

REFORMATION SUNDAY



October 26, 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 SERVICE

9:30am | Service with Holy Communion
and Community Conversation
11:30am | Coffee Hour

LIVESTREAMING

Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Arlington 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:

Kim Fechtel, Eileen Moyer & Taryn Walsh, *Altar Guild*
Adelaide N. and Mikayla N., *Acolytes*
Maile Hedlund, *Lector*
Peter Schmidt, *Cantor*
Dave Hering, *Deacon*
Andy Airasian and Dan Ries, *Ushers*
Matt Carter, *Livestream Broadcast*
Peter & Hollie Schmidt & Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild*



Today's altar flowers are given by
Taryn Walsh in honor Michael Johnson's
birthday.

Today's Cover Art - The image on the cover is called "Christ: the Tekton" by Kelly Latimore. Latimore is an artist who creates icons. In his own words, he describes iconography as "holy pondering." To view more of his work, you can go to kellylatimoreicons.com.

*When the instruction for standing * appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable.*

At the ✠, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism.

*The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

A Mighty Fortress

arr. Brant Adams

Mark Olson, trumpet

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

* GATHERING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress

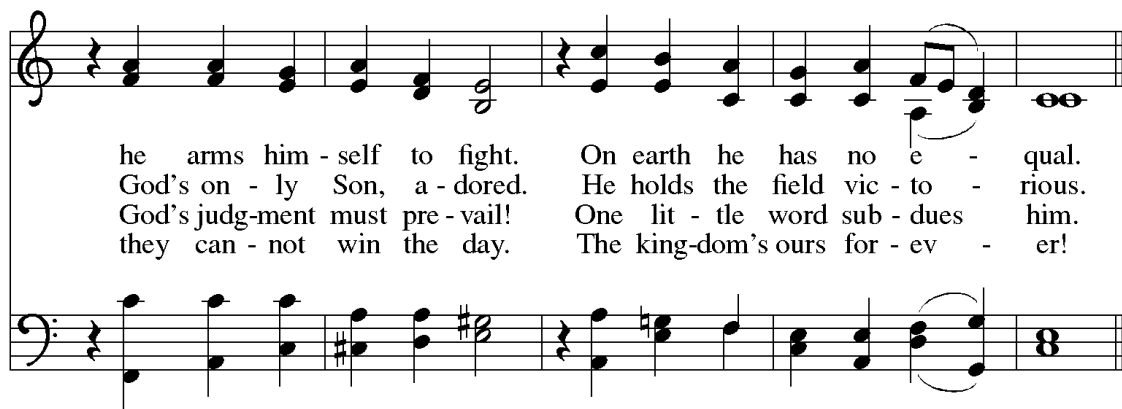
ELW 504

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther

*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.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Sarah Carter

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

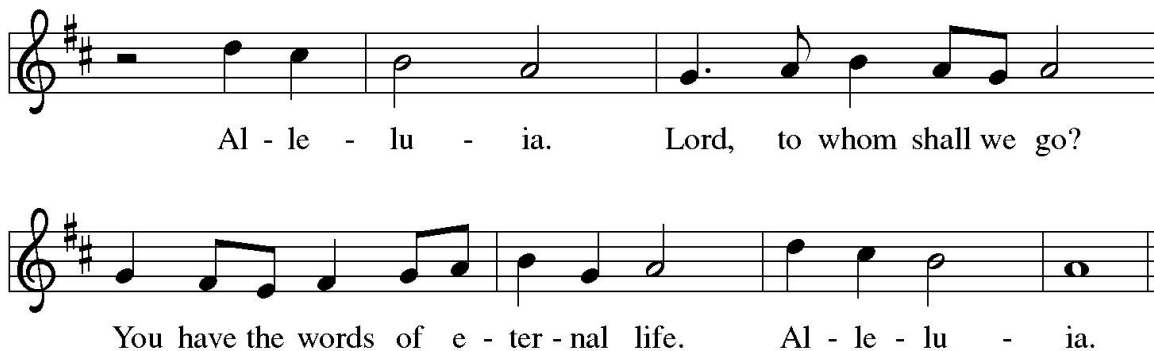
But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



* GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

Don Larsen

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

HYMN ELW 401 Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading, Stanzas 1&2

During the singing, the children are led to Sunday School classrooms for activities

Presentation by Sandy Walker and Peter Hedlund

Following the presentation, write down on your block a word or phrase that captures what you heard

Brief Explanation of Next Steps

After the explanation, we re-gather into numbered conversation groups

HYMN ELW 401 Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading, Stanzas 3&4

Introduce yourselves to each other by sharing something about why you come to St. Paul

Share the word or phrase on your block with your group

Discuss what you heard in the presentation

Discuss where you believe God may be inviting St. Paul to focus its mission into the future

Each group writes a prayer based on their conversation to offer during the Prayers of Intercession

HYMN ELW 401 Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading, Stanza 5

*APOSTLE'S CREED

In trust and hope, 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**

The leader will read the first and last prayers. Someone from each conversation group then reads the group's prayer. Let's pray them sequentially by group number. Each group prayer concludes:

God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks, Holy God, for your constant reforming work in our lives and in the life of the church. Renew that work in us today as we offer you now the hopes, dreams, and fears we experience in transition to the future shape of St. Paul's mission. God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Group prayers are offered.

We thank you for saints past and present who bear witness to your reforming power, especially Martin Luther, Phillip Melancthon, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Connie Parvey – the first woman ordained by Lutherans in New England. Inspire us by their boldness in articulating the gospel. God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For what else do we pray? *Other prayers and thanksgiving may be offered.*

We entrust these prayers to you, the Father and Mother of us all, in the strong name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

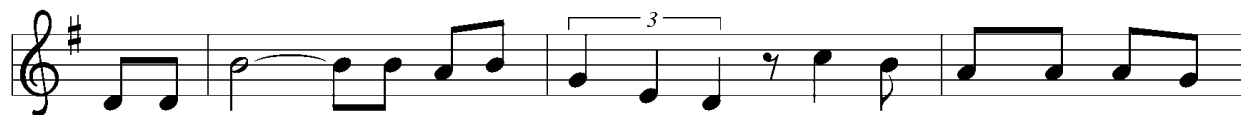
The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

We Are Marching in the Light

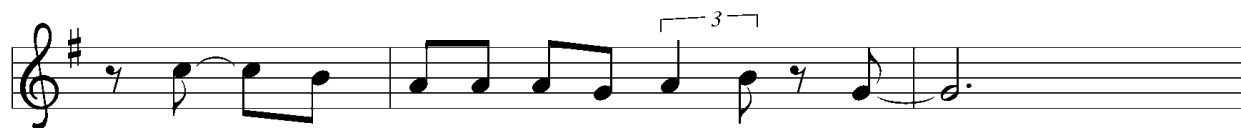
ELW 866



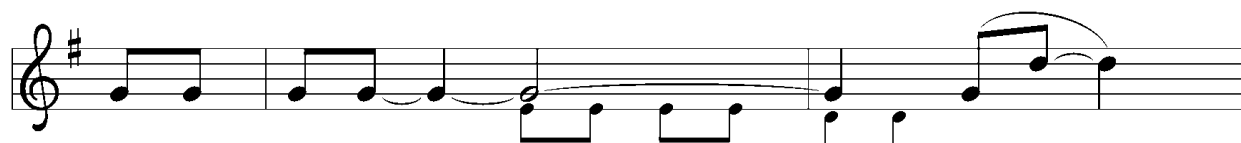
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. *Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',*
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



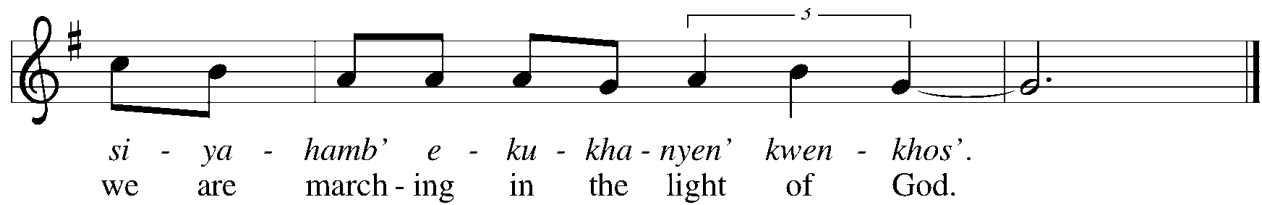
Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional

The community moves from the sanctuary and the Sunday School rooms to Goodman Fellowship Hall. You may wish to take your belongings with you.

MEAL

Once gathered downstairs, we continue with the Service of Holy Communion.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. God of all creation, **all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

* GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

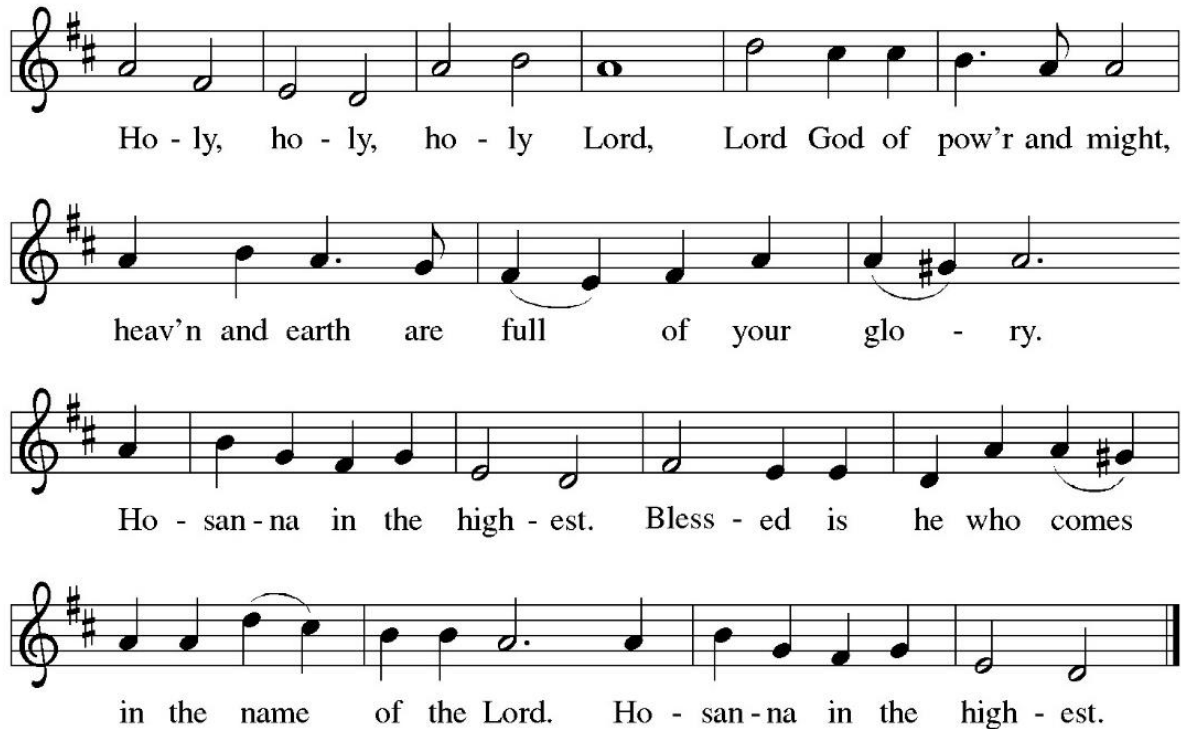
Lift up your hearts.

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:



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

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

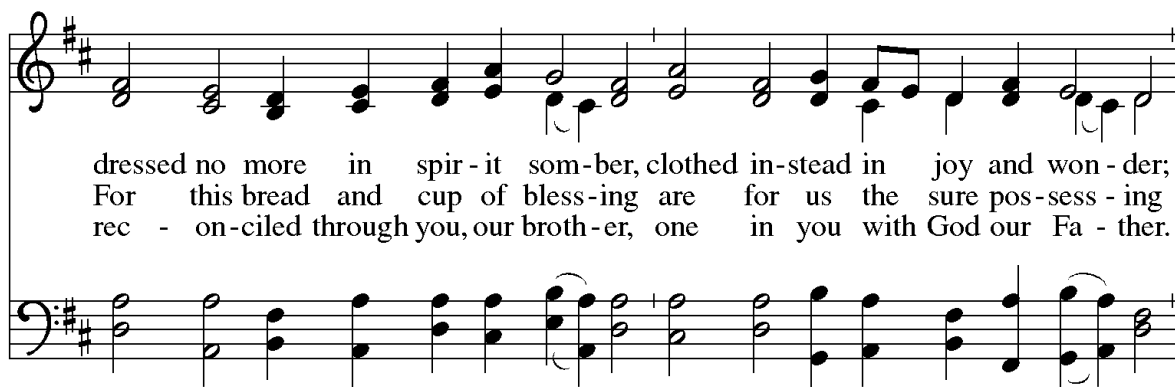
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

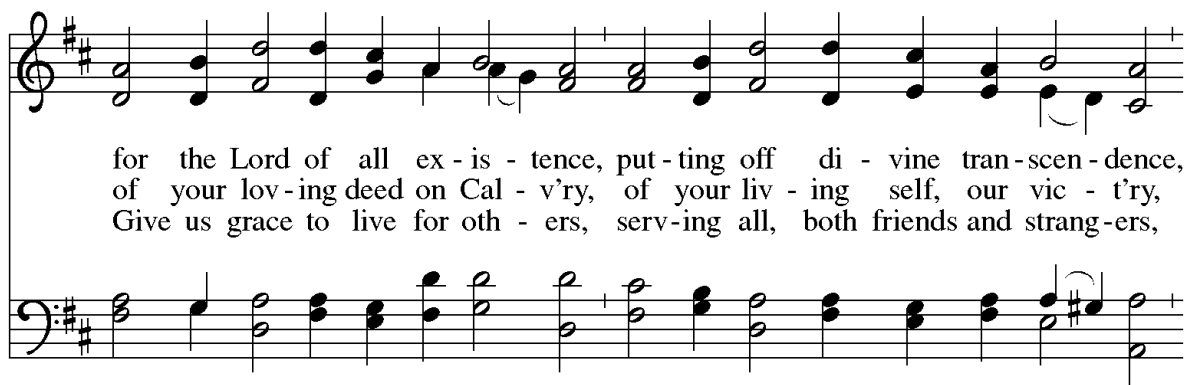
All are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. As you come forward to receive, please add your block to the "growing church" on the table.



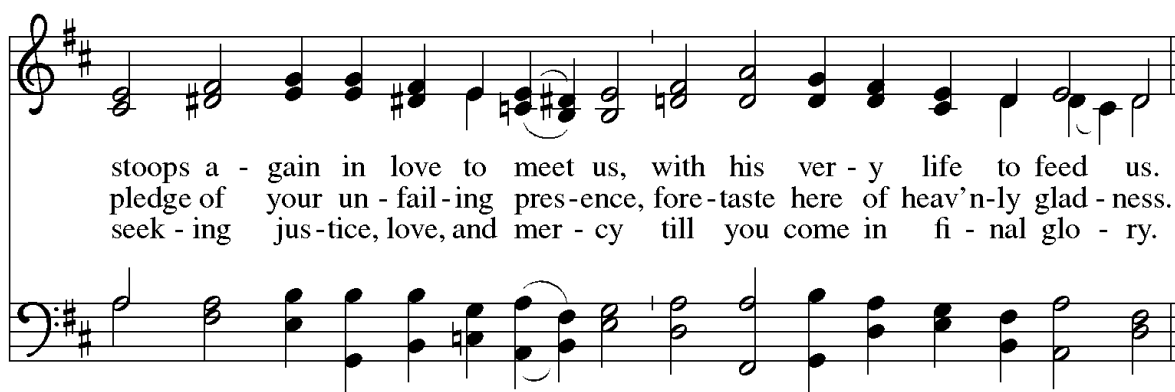
1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
 For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
 rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
 of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
 Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
 pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' - n - ly glad - ness.
 seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

* TABLE BLESSING

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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life, the body and blood of Christ. And we pray: in your mercy strengthen us through this gift in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

*BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ grant you peace. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING HYMN

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

ELW 729

1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
 Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

* DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

William Bradbury and Dorothy Thrupp

Arranged by Lloyd Larson

Mark Olson, trumpet

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



UPCOMING CHOIR PRACTICE FOR ADVENT

Please join the choir for Lessons and Carols! Here is our rehearsal schedule: then put the dates in. Even if you are not able to join us during the choir season join us for this special event!

Thursday, October 23rd, 7:30 pm-9:00 pm
Saturday, November 1st, 5:00 pm-6:30 pm.
Thursday, November 6th, 7:30 pm-9:00 pm
Thursday, November 13th, 7:30 pm-9:00 pm
Saturday, November 22nd 5:00 pm-6:30 pm
Thursday, December 4th, 7:30 pm-9:00 pm
Thursday, December 11th, 7:30 pm-9:00 pm
Saturday, December 13th 4:00 pm-6:00 pm

ARLINGTON EATS OCTOBER NEEDS AND TURKEY TROT

You may notice some of our spotlight items are repeats from September, and that is because it takes even longer now to get enough of our specialty items (coffee, oil etc) to have enough for everyone! Thank you for continuing to show up each month for Arlington EATS!

Spotlight Items are below. Please place these items in the basket which is on the floor of the upper narthex.

- **Granola bars**
- **coffee**
- **Tea**
- **canola/vegetable oil**
- **paper bags**

Another way you can support EATS (and have fun doing it!) is to sign up for our Annual **Turkey Trot** (walk or run!) 5K: Join Arlington EATS on Sunday, November 2, at 8am for their second annual Turkey Trot, a 5K that provides food access to all residents in Arlington! Fundraise with family and friends to win awesome prizes, join us on race day for an after-party, and nourish the community with your support! Register at: <https://turkeytrot.arlingtoneats.org/>. *If you run fast enough you could make it to the 10:30 service, and you have an extra hour of sleep anyway!*

continued

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap is happening this fall with an updated schedule. We will gather on the **3rd Sunday of the month at 4PM at Mighty Squirrel** (411 Waverley Oaks Road, Waltham). Vicar Sam will lead a relaxed conversation about a different theological topic each month. I hope these gatherings will be a time to learn, listen, and laugh as we spend time together outside of church on Sunday afternoons. The brewery welcomes families and includes alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. All are invited!

Fall Dates:

November 23 at 4pm

December 21 at 4pm

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

All are invited to join our 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).

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NEXT WEEK | November 2

We celebrate the festival of all the saints at both services next Sunday. As a part of the service you will have the opportunity to remember in prayer those dear to you who have died and are now at rest. If you wish you may bring photos of those whom you remember to place among lighted candles.

TODAY AND THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday	Thursday	Saturday	Sunday
October 26	October 30	November 1	November 2
9:30 Service 11:30 Coffee Hour	7-8pm Bible Study via Zoom	5:00 pm-6:30 pm Lessons and Carols choir rehearsal	8:15 Service 9:00 Choir 9:00 Education Hour 10:30 Service 11:45 Social Ministry meeting



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*

Sarah Carter, *Children, Youth and Families Director*

Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator*

Paul Ricci, *Business Administrator*

Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

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Church Council and Officers

Kerri Frick, *President*

Sandy Walker, *Vice President*

Eric Haugen, *Treasurer*

Elizabeth Heichler, *Secretary*

Mark Olson, *Financial Secretary*

Kristen Anderson

Eric Carlson

Dave Hering

Kathleen Kean

Kevin Kreutter

Pierson Oliver

Taryn Walsh

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Altar Guild

Faith Formation Committee

Intern Committee

Social Ministry Committee

Nomination Committee

Worship & Music Committee

Finance Committee

Audit Committee

Usher Committee

Transition Committee Peter Hedlund & Sandy Walker

Chairperson

Marie Breitenbach

Bev Hjorth

Kristen Anderson

Janice Sniffen

Taryn Walsh

John Christiansen

Eric Haugen

Eric Haugen

Dan Ries & Andy Airasian



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



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