*

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.  
**Amen.**

*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**

“Hope of the World”  
Summer Choir

Text: Georgia Harkness  
Music: DONNE SECOURS

*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:

*Sanctus (Holy)  
ELW Setting 3*



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.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.

## **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

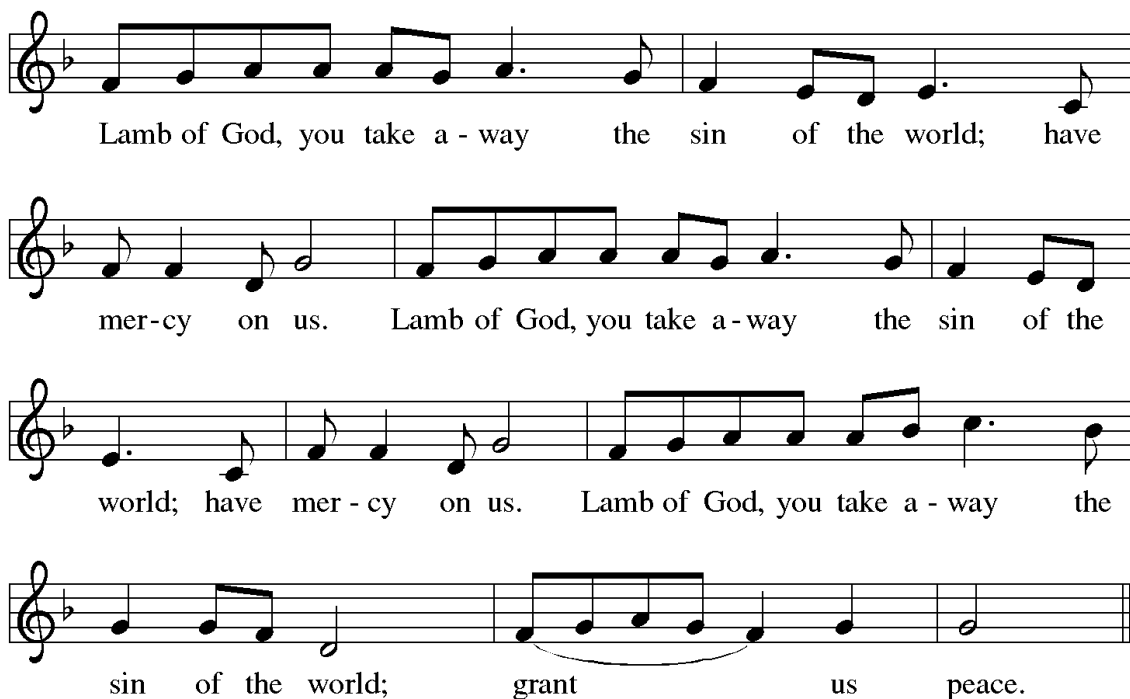
Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

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

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)*

*ELW Setting 3*



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.

*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.

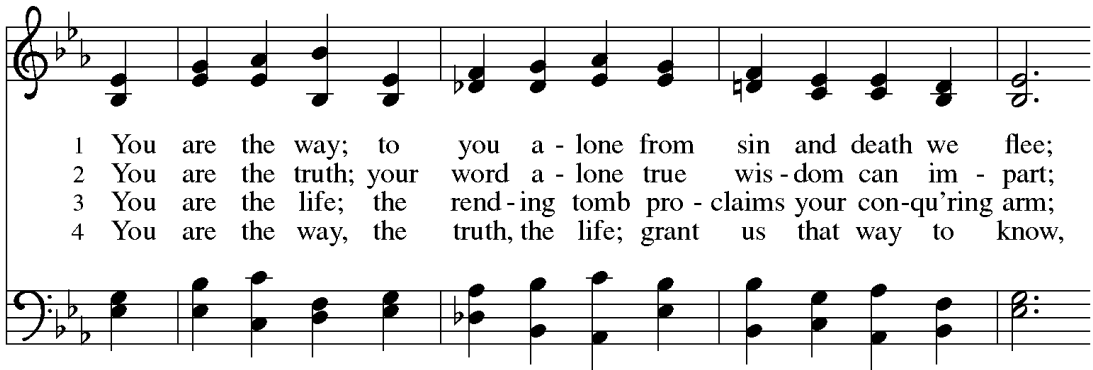
1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord  
 2 Saved by that bod - y, hal - lowed by that blood,  
 3 Sal - va - tion's giv - er, Christ, the on - ly Son,  
 4 Of - fered was he for great - est and for least,

and drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured.  
 where - by re - freshed, we ren - der thanks to God.  
 by his dear cross and blood the vic - t'ry won.  
 him - self the vic - tim and him - self the priest.

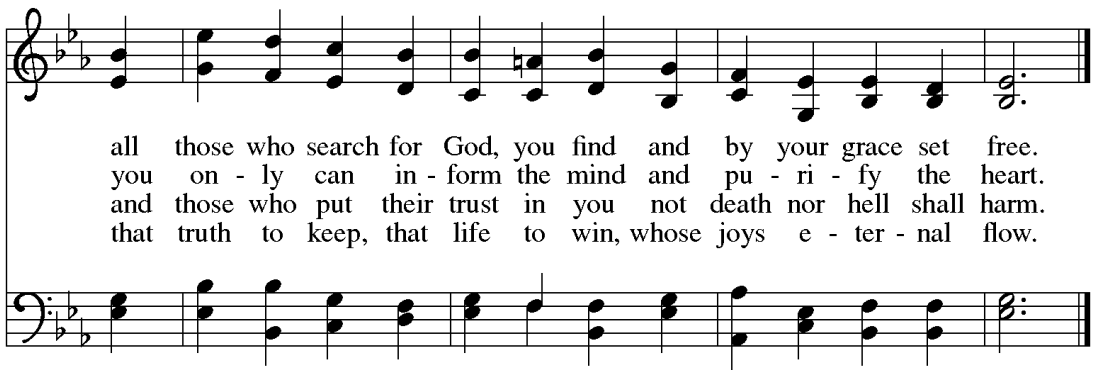
- 5 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,  
and take the pledges of salvation here.
- 6 He who his saints in this world rules and shields,  
to all believers life eternal yields,
- 7 With heav'nly bread makes those who hunger whole,  
gives living waters to the thirsty soul.
- 8 The judge eternal, unto whom shall bow  
all nations at the last, is with us now.

Text: Latin hymn, 7th cent.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
 Music: COENA DOMINI, Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

**You Are the Way**  
ELW 758



1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;  
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;  
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;  
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.  
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.  
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.  
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.  
Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

*After all have returned to their places, please remain seated.*

**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.*

**INSTALLATION OF LAY PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

**PRESENTATION**

*A representative of the employing body addresses the presiding minister.*

After prayerful deliberation, we, the Board of Directors of St. Paul's School, have appointed Katelyn Farrell to serve in the position of Early Education Director.

**ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS**

*The presiding minister addresses the one being installed and the assembly.*

Our Lord Jesus, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor. You come among us as one invited to render a particular service, a gift from God to inspire us to love and good works.

Katelyn, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God?

*Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.*

Trusting in God's care, will you seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and adorn the gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?

*Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.*

People of God, will you receive Katelyn into this ministry as one sent to serve in the church of Jesus Christ?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Will you pray for her, help and honor her for her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Katelyn, I now declare you installed as Early Education Director.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be a faithful servant of Christ.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER**

Gracious God, as you have called workers to varied tasks in the world and in your church, so you have called Katelyn to the ministry of early childhood education.

Grant her joy and a spirit of bold trust, that her work may stir up each of us to a life of fruitful service; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



## WELCOME

People of God, I present to you Katelyn Farrell, your Early Education Director.  
Let us welcome her in the name of Christ.

*The assembly offers acclamation with applause.*

*Those involved in the installation return to their places as the assembly stands.*

## BENEDICTION

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

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

## O Word of God Incarnate

ELW 514 (harmony)

*Found on p. 18*

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“Lead On, O King Eternal”

arr. Jason D. Payne

LANCASHIRE

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: Jeanine Heath

Lector: Barb Rhodes

Bread Provider: Heidi Burch

Altar Guild: Cheri Simons

Flower Guild: Cheri Simons

*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

John 6:68

# O Word of God Incarnate



1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;  
3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.  
to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,  
It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,  
oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.  
mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.  
till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.





The flowers in the chancel are given  
to the glory and praise of God in honor  
of their thirty-first wedding anniversary  
by Keith and Kaye Tyson.



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## WHO CAN ACCEPT IT?

“This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” (John 6:60). Jesus’ teaching about eating his flesh and drinking his blood isn’t something we can figure out and accept on our own. In his explanation of the third article of the Apostles’ Creed, Martin Luther writes these often-quoted and memorized words: “I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him.” The question of accepting Jesus’ difficult teachings gets turned on its head. No one can accept it. The good news of Jesus is too radical, unsettling, and illogical for us to accept. Through the grace of God and the work of the Holy Spirit we are able to echo Peter’s profession of faith: “You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God” (John 6:68-69). Like Peter, we have come to believe—despite our doubts and weakness of faith—through the Spirit’s work in the word.



# ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

## IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 25, 2024

### **LECTIONARY 21, PROPER 16 (YEAR B)**

In the midst of life's challenges and uncertainties, we seek to understand God's words of truth and life for us. Like Joshua, we make a commitment not to worship the passing gods of the day, but to serve the Lord alone. Today's reading from John includes words some Christians sing before the gospel is proclaimed: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Our hearts yearn for the good news that sets us free and strengthens us for service.

### **YOUTHERAN OLYMPICS**

Young Lutherans in Grades 6 – 12 grades are invited to St. Paul's this Sunday, August 25, at 5 PM. Wear clothes and shoes that you don't mind getting a little wet and in the spirit of the Olympics, participate in the Delmarva North water games. Please let Pastor Zachary Wright (301-395-3753/[pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com](mailto:pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com)) know if you plan to attend or have any questions.

### **BREWING THEOLOGY**

Fun-loving adults, age 21 and over, are invited to join in conversation and laughs while enjoying a beverage on Wednesday, September 4, at the Delaware Saengerbund. Join us at 7 PM at 49 Salem Church Road in Newark for fun and fellowship.

### **HOLY HIKE**

Outdoor adventurers of any age are invited to hike on Sunday, September 15, after worship. The Newark Reservoir/Redd Park Trail is a paved, wooded, mostly flat 2.6 miles, located at 250 Old Paper Mill Road in Newark. Questions? Contact hike leader, Laura Blenderman (302-220-6708/[ljblanderman@comcast.net](mailto:ljblanderman@comcast.net)).

### **ADULT FORUMS RETURN**

We resume our Adult Forums on Sunday, September 8, with a discussion about church architecture through the ages. Our own Victoria Kenyon will return with a three-part series on the design and construction of houses of worship around the world. Join us in the Blue Room starting at 8:30AM.

## **BOOKS AND BANTER**

St. Paul's avid readers meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1 PM 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.

Upcoming Books:                    August 28    "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant  
                                                 September 26    "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown

## **PRESCHOOL NEWS**

Katelyn Farrell joined St. Paul's School staff as our new Early Education Director this past Monday, August 19. She comes to us with over eleven years of experience in Early Childhood Education. Witness Kate's installation in worship this Sunday, August 25, and greet her at a reception after the service!

## **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR**

Nalini Janaki, who has been St. Paul's business administrator since the beginning of the year, has also started working for St. Paul's School. She has a background in Financial Management and a passion for numbers. Her greatest strengths are self-motivation, dedication, and sincerity. Nalini is also creative and artistic, expressing herself through various forms of art.

## **OWLS ARE CRUISING**

Join the Older Wiser LutheranS as they embark on a narrated, historical, 70-minute Patriot Cruise in St. Michaels, Maryland, on Friday, September 27, at 12:30 PM. Tickets for the cruise are \$28 (ages 18-64) and \$25 (ages 65+). If we have a group of 15 or more, ticket prices drop to \$23/person. Payment can be made once we have a final count. Following the cruise, we will have late lunch/early dinner at the nearby Crab Claw Restaurant (Dutch treat). To make a reservation, please RSVP by this Saturday, August 31, to Sue Wallden ([slwallden@gmail.com](mailto:slwallden@gmail.com) or 716-480-2224). Please let Sue know if you need a ride or are willing to provide transportation for others.

## **A GRACE-FULL INVITATION**

If you are ready to take the next step and become a member of St. Paul's, you are invited to join us for our "Amazing Grace" session where together we will cover what it means to be a Lutheran, St. Paul's story and mission, and service opportunities within the St. Paul's community. Even if you are not sure yet, plan to attend on Sunday, September 8, right after worship for a 90-minute discussion, complete with light refreshments.

Please RSVP your intention to join us no later than this Sunday, August 25, by emailing coordinator Linda Grund at [lgrund923@gmail.com](mailto:lgrund923@gmail.com).

## **MINISTRY FAIR**

Following worship on Sunday, September 8, you are invited to stay for coffee and fellowship, as well as explore the many opportunities to get involved at St. Paul's. Our annual ministry fair boasts tables and activities representing our various ministries and committees. Come and learn more from those involved and sign up to participate. There is no pressure to do so but your involvement is desired to make St. Paul's the best place it can be for you, your family, and for all!

## **ST. PAUL'S MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

We thank those who have sung with the Summer Choir each week over the last couple of months. St. Paul's is blessed with a vibrant ministry of music and a plethora of talented singers and instrumentalists who lead in worship weekly. That being said, our regular schedule of rehearsals begins the week after Labor Day. Please consider joining one of these ensembles this fall and make a joyful noise in this place!

*Thursday evenings, starting September 5*

6:30 – 8:00 PM HANDBELL ENSEMBLE  
(Ringers high school age and up)

8:00 – 9:30 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR  
(Singers high school age and up)

## **SOUND THE TRUMPETS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS**

If you play a brass instrument, consider joining our *Sounding Brass* ensemble. They will start rehearsing for Reformation Sunday (October 27) at the end of September. If you play trumpet, horn, baritone, trombone, or tuba, please let Mike Bareham know and a rehearsal time will be set that meets player availability (most likely on Monday afternoons).

Also, if you play woodwinds, strings, keyboards, or percussion, consider joining St. Paul's chamber orchestra for Christmas Eve and our annual Sounds of the Season concert in early January. A high school level of proficiency and the ability to read music are required. Contact Mike Bareham, Director for Music and Worship, with your interest and availability.

## **CFSH 2024 UPDATE**

Thanks to the generosity of the audiences and participants in our Concerts for a Summer Holiday at the end of June, St. Paul's will be sending \$1850 to the Baltimore Seafarers' International Center in Baltimore to assist in the wake of the Key Bridge collapse.

# SEPTEMBER AT ST. PAUL'S

**Sunday, September 1**

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

This Sunday we are back to Mark and hear a debate between him and James about evil: what bears most blame for sin? We take comfort in sharing together the good and clean food of holy communion.

***10:00 AM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed***

***11:00 AM Coffee Social***

**Sunday, September 8**

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

As North Americans come into autumn, in the gospel reading Christ heals a non-Jewish girl and a deaf man. We too need our demons conquered and our ears unstopped. Come to worship to be healed by Jesus Christ.

***8:30 AM Adult Forum—Church Architecture***

***10:00 AM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed***

***11:00 AM Ministry Fair & Amazing Grace Seminar***

**Sunday, September 15**

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

What does it mean to take up the cross and follow Jesus? Didn't Jesus die for us? Come to worship on Sunday to hear what Mark and James have to say about this.

***8:30 AM Adult Forum—Church Architecture***

***10:00 AM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed***

***11:00 AM Coffee Social Welcoming New Members***

**Sunday, September 22**

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

This Sunday the gospel presents us with the death of Christ, the life of a servant, and the situation of a vulnerable child. Come to worship to see how these three interact, to sing our praises to God, and to pray for all who are in need.

***8:30 AM Adult Forum—Church Architecture***

***10:00 AM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed***

***11:00 AM Coffee Social***

**Sunday, September 29**

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

The gospel this Sunday suggests that if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. What in the world does this mean? Come to worship to hear the word of God and to receive comfort in the bread and wine.

***8:30 AM Adult Forum—Malta: Gem of the Mediterranean***

***10:00 AM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed***

***11:00 AM Coffee Social***



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

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: [www.stpaulsnewarkde.org](http://www.stpaulsnewarkde.org)

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



## **The Reverend Barbara Melosh**

*Interim Pastor*

302-354-5512 (cell)

[bmelosh@gmu.edu](mailto:bmelosh@gmu.edu)

## *Office Administrator*

302-368-0064 ext. 101

[splcstaff@gmail.com](mailto:splcstaff@gmail.com)

## **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

## **St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry**

Send prayer requests to:

[prayonstpauls@gmail.com](mailto:prayonstpauls@gmail.com)

or contact Pastor Barbara Melosh

## **Michael Bareham**

*Director for Music and Worship*

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[splcmusmin@gmail.com](mailto:splcmusmin@gmail.com)

## **Nalini Janaki**

*Business Administrator*

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## **Katelyn Farrell**

*Early Education Director*

St. Paul's Lutheran School

302-368-0064 ext. 118

[stpaulschool@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulschool@comcast.net)

## **Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast**

Articles due by Wednesday morning at 10AM. Late submissions will be shared the following week. Please send articles to [splcmusmin@gmail.com](mailto:splcmusmin@gmail.com) for the time being.

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

