

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.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Sunday, October 6, 2024

10 AM Service of Holy Communion

Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?.



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

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

arr. Lloyd Larson

MORNING HYMN

Henry Chisholm & Mike Bareham, Piano-Organ Duet

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

Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom ACS 1064



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - jice
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

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.

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

✠ **WORD** ✠

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

FIRST READING:

Genesis 2:18-24

Created for relationship

A reading from Genesis:

¹⁸The LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept, took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man the LORD God made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman
for out of Man this one was taken.”

²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 8:1-9

Antiphon: Ps. 8:5

You crown us with glory and honor.

You crown us with glory and honor.

¹O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

²you whose glory is chanted above the heavens
out of the mouths of infants and children;

you have set up a fortress against your enemies,
to silence the foe and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?

You crown us with glory and honor.

⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:

⁷all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,

⁸the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

⁹O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You crown us with glory and honor.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

God has spoken by a Son

A reading from Hebrews:

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days God has spoken to us by a Son, whom God appointed heir of all things, through whom God also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and sustains all things by his powerful word. When the Son had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

^{2:5}Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels.

⁶But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?”

⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honor,
⁸subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,
“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

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
all your works, we praise you! Ex - alt your Name for - ev - er! Al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing al - le - lu - ia!

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 10:2-16

Teaching on marriage

The Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, “Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?” ³Jesus answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴They said, “Moses allowed a husband to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” ⁵But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked Jesus again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, “Whatever man divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

¹³People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the dominion of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the dominion of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶And Jesus took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Barbara Melosh

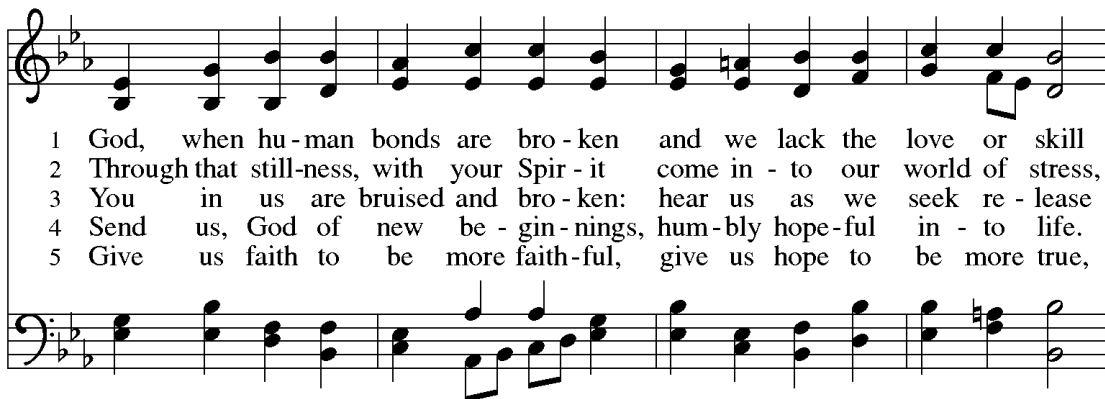
*Feel free to take notes or write down your own reflections on this morning's message.
Spirit-led doodling is also acceptable.*

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

ELW 603



1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,
3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease
4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.
5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.
for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.
from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.
Use us as a means of bless-ing: make us stron-ger, give us faith.
give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

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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

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of our ancestors, we give thanks for the church in all times. May we listen for the prophets of this age who bear messages that stir the church toward renewal and justice. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Creator of every creature on earth, direct our lives toward the renewal and sustaining of cattle, birds of the air, animals of the field, and those who share our homes. Reveal the ways we can work alongside creation for the health and well-being of all. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, we give thanks that you are mindful and benevolent to even us, mere mortals. Accompany us when hardness of heart gets in the way of justice between people and nations. Endow leaders with minds for justice and hearts for compassion. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Restoring Lord, grant healing and wholeness to those who are sick and suffering, especially Janice, Claude, Robin, Nancy, Jane, Paul, Chuck, Earnie, Silas, Pat, Margaret, Sheri, Jay, Kara Beth, Rob, Christopher, Marie, Susan, Michael, JoEllen, Elizabeth, Melissa, Ginny, Gary, Isabella, Heyward, Olive, and Jim. Work through medical professionals to diagnose, ease pain, and give life to all who seek their wisdom and experience. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Unifying God, humans were created for relationship with the earth, its creatures, and one another. Forgive us when division threatens companionship, mutual support, and unity among us. May your love inspire us and our partners in ministry, especially Hope Lutheran Church in New Castle and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Dover, to build supportive communities of faith where all are cherished. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of wisdom, you feed us with the spiritual milk of your love and deliver us from darkness to light. Encompass our call committee with the spirit of discernment, that, secure in your sustaining power, they may be upheld and led as they seek our next pastor.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of resurrection, you prepare a place in the kingdom through Christ's death and resurrection. We give thanks for the saints who have taken their place at your heavenly banquet, especially William Tyndale, translator and martyr, whom we commemorate today and Naomi. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

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

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

John Rutter

Sanctuary Choir

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!

EUCHARISTIC 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. Klemp

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

Before the Waters Nourished Earth

ACS 1049



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - ined³ morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

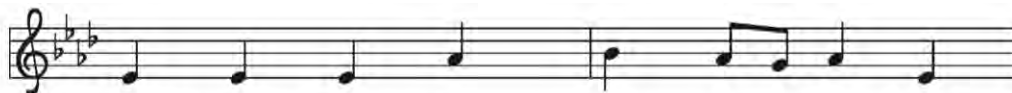
Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961

Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody

Text © 1996 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Kneeling in the Dust to Form Us

ACS 1099



1 Kneel - ing in the dust to form us,
2 Shaped of flesh and bone and sin - ew,
3 Tem - pered bells re - sound more clear - ly,



mold - ing with a pot - ter's care, God blows breath of
sound - ing cham - bers for the Word, we are tuned by
forged of met - als bright and pure. So our lives, re -



life and Spir - it— pre - lude in the morn - ing air.
dai - ly prac - tice, sea - soned by each les - son heard.
fined by Wis - dom, sound in ac - cents that en - dure.



We be - come God's liv - ing ves - sels:
Skill - ful - ly, the Spir - it plays us,
God's own hand rings out the chang - es,



we, the flutes and pipes and reeds, ech - o - ing the
fin - gers deft on fret and string, pluck - ing mel - o -
strik - ing chords as yet un - known, till a new earth



Spir - it's mu - sic through the wit - ness of our deeds.
dies of yearn - ing as our hearts re - spond and sing.
fills with mu - sic rich and sweet as heav - en's own.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TURNBULL, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

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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

All Creatures, Worship God Most High ELW 835

Verses 1 – 2: *All in Unison*
Verse 3: *Bass (low) Voices*
Verse 4: *All in Unison*
Verse 5: *Treble (high) Voices*
Verse 6: *All in Unison*



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and
2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear sis-ter wa-ter, use-ful,
throng: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
 Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
 Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert



ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Marjorie Chin
Lector:	Henry Chisholm
Bread Provider:	Keith & Cindy Bart
Altar Guild:	Cheryl Johnson
Flower Guild:	Keith Tyson

WHO WOULD JESUS BLESS TODAY?

Many Bibles include a heading before the latter part of today's gospel reading (Mark 10:13-16) that says something like "Blessing the Children" or "Jesus Welcomes the Children." In reading such a heading, we might begin to imagine a sentimental scene in which Jesus is surrounded by cute, adorable children. When we think about children being blessed in our churches today, we might imagine children gathering around the altar or at the front of the worship space for a children's time, in which the pastor or worship leader would say a prayer with them and give them a blessing. The parents and others may also be gathered just behind the children, smiling in adoration of these young ones.

However, we cannot view the scene from Mark's gospel with only our modern understanding of the role and place of children in society. The life of many children in North America is one of relative privilege, with carefree days in which they often experience the care and love of grown-ups. Jesus, by bringing the children to him, identifies himself with those who were among the most vulnerable and helpless in society. In ancient times, children often were treated like property. They had few protections from those who would treat them badly. But Jesus came into the world for ones such as these children. Who, in our communities, is in the place of the children of ancient times? As Christ's church, do we provide a place of welcome and care for the most vulnerable and weak in our society?

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**The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory and praise of God
in memory of Helen Watkins by Cheri and Troy Simons.**



A HYMN FOR THE DAY

Our hymn of the day is Fred Kann’s “God, when human bonds are broken” (ELW 603). Kann composed this text in 1988 for the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom as part of its efforts to minister to divorced Christians. The words convey the truth of human sorrow and the hope for divine assistance.

CONNECTIONS WITH CREATION

The second creation account in Genesis emphasizes human need for relationship. God says, “It is not good that [Adam] should be alone” (2:18). So God forms animals—implying that we are made to be in relationship with nonhuman beings too. And it is a close relationship: Adam names the animals, much as a parent names a child. While we often focus on the human relationships in this story, our relationship to nonhuman creation is also sacred. This context is important in pondering Jesus’ teaching on divorce; while the religious leaders ask about relationships between spouses, Jesus emphasizes oneness in relationship broadly. And yet, we too often live separated—even divorced—from our human and nonhuman companions. This is not the life God desires for us.

COMMENTS FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

For the morally conscious, all divorce, particularly divorce in a marriage, is an experience of one’s weakness and finitude and death. Particularly when people have striven so hard to find life and strength in their promises, divorce becomes so intensely a painful death, for divorce is the failure of the future. Both partners are cut through; the victims are the whole people involved. The Pharisees were tested in their testing. Faithfulness is suddenly much more than a matter of acceptable times and appropriate rituals. Faithfulness and adulterated partnership intertwine at the creation of one humankind, male and female. But turning aside from the Pharisees, Jesus blesses the children. The powerless, the least, those without means to secure passage, the ones whose lives are sundered from the society, those who stand under the experience of their own brokenness, all these hearts dried up, Jesus takes into and under the waters of death and blesses them.

—Jann Esther Boyd Fullenwieder, in *Homilies for the Christian People*, 344



ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 6, 2024

LECTIONARY 27, PROPER 22 (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.

ADULT FORUM

Beginning Sunday, October 13, we start a three-part series on the film *Luther*. Each class will begin with a forty-minute segment of the film followed by a discussion around what we just saw and heard. We begin with a look at Luther's early life up to the publishing of his ninety-five theses, his critiques of the church. Our guide for this discussion will be the Reverend Ronald Mease. Join in the fun starting at 8:30 AM in the Blue Room.

HOLY HIKE

Outdoor adventurers of any age are invited to hike Sunday, October 13, after worship. Carousel Park is a partly paved, four-mile trail with gentle hills and woodlands, located at 3700 Limestone Road in Wilmington. Questions? Contact hike leader Kathy Palmer ([302-547-5168](tel:302-547-5168)/elie2220@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, October 16, at Autumn Arch. 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. Please join us for conversation and fellowship.

Upcoming Book:

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

FAITH & BLUE CELEBRATION

St Paul's will be participating in the Faith & Blue celebration this Sunday, October 6, by welcoming an officer to join us in worship. There will also be a community picnic on Sunday, October 13, at Dickey Park, 60 Madison Drive in Newark from 11 AM - 3 PM. All are cordially invited to attend the Faith & Blue barbecue.

Faith & Blue was launched to facilitate safer, stronger, more just and unified communities by directly enabling local partnerships among law enforcement professionals, residents, businesses, and community groups through the connections of local faith-based organizations.

The initiative aims to re-calibrate police-community relations through solutions-focused, in-person, socially distanced and/or virtual activities that are organized jointly by faith-based or other community groups and law enforcement agencies.

LCM FUNDRAISER REQUEST

Lutheran Campus Ministry 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 raffles that will occur at their annual fundraising event on Saturday, November 2. Other than baked goods which can be dropped off the day of, 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.

This event will take place at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, located at 1530 Foulk Road in Wilmington at 1:30 PM.

WITH THANKFUL HEARTS

We received a lovely note from Chaplain Mindy Holland thanking us for our gift of \$2,000 from the Endowment Fund. She writes, "What a blessing! The students join me in extending you gratitude for your partnership and support."

SAENGERBUND SERVICE TODAY

The Delaware Saengerbund will hold their annual Erntedankfest, a Celebration of the Harvest, here this Sunday, October 6, at 3:00 PM. The presiding minister will be The Reverend Greg Johnson. Music will be provided by the DSB Singers and the Johannes Brass, along with our very own Mike Bareham at the organ.



OWLS UPCOMING EVENTS

Next month, on Wednesday, November 13, join the OWLS at Wilma's in Wilmington from 12:30 PM -2:30 PM for duckpin bowling and Cajun cuisine (brunch on your own). Duckpin balls are smaller and lighter, and no bowling shoes are required. Cost is \$15.50 per person and there is a maximum of 16 participants for this event. RSVP to Linda Grund at lgrund923@gmail.com by October 20.

Then in December, celebrate the holidays with the OWLS at the Candlelight Dinner Theatre in Wilmington on Wednesday, December 4. They will attend the 1 PM performance of Irving Berlin's "Holiday Inn" and enjoy lunch and beverages prior to the show. The cost to reserve a ticket is \$56.00. Payment is needed by Wednesday, October 30. Contact Roy Palo at 302-456-9757 (home) or 302-561-0728 (cell) or email him at Palonpaa@aol.com.

COMING WELCA ATTRACTION

On Saturday, November 16, the Women of the ELCA will join the Quilters for a fun morning of quilting, from 9 AM through lunch at 12 PM. There will also be opportunities for quill art with Barb Rhodes and making wreath of life prayer beads with Mary Beth Bergstrom. Please RSVP to Kaye Tyson (kaye.tyson@comcast.net) or Mary Beth Bergstrom (mbbergstrom@verizon.net) so we know how many to expect for fun, fellowship and lunch, which will be provided by WELCA.



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536
Sunday, October 6, 2024

Tyndale was ordained a priest in England, and wished to translate the Bible into English. He was opposed in this by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany. He completed the New Testament in 1525, but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787
Monday, October 7, 2024

Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.

The graphic features the word "October" in a large, brown, serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by a brown apple with a green stem and a yellow leaf. The letter "t" is a simple brown lowercase letter. The letter "o" is replaced by a brown apple with a red stem and a yellow leaf. The letter "b" is a simple brown lowercase letter. The letter "e" is replaced by a brown apple with a yellow stem and a yellow leaf. Below "October" is the text "WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES" in a smaller, brown, serif font.

October

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, October 6

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

This Sunday's gospel reading includes both stern words about divorce and gracious words about little children. Come to worship to hear both law and gospel, both God's call to the ethical life and God's welcome of all of us who cannot fully obey.

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

10:00 AM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed

11:15 AM Coffee Social

3:00 PM Saengerbund Erntedankfest

Sunday, October 13

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In the gospel reading on this Sunday, Jesus tells a questioner to sell what he owns and give the money to the poor. What does this mean for us? Come to worship to hear the word and to receive grace from God.

8:30 AM Adult Forum—"Luther" Movie and Discussion

10:00 AM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed

11:15 AM Coffee Social

Sunday, October 20

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

We are half a year away from Holy Week, yet there is much in the readings for this Sunday that reminds us of Good Friday. Indeed, every Sunday we stand at the foot of the cross. Come join the assembly there.

8:30 AM Adult Forum—"Luther" Movie and Discussion

10:00 AM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed

11:15 AM Coffee Social

Sunday, October 27

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Over the centuries, Lutherans have kept a special day to thank God for the freedom that the word of God grants to believers and to pray that with the help of God's Spirit, the church will be continually reformed and renewed. You are invited to worship with us on this Reformation Sunday, in praise and petition to God for the ongoing health of the church.

8:30 AM Adult Forum—"Luther" Movie and Discussion

10:00 AM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed

11:15 AM Coffee Social



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

St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

prayonstpauls@gmail.com

or contact Pastor Barbara Melosh

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

Articles due by Wednesday morning at 10 AM. Late submissions will be shared the following week. Please send articles to the church office at splcstaff@gmail.com.

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

