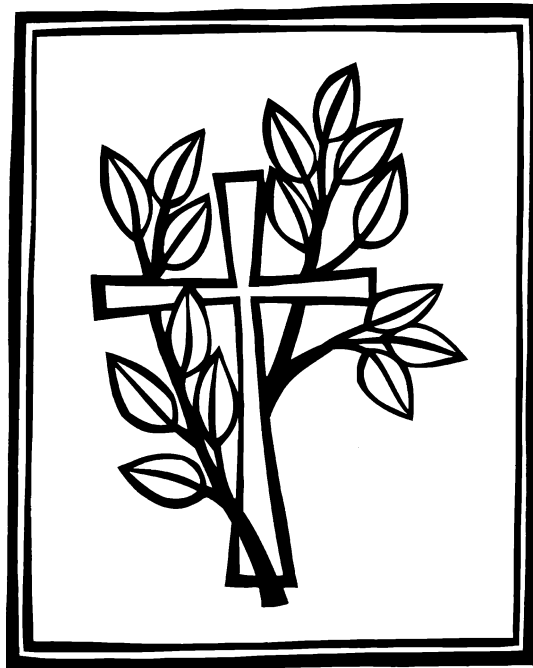


THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Sunday, August 30, 2026

9:30 AM

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 | Holy Communion & livestreamed

10:30am | Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall or outdoors

LIVESTREAMING

Worship is streamed on our Facebook page StPaulArlingtonMA. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, but without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY

Kelli Oliver Taryn Walsh, *Altar Guild*
Marc Olson, *Lector*

Kathleen Kean, *Assisting Minister*

Hollie Schmidt & Mat Carter,

Livestream Broadcast Team

Peter & Hollie Schmidt and Lisa

Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild*



*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

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.**

Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

* GATHERING HYMN

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

ELW 879

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain
 Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

* 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

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord, have mer-cy,

to Verses
 Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

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)

Assistant:



Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:



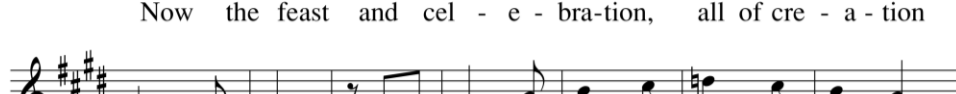
God. A - men.

* HYMN OF PRAISE

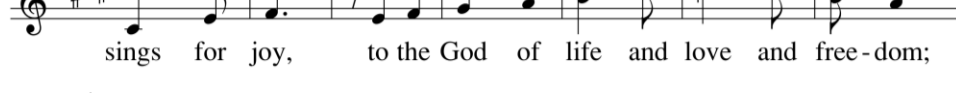
Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion

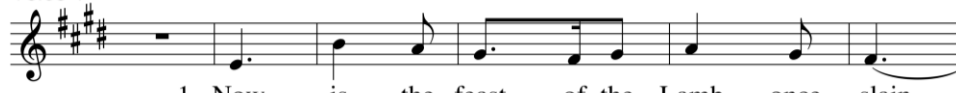


sings for joy, to the God of life and love and free-dom;

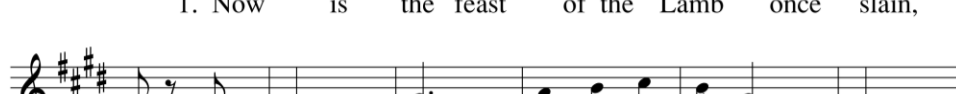


praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

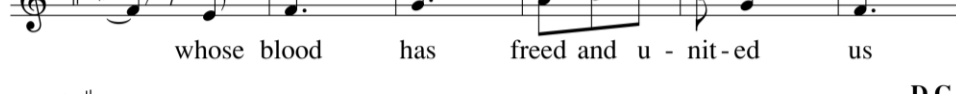
Verse 1



1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,



whose blood has freed and u - nit-ed us

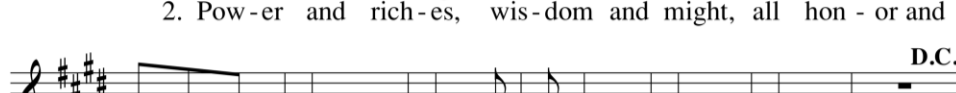


to be one great peo - ple of God. D.C.

Verse 2



2. Pow-er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

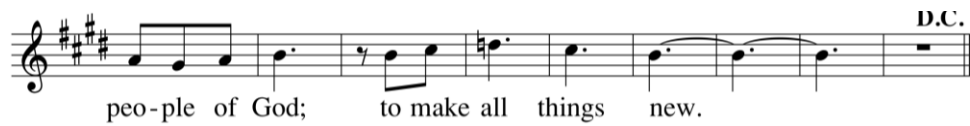


glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. D.C.

Verse 3



3. For God has come to dwell with us, to make us



* PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 15:15-21

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.
Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.
I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

Therefore thus says the Lord:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the Lord.

I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 26:1-8

Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity;

I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

Test me, O Lord, and try me;

examine my heart and my mind.

For your steadfast love is before my eyes;

I have walked faithfully with you.

I have not sat with the worthless,

nor do I consort with the deceitful.

I have hated the company of evildoers;

I will not sit down with the wicked.

I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,

that I may go in procession round your altar,

singing aloud a song of thanksgiving

and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

Lord, I love the house in which you dwell

and the place where your glory abides.

SECOND READING

Romans 12:9-21

A reading from Romans.

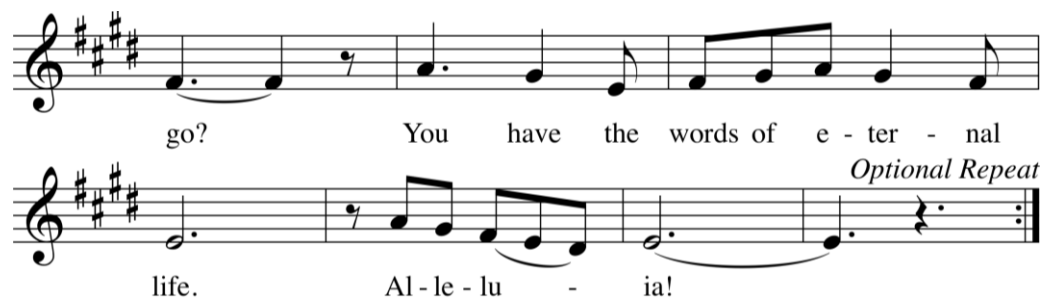
Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





*** GOSPEL**

Matthew 16:21-28

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Pastor Don Larsen

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

ELW 803





APOSTLES CREED

With praise and gratitude, 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 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

As is our custom, please face one another across the center aisle. The deacon invites us to prayer and offers the first intercession. As you are moved to pray, you are invited to pray any of the following intercessions aloud.

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the

love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit, especially Bobby, Dan, George, Heather, Hollie, Jim, Kate, Lynn, Mark, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, Roberta, and Susan. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith

and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For what else do we pray? *Other prayers, silent or aloud, are invited.*

For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

* PEACE

Keep your hands 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

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



* OFFERING SONG

Refrain

Congregation:



Verses

1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with-in our midst
 2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

to Refrain

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

* GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

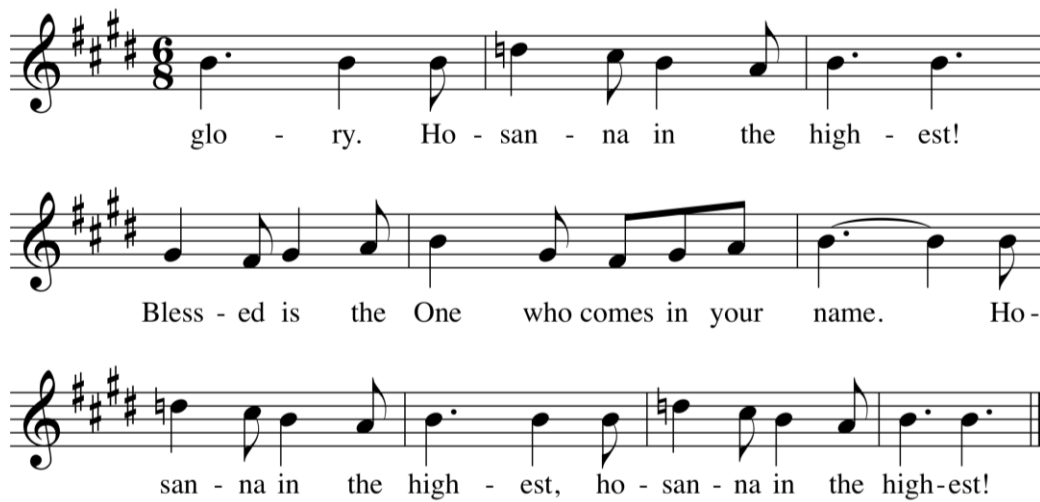
right to give God thanks and praise.

It is our duty and delight, that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ; who calls us to follow his way of humble service and love, And so, with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your



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.

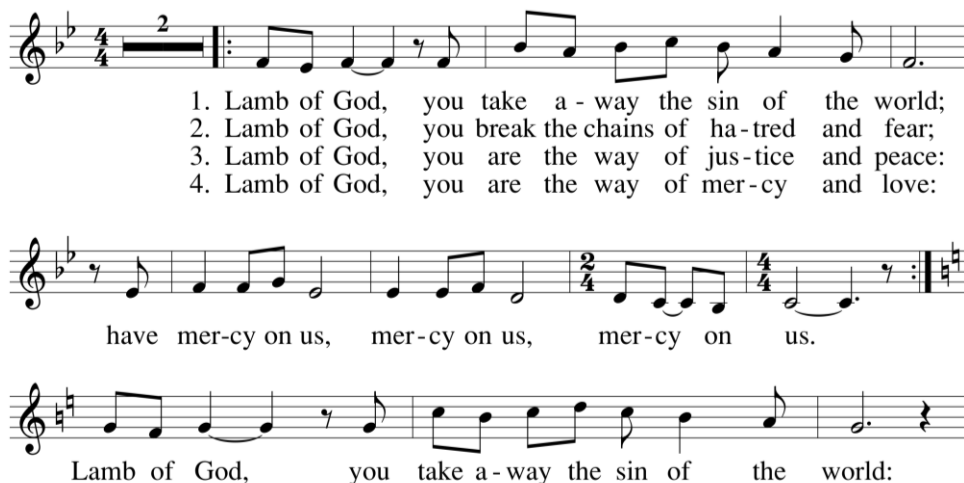
* LORD'S PRAYER

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.





grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Day by Day"

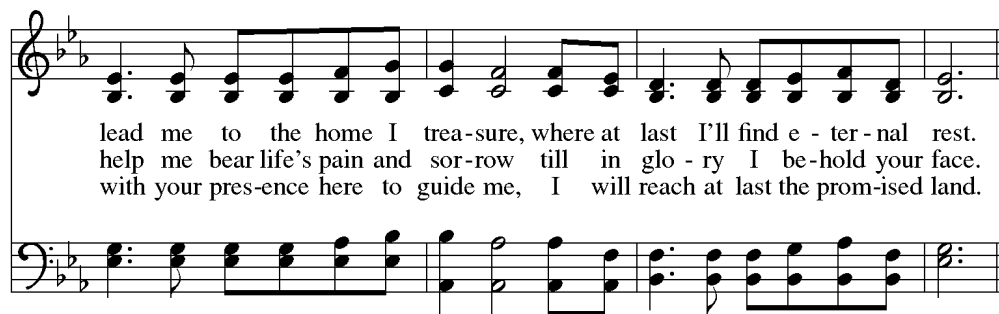
ELW 790

1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens

to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me

draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter

mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



* 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; and we pray that in your mercy you would 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

* BLESSING

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

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

* SENDING HYMN

"Earth and All Stars"

ELW 731

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
 2 Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
 3 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!
 4 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!

Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!

Oh, vic - to - ry! Loud shout - ing ar - my!
 Flow - ers and trees! Loud rus - tling dry leaves!
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!
 Lime-stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!

Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

He has done mar - vel - ous things.

I too will praise him with a new song!

5 Classrooms and labs!
 Loud boiling test tubes!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Athlete and band!
 Loud cheering people!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

6 Knowledge and truth!
 Loud sounding wisdom!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Daughter and son!
 Loud praying members!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING HAPPENINGS at ST. PAUL

UPDATE FROM THE ST. PAUL CALL COMMITTEE | August 27, 2026

The St. Paul Call Committee has invited our most recent pastoral call candidate for a second interview and they have accepted our invitation. We are working to coordinate that in-person meeting in the next two weeks.

Thanks for your continued prayers for St. Paul, the Call Committee, the call candidate and all congregations and candidates in discernment.

Peace and Blessings -

Sandy Berlin Walker, Call Committee Chair

St. Paul Call Committee: John Christianson, Josh Davis, Maile Hedlund, Tommy McCauley, Kelli Oliver, Sandy Walker (chair) and Taryn Walsh (alternate)

RALLY DAY | Sunday, September 13

This promises to be an exciting fall season at St. Paul. God has so much good in store for you! We will mark September 13 as Rally Day with a single outdoor service at 9:30 AM and lots of activities, both inside and outside, after the service (weather permitting.) Good idea to bring a lawn chair and an extra, if you have one. If you forget to bring a lawn chair, or don't have one, no worries - there will be plenty.

LUTHERAN BASICS

Ever wonder what makes Lutheranism tick? What its contribution is to the Christian story and our witness? You are invited to participate in a conversation about Lutheran basics over four Wednesdays in September, beginning September 9, at 7 PM. We'll meet at church.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Online Bible Study resumes on Thursdays at 7 PM beginning September 17.

MEET ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP CURRY

The Rev. Yehiel Curry, a former school teacher from Chicago, now serves as Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. Here's a link to a recent video: <https://vimeo.com/1217743892/b4002eff5c>

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH/CAMBRIDGE IN THE NEWS

Many of you know that Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge lost its beautiful old building to a terrible fire on Easter evening in 2023. Here's a link to an interview with the congregation's pastor, the Rev. Robin Lutjohann, just published in the Cambridge

Day. <https://www.cambridgeday.com/2026/08/23/cambridge-church-plan-for-rebuilding/>

RETURN TO TWO SERVICES | September 20

We will return to two services on September 20, with one at 8:15 AM and one at 10:30 AM.



SAINT PAUL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

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Sarah Carter, *Children, Youth and Families Director*

stpaularlingtonfamily@gmail.com

Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator*

parishadmin@stpaularlington.org

Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

Church Council and Officers

Kerri Frick, *President*

Sandy Walker, *Vice President*

Eric Haugen, *Treasurer*

Piercen Oliver, *Secretary*

Mark Olson, *Financial Secretary*

Kristen Anderson

Eric Carlson

Elizabeth Heichler

Dave Hering

Kathleen Kean

Kevin Kreutter

Taryn Walsh

Committees

Altar Guild

Faith Formation Committee

Intern Committee

Social Ministry Committee

Nomination Committee

Worship & Music Committee

Finance Committee

Audit Committee

Usher Committee

Property Committee

Call Committee

Chairperson

Kelli Oliver

Bev Hjorth

Kristen Anderson

Janice Sniffen

Taryn Walsh

John Christiansen

Eric Haugen

Eric Haugen

Dan Ries & Andy Airasian

Eric Carlson

Sandy Walker



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



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