

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday, September 8, 2024

**10 AM Service of
Holy Communion**

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

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 10 AM 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 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

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

arr. Joel Raney

Henry J. Chisholm, Pianist

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.
The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes.
In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves.
We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.
In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.
Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more.
 By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ,
 the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.
Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
 ELW 886

1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - er's praise,
 2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
 3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,
 4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;

the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!
 to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
 sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
 the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
 O fallen human race!
 Look and be saved through faith alone,
 be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
 be now and ever giv'n
 by saints below and saints above,
 the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
 Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen.

Be seated.

✠ WORD ✠

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Like streams in the desert, God comes with healing

A reading from Isaiah:

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

Your God will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

God will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING**Psalm 146***Antiphon: Ps. 146:2*

I will praise the LORD as long as I live.

I will praise the LORD as long as I live.

¹Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴When they breathe their last, they return to earth,

and in that day their thoughts perish.

I will praise the LORD as long as I live.

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;

who keeps promises forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed,

and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;

the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

I will praise the LORD as long as I live.

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,

but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰The LORD shall reign forever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live.

SECOND READING**James 2:1-10, 14-17***Faith without works is dead*

A reading from James:

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice

of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the dominion promised to those who love God? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! from the
Liturgy for the Family of God
Peter S. Klemp

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! The Lord_ our_ God be
blessed! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Your Word_ brings_ righ - teous - ness. With

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 7:24-37

Christ healing a little girl and a deaf man

The Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷Jesus said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then Jesus returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³Jesus took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

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

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Barbara Melosh

*Feel free to take notes or write down your own reflections on this morning’s message.
Spirit-led doodling is also acceptable.*



Please stand, as you are able.

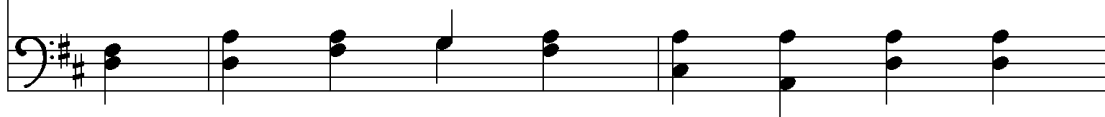
HYMN OF THE DAY

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

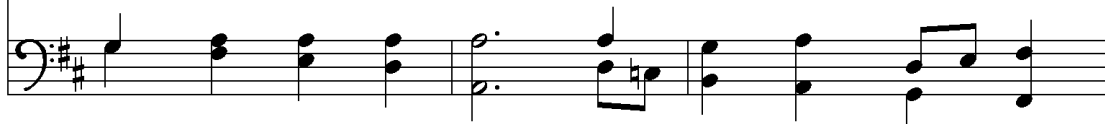
ELW 620



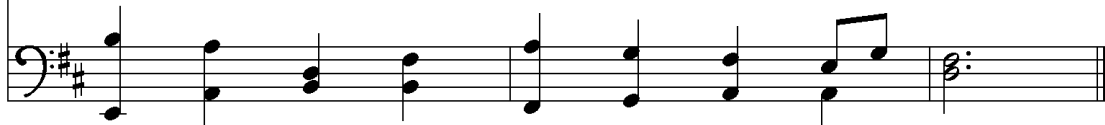
1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds in
2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole and
3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, my
4 By thee my prayers ac - cep - tance gain al -



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
calms the heart's un - rest; 'tis man - na to the
shield and hid - ing place; my nev - er - fail - ing
though with sin de - filed. The dev - il charg - es



heals our wounds, and drives a - way all fear.
hun - gry soul and to the wea - ry, rest.
tre - sury, filled with bound - less stores of grace.
me in vain, and I am owned a child.



5 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
my prophet, priest, and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.

6 How weak the effort of my heart,
how cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

7 Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
Music: ST. PETER, Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799–1877

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

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.

Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our
churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and

abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Be with those suffering in body, mind or spirit, especially Chuck, 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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Turn us from greed and partiality to healing and justice. God, whose love streams like fresh water in the deserts of our hearts, make us and our partners in ministry, especially Bethel Lutheran Church in North East and Unity Church in Wilmington, companions of those who long for your deliverance and give us safe passage at the last into the land of your shalom. Hear us, O God,

your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you, especially Anne, Chris, Bill, and Catherine. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The 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. 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 Gift of Love”

arr. Hopson

Piano-Organ Duet:

Henry J. Chisholm and Joanne Hench

Please stand, as you are able.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray.

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

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) from the
Liturgy for the Family of God
Peter S. Klemp

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, our God of pow'r and might, Sing
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Heav'n and earth are full of your maj - es -
ty! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Blest is he who
comes in the Name of the Lord! Sing loud, Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the
high - est! Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son
to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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 life given for us and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit
nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of 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

And now, 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.

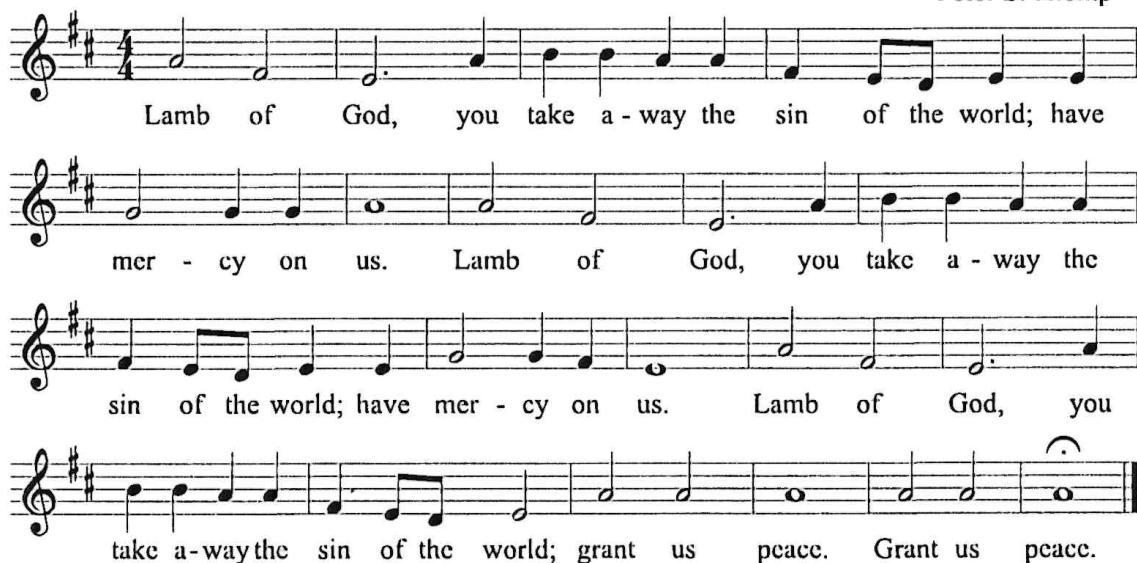
INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Come, here is your God.

Jesus welcomes us to this table.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) from the
Liturgy for the Family of God
Peter S. Klump



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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Healer of Our Every Ill
ELW 612
Found on p. 15

Spirit, Open My Heart
ACS 1043
Found on p. 16

Healer of Our Every Ill

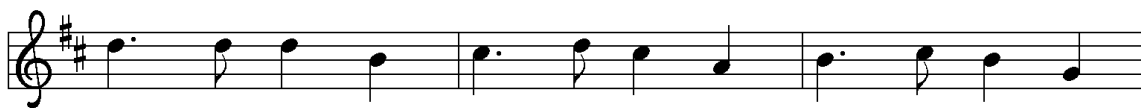
Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your



Refrain

peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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*Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.*

Philippians 4:4

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
 goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
 friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
 deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
 day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

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. 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.

BENEDICTION

God all mighty, God most merciful † bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685

Found on p. 18

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“O for a Thousand Tongues”

arr. Smith and Hustad

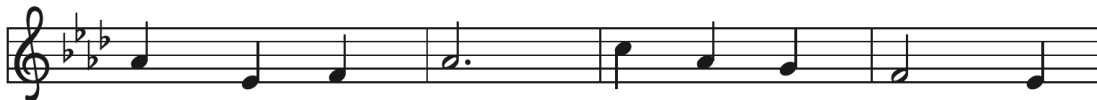
Piano-Organ Duet:

Henry J. Chisholm and Rich Wallden

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Keith Bart
Lector:	Keith Bart
Bread Provider:	Heidi Burch
Altar Guild:	Cheri Simons
Flower Guild:	Cheri Simons

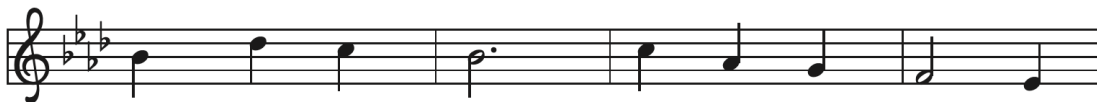
God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
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Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory and praise of God in honor of their granddaughter Valerie’s birthday by Greg and Cheryl Johnson.



CONNECTIONS WITH CREATION

Today’s readings ask us to reflect on what healing and wholeness are. Is sight wholeness for every blind person? Is hearing the desire of every deaf person? For some, the answer is no. Isaiah’s images of water in the desert can help us parse the nuances of this issue. In places marred by drought, water breaking forth is wholeness and shalom; streams of water in the desert’s rainy season allow for life the whole year long. And yet, deserts are vital ecosystems teeming with life, and we ought not make deserts into marshes; part of the wholeness of creation is a diversity of creation. Likewise, part of shalom in the human community is a diversity of ability. Creation models a good human life.

GOD IS PARTIAL

Again and again throughout biblical history, God is partial to caring for the poor, the weak, and the outcast. Which is why, perhaps, Jesus' response to the Syrophenician woman takes us by surprise: "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs" (Mark 7:27).

The Syrophenician woman acts in faith. She engages Jesus with what she believes to be true about him: that through him God's mercy will extend even to her. Despite the distinctions that separate them (including race, gender, and religion), she believes Jesus is a Savior who has the power to heal all people and that she, although not a Jew, is a member of the household of God.

The second reading, from James, reminds hearers then and now that the Christian community's actions are to be shaped by God's partiality. God has chosen the poor to be rich in faith. While the world values the rich, the poor are God's own treasure, made honored guests and royal heirs through baptism. The community is called to a partiality based on God's values, not the world's.

The waters of baptism wash away all distinctions. Like streams breaking forth in the desert, these waters surprise us with mercy in unexpected places. These waters open our eyes, unstop our ears, and loose our tongues to see, hear, and speak God's partiality for the poor, the weak, and the outcast. Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, the Spirit fills us with faith—a faith active in showing mercy that knows no limits.

Around the table, rich and poor, haughty and humble, all who gather receive a feast fit for the family of God. All are honored and all are fed, because the Lord is the maker of them all.

COMMENTS FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

[Elucidating the baptismal rites at the Vigil of Easter:] What then did we perform on Saturday last? The mystery of The Opening. And the mystery of The Opening was commemorated when the priest touched your ears and nostrils. And this our Lord Jesus Christ laid down for us in the gospel, when they brought him one who was deaf and dumb, and he touched his ears and his mouth and said, Ephphatha. This is a Hebrew word, and means "Be opened." But you will say to me: why does the priest touch the nostrils? Here, since women also are to be baptized, and since the purity of the servant is not the same as that of the master, the bishop does not touch the mouth, but the nostrils, that you may receive the good odor of eternal charity and be filled with the fragrance of faith and devotion.

—Ambrose of Milan, in *Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, IV, 5

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

LECTIONARY 23, PROPER 18 (YEAR B)

In today's gospel, Jesus heals a deaf and mute man using the word *ephphatha*, which means "be opened." The author of James exhorts the community of faith to guard against favoritism among its members. In baptism we have died to any distinctions that would separate us from each other. Likewise, at the Lord's table each one of us received the free gift of Christ equally and without discrimination. Through word, bath, and meal, God opens our minds and hearts to the healing and liberating gospel of Christ.

MINISTRY FAIR

Join us after worship this Sunday, September 8, for coffee and fellowship, as well as exploration of the many opportunities to get involved at St. Paul's. Come and learn more about our various ministries and committees from those already involved.

AMAZING GRACE SEMINAR

A new member seminar will be held after worship this Sunday, September 8. Following a visit to the ministry fair, join those interested in joining St. Paul's as members for a 90-minute discussion, complete with light refreshments.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN KICKOFF SANDWICH SUPPER

The Stewardship Committee invites you to join in giving our upcoming Stewardship Campaign a jump-start at a Sub Sandwich Supper on Saturday, September 14, at 5 PM in Fellowship Hall. Come and learn about the 2024 campaign, "Here and Beyond," receive a pledge card, and ask questions. If you'd like to attend, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or email to Rich Wallden, rwsilvercoins@gmail.com by Monday, September 9.

ADULT FORUMS RESUME

Join us next Sunday, September 15, as we continue our discussion about church architecture from the Medieval period to the Mid Twentieth Century. Victoria Kenyon will continue to lead our exploration of church design—what's changed and what has stayed the same over the centuries. Join us for this enlightening discussion in the Blue Room starting at 8:30 AM.

HOLY HIKE

Outdoor adventurers of any age are invited to hike next 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/ljblenderman@comcast.net).

BREWING THEOLOGY

Fun-loving adults, age 21 and over, are invited to join in conversation and laughs while enjoying a beverage on Wednesday, September 18, at Autumn Arch Beer Project. Join us at 7 PM at 810 Pencader Drive in Newark for fun and fellowship.

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:

September 25 "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown

October 23 "The Making of Another Major Motion Picture" by Tom Hanks



MINISTRY OF MUSIC

St. Paul's is blessed with a vibrant ministry of music and a plethora of talented singers and instrumentalists who lead in worship weekly. Won't you consider joining one of these ensembles and making a joyful noise in this place on Thursday evenings?

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

8 - 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).

THANKS AND BLESSINGS

We thank Rich Wallden, Henry Chisholm, and Joanne Hench for providing music for us this morning while Mike Bareham is on vacation. What a blessing to have so many talented keyboard musicians in our midst.

LCM FUNDRAISER

Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware will hold their annual fundraising event on Saturday, November 2. It will be hosted by the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Wilmington. They hope you will join them for free food and other festivities, including raffle baskets, auction items, student testimonies, and the signature style of our own Bishop William Gohl. More information forthcoming!

For now, LCM is seeking hand-crafted items, baked goods, event tickets, as well as creative, themed baskets (total value \$50-\$60; items included listed on a small tag) for the raffle. Other than baked goods which can be dropped off the day of the event, they are requesting these items be received by Wednesday, October 23.

Contact Chaplain Mindy Holland at chaplain@lcmde.org to make arrangements to drop off items or have them picked up. She will be happy to answer any questions, too.

OWLS EXPERIENCE DELAWARE HISTORY

Plan to join the Older Wiser LutheranS on Thursday, October 17, when they will travel back in time and visit Old Swedes Church and a replica of the Kalmar Nyckel, the ship that brought settlers to the first permanent European settlement in the Delaware Valley.

The tour will start at 12:30 PM at Old Swedes, continue with a tour of the ship at 2 PM, and end with a tour of the Copeland Maritime Center Museum until 3:30 PM. They will then have an early dinner at Iron Hill Brewery at 4 PM. For anyone who would like to carpool, they will meet in the back (school side) parking lot of church at 11:45 AM. The address for Old Swedes is 606 North Church St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Iron Hill Brewery is located at 620 Justison Street, Wilmington, DE 19801.



Reservations, along with payment of \$27 for this tour, are needed by Sunday, September 29. To RSVP, contact Kathy Palmer (elie2220@comcast.net/302-547-5168) and provide your email address and cell phone number. Payment can be made by check, cash, or Venmo. Also let Kathy know if you would like to carpool or if you can drive.



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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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 Education Director

St. Paul's Lutheran School

302-368-0064 ext. 118

stpaulschool@comcast.net

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

prayonstpauls@gmail.com

or contact Pastor Barbara Melosh

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

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

