ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713



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

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Sunday, July 27, 2025

10 AM Service of Holy Communion



Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

We believe all people are created in God's image. Rooted in Jesus' ministry of liberation, unconditional love, and hospitality, we strive to welcome all into our community. This welcome explicitly includes those who have traditionally been marginalized in the church and society due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, racial and ethnic background, physical ability, developmental ability, citizenship/documentation status, and socioeconomic status.

We hope that our young people experience God in our gathering together. Families, you are welcome to use the Prayground in the rear corner of the sanctuary if you want more space, and to use the Prayground in the narthex if you need a break from the activities in the sanctuary. Most of all, know that the joyful noise of young people in our worship is welcome!

Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex. If you need any other help with worship, please speak with an usher at the doors to the sanctuary.

+ GATHERING +

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

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.

PRELUDE

Chorale Preludes on arr. Dietrich Buxtehude "Vater Unser in Himmelreich"

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

GREETING

Our Father in heaven pours out on God's people all that they need, and satisfies those who persist in prayer.

Make us bold in asking, thankful in receiving, tireless in seeking, and joyful in finding, that we may always proclaim your coming kingdom and do your will on earth as in heaven.

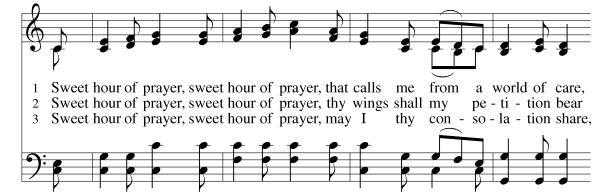
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

OPENING HYMN

Sweet Hour of Prayer

TFF 242





Text: William Walford, 1772-1850, alt.

Music: SWEET HOUR, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

+ WORD +

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

FIRST READING Genesis 18:20-32

Abraham bargains with God for the righteous of Sodom and Gomorrah A reading from Genesis:

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." 30 Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." 32 Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

God of justice, your word is light and truth restoring us to walk in your way, seeking justice and doing good.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 138

- ¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.
- ² I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.
- ³ When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

- ⁴ All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- ⁵ They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.
- ⁶ The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.
- ⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.
- ⁸ You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND READING Colossians 2:6-15

Buried with Christ in baptism, raised with him through faith

A reading from Colossians:

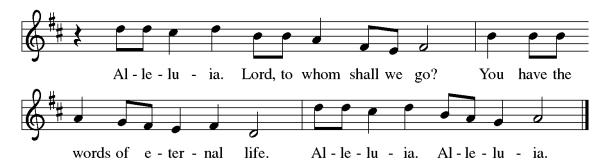
⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

God of justice, your word is light and truth restoring us to walk in your way, seeking justice and doing good.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 3



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 11:1-13

Jesus teaches the disciples to pray

The Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ²So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

- ³ Give us each day our daily bread.
- ⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find;

knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

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

Be seated.

SERMON Pastor Cris Frigm

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright ELW 745 (harmony)



- 1 Lord, teach us how to pray a right, with rev 'rence and with fear.
- 2 We per ish if we cease from prayer; oh, grant us pow'r to pray
- 3 Give deep hu mil i ty; the sense of god ly sor row give;
- 4 Faith in the on-ly sac-ri-fice that can for sin a-tone;
- 5 Give these, and then your will be done; thus strength-ened with all might,



Though dust and ash - es your sight, we may, we must draw near. pre - pare, Lord, meet us And when to meet you we on way. our strong de - sire, with live: con - fi - dence, to hear your voice and a cast our hopes, to our eyes on Christ, on Christ a - lone. we, through your Spir - it and your Son, shall pray, and pray a - right.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt. Music: SONG 67, Orlando Gibbons, 1583–1625

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer. Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Teach rulers of the earth to sing of your ways, caring for the lowly and having no preference for the powerful. Direct the heart of every person to seek your will on earth as in heaven. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

To all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs. We pray especially for those on our prayer list and those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts... Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Center the ministries of this assembly and those of our partners in ministry, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Wilmington and Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware, on prayer and service. Guide our relationships in the wider community, being ready to assist those who seek help. Strengthen feeding, clothing, and housing ministries and community partnerships. God of grace, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all who have gone before us, especially Kris. May we trust your steadfast love and continue in hope until we are united with all your saints. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

Blessed be Christ, our peace, who breaks down the walls that divide.

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.

ተ MEAL ተ

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.

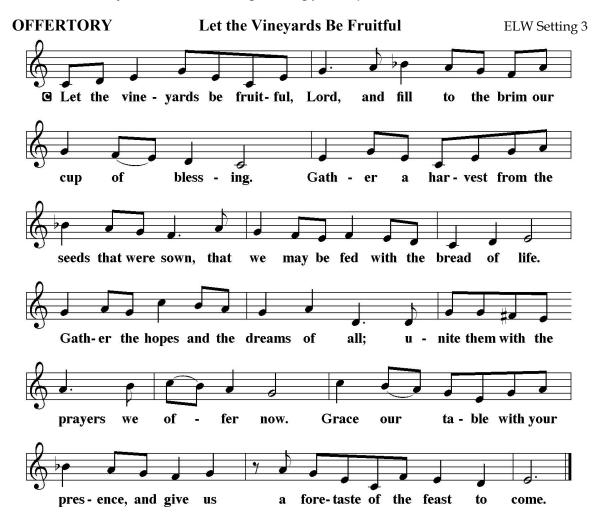
At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad (the black folder) found at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. We ask visitors to provide us with contact information so we can thank you for enriching our worship experience. We ask members to update any changes to their information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

ANTHEM

"Down to the River to Pray" arr. Mary McDonald with Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Summer Choir

Please stand, as you are able, and sing as the gifts are presented and the table is set.



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of mercy and grace,

the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer 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:

ELW Setting 3 of pow'r and might, Ho - ly, 1y, ho - ly God ho Lord, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Но high - est. Bless-ed is he who Ho - san na in the



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. **We thank you, O God.**

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 his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

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.

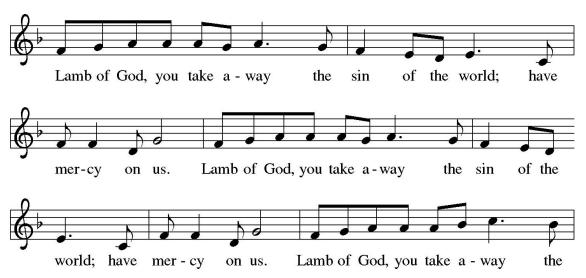
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Christ invites you to a place of honor at this banquet. **Welcomed, we come to the welcome feast.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

ELW Setting 3





Be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

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

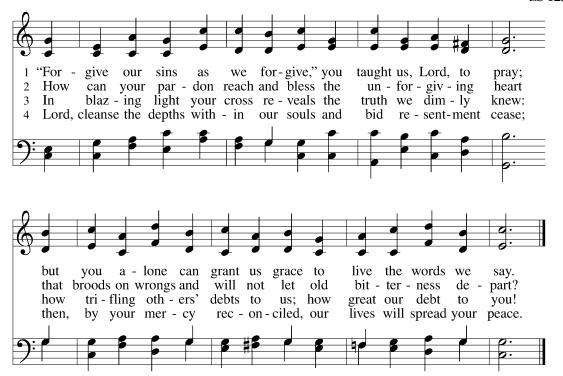
All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Those who choose not to commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.

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

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

LS 125



Ask the Complicated Questions

ACS 1005



Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

After all have communed and returned to their places, remain seated.

BLESSING AND PRAYER

Strengthened by the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and kept in his grace, we pray.

O God, as a mother comforts her child, so you comfort your people, carrying us in your arms and satisfying us with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Send us now as your disciples, announcing peace and proclaiming the reign of God has come near; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

+ SENDING +

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

LIFE OF THE CHURCH – ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor

and give you peace, in the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

It's Me, O Lord

Found on pp. 18-19

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

Thanks be to God.

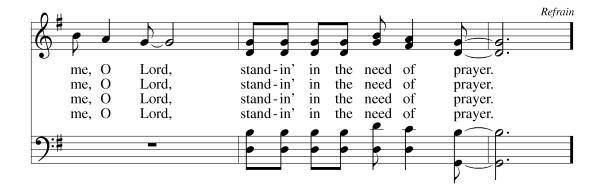
POSTLUDE

Chorale Prelude on arr. Dietrich Buxtehude

"Vater unser in Himmelriech"

It's Me, O Lord Standing in the Need of Prayer





Text: African American spiritual

Music: STANDING IN THE NEED, African American spiritual

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: Ping-An Tjoa

Lector: Barb Rhodes

Bread Provider: Sherry Mench Altar Guild:

Altar Guild: Flower Guild:



The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God in honor of James and Kyra's wedding by Lori Davis.



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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.



The Reverend Cris Frigm Pastor 302-368-0064 ext. 104 pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org

Jerilynn Hinrichs
Office Administrator
302-368-0064 ext. 101
office@stpaulsnewarkde.org

Church Council

Anne Sullivan, *President*Greg Johnson, *Vice President*Heidi Burch, *Secretary*Mary Collins, *Treasurer*Kristine Cassar, Phillip Gerecke,
Winnie Hull, Ian Kenyon, Susie Olson

St. Paul's Online Prayer MinistrySend prayer requests to:
prayonstspauls@gmail.com

Michael Bareham
Director for Music and Worship
302-368-0064 ext. 123
music@stpaulsnewarkde.org

Nalini Janaki Business Administrator 302-368-0064 ext. 102 business@stpaulsnewarkde.org

Dr. Rae Watts
Early Education Director
St. Paul's Lutheran School
302-368-0064 ext. 118
stpaulschool701@outlook.com

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

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

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

