EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



August 3, 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, socioeconomic 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:

Geneva Carter and Kelli Oliver, *Altar Guild*Andy Airasian, *Lector*Elizabeth Heichler, *Deacon*Peter Schmidt, *Cantor*Andy Airasian and Dan Ries, *Ushers*Hollie Schmidt, *Livestream Broadcast*Peter and Hollie Schmidt & Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild*

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

Sonata in B minor, K. 87

D. Scarlatti (1685-1757)

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 ⅓ 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



Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

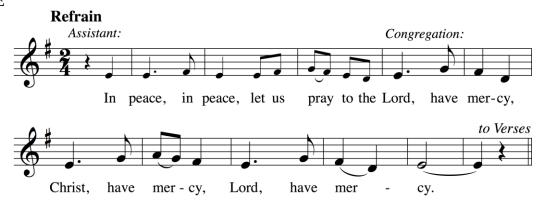
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

* GREETING

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

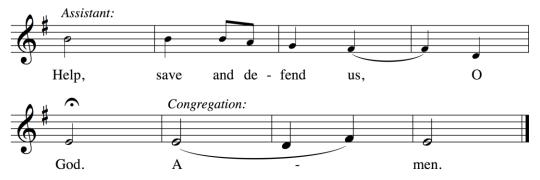
And also with you.

* KYRIE



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



Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950 Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 49:1-12



Hear this, | all you peoples;

give ear, all you who dwell | in the world,

you of high de- | gree and low,

rich and | poor together.

My mouth shall | speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on | understanding.

I will incline my ear ' to a proverb and set forth my riddle up- ' on the harp.

Why should I be afraid in | evil days,

when the wickedness of those at my | heels surrounds me,

the wickedness of those who put their trust in ' their own prowess, and boast of ' their great riches?

One can never re- | deem another,

or give to God the ransom for an-1 other's life;

for the ransom of a life is so great

that there would never be e- | nough to pay it,

in order to live forev- | er and ever and never | see the grave.

For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stu- pid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.

Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to | generation,

though they had named lands af- | ter themselves.

Even though honored, they cannot | live forever; they are like the | beasts that perish.

SECOND READING Colossians 3:1-11

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

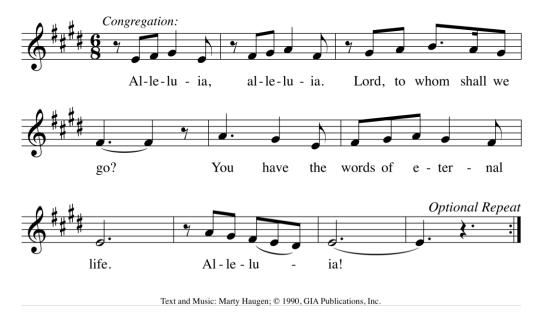
So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



* GOSPEL Luke 12:13-21

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Vicar Sam Menapace

SERMON

Vicar Sam Menapace

"Faith Begins by Letting Go"

ACS 1004



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, Choralbuch, 1815

* 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.

Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Clothe all people in your image, and establish equity and peace. 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.

Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear, especially Dan, Irving, Jim, Lynn, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, and Susan. Give strength to those who give care, and equip them with compassion as they make your love known. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Store up in this congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity. Guide the work of treasurers and all who attend to financial matters. Support those whose work in our community is difficult and demanding; make us mindful of the toil that goes unnoticed. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Ever-living God, strengthen and sustain Bishop-elect Curry, the newly elected Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, that with patience and understanding he may love and care for your people. Grant that together we may follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Receive our thanks for the lives of your saints who now rest from their labors. Give us wisdom through their witness and encourage us in love as we continue our lives in the world. 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:





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

* OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good

and the harvest is plentiful.

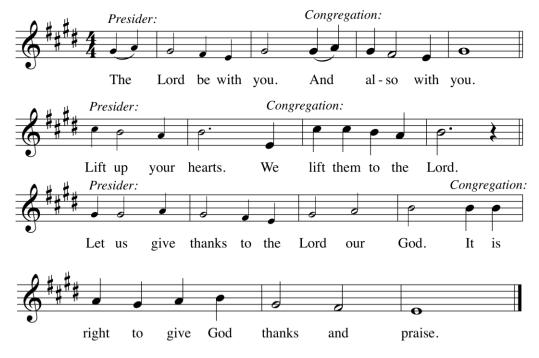
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth

and our labor, that we may work for the good of all;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

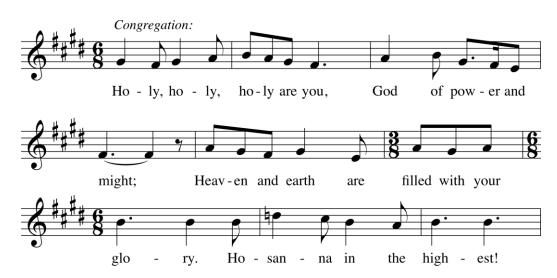
Amen.

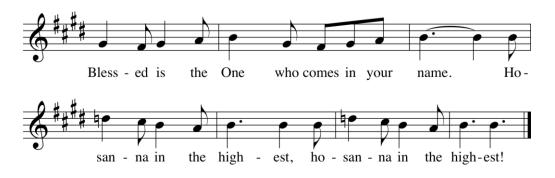
* GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:





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

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

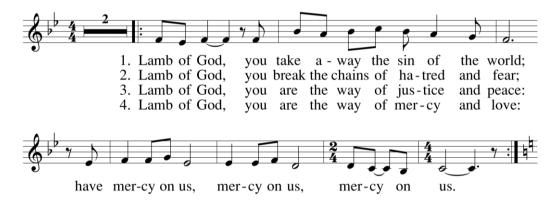
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,

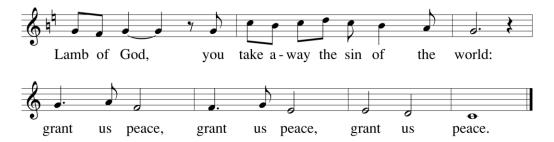
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

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



Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop Music: LIVING BREAD, St. Vincent traditional, adapt.; arr. Patrick Prescod, 1932–2013

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



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

* BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep

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

"Christ is the Life" ACS 927



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 Music: COE FEN, Kenneth Naylor, 1931–1991

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Sonata in C major, K. 159

D. Scarlatti (1685-1757)

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING HAPPENINGS at **SAINT PAUL**



QUESTIONS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION | St. Paul Transition Discernment August 2025

During this transition period, we have been engaged in prayer and reflection 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.

Over the past four weeks we have asked these questions as Jesus is asking us questions:

"Who do you say I am?" Luke 9:18-27

"Who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:25-37

"How does God provide for you, our neighbors and the world?"

"What are some ways that God cares for us in the midst of sorrow or suffering?"

This week, we ask you to join us in reflection and prayer on this 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. 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 as we consider our future.

May God bless our thoughtful participation in this important process.

The St. Paul Transition Team -

Peter Hedlund and Sandy Walker (Co-Chairs); Monique Airasian, Kristen Anderson, Josh Davis, Kerri Frick, Elizabeth Heichler, Norma Ofsthun, Pierson Oliver, Dan Ries, Nicole Rura

ARLINGTON EATS SUMMER 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: https://rb.gv/mi7doh

ST. PAUL SUMMER BIBLE STUDY | Thursday Evenings, 7-8pm by Zoom

All are invited to join our summer bible study! We will gather on Thursday evenings on Zoom from 7-8pm. Each week, we will study the upcoming Sunday's lectionary texts, which are the bible readings we hear in worship. To access the readings and Zoom link, please see St. Paul's Weekly Update email. If you are not a subscriber, you can sign up on our website or email Vicar Sam for the Bible Study Zoom link (stpaularlingtonvicar@gmail.com).

20 Upland Street, Worcester, MA 01607-1624 Phone (508) 791-1530 | Fax (508) 797-9295 office@nesynod.org | http://nelutherans.org

May 22, 2025

Samantha Menapace, Vicar c/o Ms. Kerri Frick, President St. Paul's Lutheran Church 929 Concord Turnpike Arlington, MA 02476

Dear Samantha,

This letter authorizes you to preside at the Eucharist at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Arlington, MA, on June 8 and August 3, both in 2025.

Please put notices in the bulletins that you preside with my permission on those days.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Nathan D. Pipho, Bishop

New England Synod



SAINT PAUL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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

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Sandy Walker, Vice President

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Kristen Anderson

Eric Carlson

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Faith Formation Committee

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Eric Haugen

Usher Committee

Dan Ries & Andy Airasian

Transition Committee

Peter Hedlund & Sandy Walker





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