# SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



## July 20, 2025

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Welcome to ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are happy you have joined us for worship today. Wherever you are on your journey with or toward God, you are welcome here—you are a blessing to this assembly.

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

Lutherans believe, teach, and confess that in, with, and under the bread and wine in Holy Communion we receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. All who are drawn in faith are welcome to join in this confession and receive the Sacrament.

We invite and encourage your full participation in our worship this morning. With this service bulletin you can follow and participate in this morning's liturgy.

**New to St. Paul?** If you have questions or want more information, please fill out a newcomer form with

the QR code at the right. Questions about transferring membership from another Lutheran church, or for beginning the process for baptism, confirmation, membership, or transferring from one of the other Christian traditions, may be directed to the Church Office at 781-646-7773 or parishadmin@stpaularlington.org.





#### SUNDAY SERVICES

9:30am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave and Online 10:30am | Coffee Hour **LIVESTREAMING** Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Facebook page. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, however, without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

#### SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY ARE:

Marie Breitenbach, *Altar Guild* Eileen Moyer, *Lector* Sandy Walker, *Deacon* Marie Breitenbach, *Cantor* Andy Airasian and Dan Ries, *Ushers* Hollie Schmidt, *Livestream Broadcast* Peter and Hollie Schmidt & Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild* 

\* Thanks to parishioner Tom Berryman and his wife, Joan Ellersick for today's music.

When the instruction for standing \* appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable. At the  $\boxtimes$ , you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism. The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.

### GATHERING

#### PRELUDE

"Chorale Prelude on Beach Spring"

William David Cooper Tom Berryman, organ Joan Ellersick, viola

**Note**: The music for the Prelude and Postlude is excerpted from *Three Chorale Preludes on Early American Folk Hymns for Viola and Piano* (2023) by William David Cooper, a composer, teacher and Music Director for the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church. The tune *Beach Spring* is used in the ELW for three hymns: 445, 712 and 777. *Middlebury* is associated with the Charles Wesley Easter hymn *Come away to the skies, my beloved arise. Three Chorale Preludes* was commissioned for Joan Ellersick.

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

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.** 

#### \* GATHERING HYMN

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ELW 834





Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt. Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807–1876

#### \* GREETING

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.



Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)



Text and Music: Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

#### \* HYMN OF PRAISE



#### \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

#### FIRST READING

The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 



Lord, who may dwell in your ' tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your ' holy hill?

Those who lead a blameless life and do <sup>1</sup> what is right,

#### who speak the truth | from their heart;

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil <sup>+</sup> to their friends;

they do not cast discredit up-<sup>1</sup> on a neighbor.

In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who ' fear the Lord. They have sworn upon their health and do not take ' back their word.

They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- <sup>1</sup> gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be ' overthrown.

#### SECOND READING

*This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is "Christ in you." Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.* 

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

#### \* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



\* GOSPEL

Luke 10:38-42

The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

Pastor Don Larsen

Pastor Don Larson

#### \* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom"



#### \* APOSTLE'S CREED

In response to the gospel, let us confess the faith of the church:

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 into hell. 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.

Inspire your church, like Sarah and Mary, to listen with eager longing for your words of life. Equip biblical interpreters and teachers with faithful discernment, that your word may be more fully known. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

Every creature under heaven has been promised the hope of the gospel. From that promise, generate in humankind an eagerness to protect and care for creation. Bring healing to the earth with your words of life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

Peel away the distractions, worries, and fears of all who govern the nations of the world. May your word of love and life dispel all other voices. Provide gracious hospitality in places where hostile forces hold sway. Console all who suffer from violence and environmental disasters, especially in Myanmar, Iran, Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti, and Texas. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Speak your word of comfort to any who suffer pain, illness, grief, depression, or despair, especially Dan, Irving, Jim, Lynn, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, and Susan. Bring honor to any who experience slander and evil intent or are discredited by others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

Enliven and uphold all siblings in Christ who strive to provide hospitality and safe spaces where everyone, without exception, can receive and be transformed by your word of life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

Guide our community at St. Paul during this time of transition and discernment. As the search for a new pastor continues, bless the transition team and all who have taken on extra responsibilities and fill them with a sense of your love and presence. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

#### Here other intercessions may be offered.

For Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Mary, Martha, and all the saints who attended to your word, we give thanks. Open our ears to your voice until that day when we realize the promise of the gospel with all creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

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

#### Amen.

\* PEACE Keep your hands close together or make the peace sign if you'd rather not pass the peace with touch.

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** 

### MEAL

#### OFFERING - remain seated

You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code:







#### \* OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good

and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth

and our labor,

that we may work for the good of all;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

#### \* GREAT THANKSGIVING



Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

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:



In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

#### \* LORD'S PRAYER

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

#### COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers are available on request. Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are available in each tray.

*Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.* 



Text: ICET; additional text by Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

#### COMMUNION HYMN



16



Text: George H. Bourne, 1840–1925 Music: BRYN CALFARIA, William Owen, 1814–1893

#### POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



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#### \* BLESSING

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

#### Amen.

#### \* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.** 

## SENDING

#### \* BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.** 

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \* SENDING HYMN

"O Savior, Precious Savior"

ELW 820



Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879 Music: ANGEL'S STORY, Arthur H. Mann, 1850–1929

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord **Thanks be to God.** 

#### POSTLUDE

"Chorale Prelude on Middlebury"

William David Cooper Tom Berryman, organ Joan Ellersick, viola

## ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING HAPPENINGS at **SAINT PAUL**



#### ST. PAUL TRANSITION TEAM | July Questions for Prayer and Reflection

Our community of St. Paul is in a transition period during which we prepare for calling a new Pastor. It is a time that prompts us to consider what our life together as a community of Christians is like and ought to be like, to think about who we are, what we do and who we might be and do in the future.

This is the third week in July, and we are inviting you to join us in prayer and reflection around provocative weekly questions we are asking ourselves and each other just as Jesus is asking us questions. Provocative questions can come in many forms and, while seeming simple, can be challenging, puzzling yet inspiring and confirming all the same. The questions may all be routed in a fundamental, underlying thought: "What does God want of and for us? What does our faith prompt us to trust in and do as we make choices collectively and individually about how to be in this world as followers of Jesus Christ?" We can explore these questions in many ways. We can do so in our private thoughts, personal prayers, collective prayers and in conversations. During this time of transition, we are called as a community to focus on what really matters, as, in the words of Paul, "we press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" Philippians 3:13-14.

We will continue our discernment throughout the Fall adding small group discussion around these questions and other focus topics to consideration about ourselves and our future. In August, Pastor Don Larsen also joins us full-time as our Transition Pastor and Vicar Sam Menapace continues with us after her intern year ends.

There are two questions for Week 3 July 20-26th:

#### <u>"How does God provide for you, our neighbors and the world?"</u> <u>"What are some ways that God cares for us in the midst of sorrow or suffering?"</u>

Thanks for your thoughtful participation in this important process.

#### LUTHER DISASTER RESPONSE FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

As we pray for our neighbors in Texas and all of those who lost loved ones and homes in the floods, the ELCA is prepared to respond with action as well. Lutheran Disaster Response provides support for immediate relief and long-term rebuilding efforts in the wake of disasters across the world, including in the United States. If you would like to make a donation to support their work responding to the floods in Texas, you can do so

by visiting the website **elca.org** and clicking on the "Support Flood Response and Recovery in Texas" link on their home page, or you may use the QR code here. Gifts to "U.S. Flooding" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by floods.



#### THEOLOGY ON TAP | Summer Meeting, Sunday, July 27th at 4pm

Vicar Sam will continue to host monthly Theology on Tap gatherings at Mighty Squirrel (411 Waverley Oaks Road, Waltham) throughout the summer. All are invited to grab a beer, coffee or seltzer (non-alcoholic options available) and spend time together outside of church on Sundays.

#### ARLINGTON EATS JULY NEEDS

We are officially into the summer season and EATS is busier than ever. Since Summer Lunches take place in July and August, we will collect things we need for that program in June & July. We also are asking for some items for the Market. Thank you for your support!

Summer Spotlight Items:

- Goldfish (1-1.50z packs) cheddar
- Pirate's Booty (0.50z packs)
- Granola bars Made Good (bars and bites) or Nature Valley
- Mac & Cheese Annie's
- Cereal Cheerios is a favorite
- Condiments (think summer BBQ)
- Soy Sauce

#### ST. PAUL SUMMER RETREAT WEEKEND AT CAMP CALUMET | August 22-24

Calumet Retreat! St. Paul Calumet Retreat. Weekend of August 22-24. This is an annual tradition to relax, reflect, and reconnect with each other in the beautiful environment of Camp Calumet on Lake Ossipee in New Hampshire. All are welcome to join us for this weekend! Register using this form: <u>https://rb.gy/mi7doh</u>



www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

#### Staff

The Reverend Don Larsen, *Transition Pastor* Samantha Menapace, *Vicar* Ana Zecic Jeffers, *Director of Music* Paul Ricci, *Business Administrator* Sarah Carter, *Children, Youth and Families Director* Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator* Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager* 

#### **Church Council and Officers**

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