

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**“Blessing of the Animals and
Other of God’s Creatures”**



Adriaen van de Venne (1589-1662)

Sunday, October 4, 2026

8:15 and 10:30 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

8:15 AM | Holy Communion

9:00 AM | Choir Practice

9:30 AM | Education Hour: Sunday School, Confirmation class, Adult Forum

10:30 AM | Holy Communion & livestreamed

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 and Taryn Walsh, *Altar Guild*

Adelaide and Mikayla N., *Acolytes*

Bev Hjorth, *Cantor*

Allison & Isaac Van Deventer, *Lectors*

Dave Hering, *Assisting Minister*

Mat Carter and Hollie Schmidt, *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 Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921): Le Cygne (The Swan from the Carnival of the Animals)
arr. Drew R. Fennell
Mark Olson, *trumpet*

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**

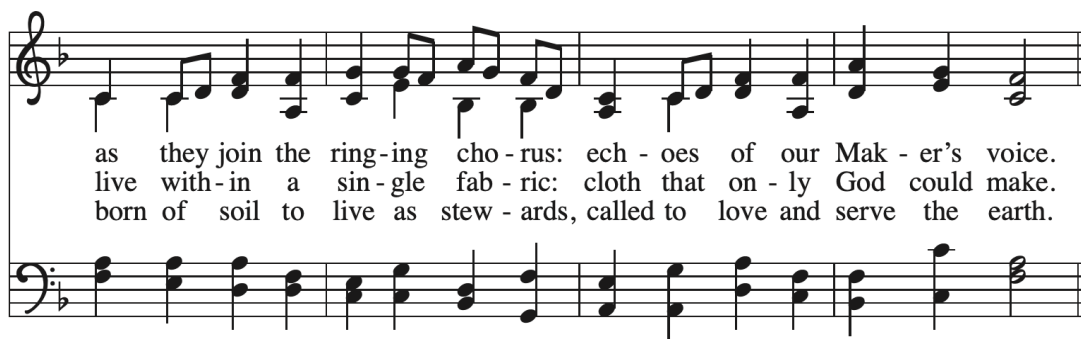
“Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom

ACS 1064

1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound-ing God's de - light-ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,

from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea-ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.

All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:

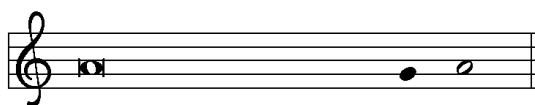


as they join the ring-ing cho-rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with-in a sin-gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

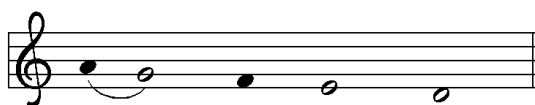
*** GREETING**

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** (*only 10:30*)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

* HYMN OF PRAISE (*only 10:30*)

Assisting minister

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
All
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.
For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Job 12:7-10

A reading from Job.

But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you,
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?
In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.

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

PSALM

Psalms 148



Hallelujah! Praise the Lord [^] from the heavens;
praise God [^] in the heights.
Praise the Lord, [^] all you angels;
sing praise, all you [^] hosts of heaven.
Praise the Lord, [^] sun and moon;
sing praise, all you [^] shining stars.
Praise the Lord, heav- [^] en of heavens,
and you waters a- [^] bove the heavens.
Let them praise the name [^] of the Lord,
who commanded, and they [^] were created,
who made them stand fast forev- [^] er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not [^] pass away.
Praise the Lord [^] from the earth,
you sea monsters [^] and all deeps;
fire and hail, [^] snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- [^] ing God's will;
mountains [^] and all hills,
fruit trees [^] and all cedars;
wild beasts [^] and all cattle,

creeping things and ¹ flying birds;
sovereigns of the earth ¹ and all peoples,
princes and all rulers ¹ of the world;
young ¹ men and maidens,
old and ¹ young together.

Let them praise the name ¹ of the Lord,

whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over ¹ earth and heaven.

The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all ¹ faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. ¹ Hallelujah!

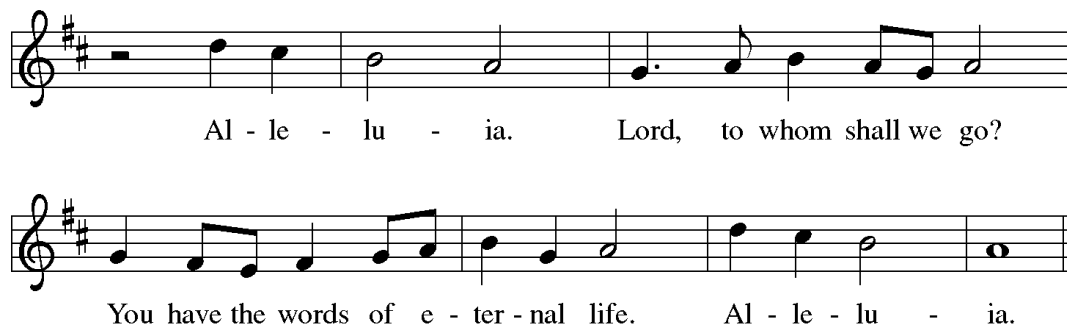
SECOND READING

Romans 8:18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



* GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-6

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

"Tell the daughter of Zion,

Look, your king is coming to you,

humble and mounted on a donkey,
 and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”
 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;
 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Don Larsen

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS (AND ROCKS AND PLANTS)

* HYMN OF THE DAY

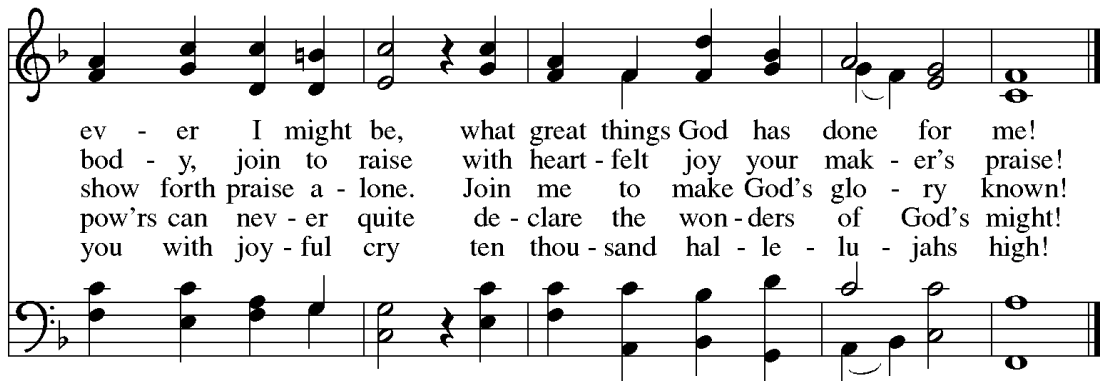
“Oh, That I Had Thousand Voices”

ELW 833

1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es to praise my
 2 Let ev - 'ry pow'r in me im - plant - ed a - rise, keep
 3 You for - est leaves so green and ten - der that dance for
 4 All crea - tures that have breath and mo - tion, that throng the
 5 Cre - a - tor, hum - bly I im - plore you to lis - ten

God with thou - sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
 si - lence now no more; put forth the strength that God has
 joy in sum - mer air, you mead - ow grass - es, bright and
 earth, the sea, the sky, come, share with me my heart's de -
 to my earth - ly song un - til that day when I a -

joic - es, would then pro - claim in grate - ful songs to all, wher -
 grant - ed! Your no - blest work is to a - dore! O soul and
 slen - der, you flow'rs so fra - grant and so fair, you live to
 vo - tion, help me to sing God's prais - es high! My ut - most
 dore you, when I will join the an - gel throng and raise to



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.

Trusting God's promise to hear us, let us pray.

Holy God, through your Holy Spirit, nourish, strengthen and enliven our trust in you so that we along with your whole church may live into Jesus and his Way

more and more. God, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for the vast expanse of creation and for our home within it, planet Earth. Open us to the thrumming life all around us, and guide us into respectful, curious relationships with all creatures who share this home with us. God, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our country in these uncertain times. Awaken us to the possibilities of

positive civic engagement, strengthen elected leaders for robust constructive debate, and bless government workers with all that they need to serve the common good. God, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Bless and renew the people of St. Paul during our transition into the next chapters of our life together for the sake of your work in the world. Guide our discernment, and grant us insight into how best to serve you in this time and place. God, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

We ask your healing for the sick and all those known to us who suffer in any way, especially Bobby, Dan, Heather, Jim, Kate, Lynn, Mark, Meredith, Paul, Roberta, and Susan. Be their hope and joy. God, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

* 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.

ANTHEM

John Rutter: All Things Bright and Beautiful

MEAL

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

OFFERING

*You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code:
You may also make an offering by placing a gift in the offering plate as it passes through congregation.*



We name before you the other creatures with whom we share or have shared our lives most closely: *(names of pets, living and deceased, can be spoken silently or aloud)*. We thank you for them, and for the blessing of their companionship. God, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

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

Keep us in the company of the faithful who have gone before us and are now at rest, especially Francis of Assisi. Bless the dying with the comfort of your love, and receive them and us into the arms of your mercy. God, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for the gift of prayer, we entrust all our hopes, fears and joys to you, gracious God, in the power of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

* GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

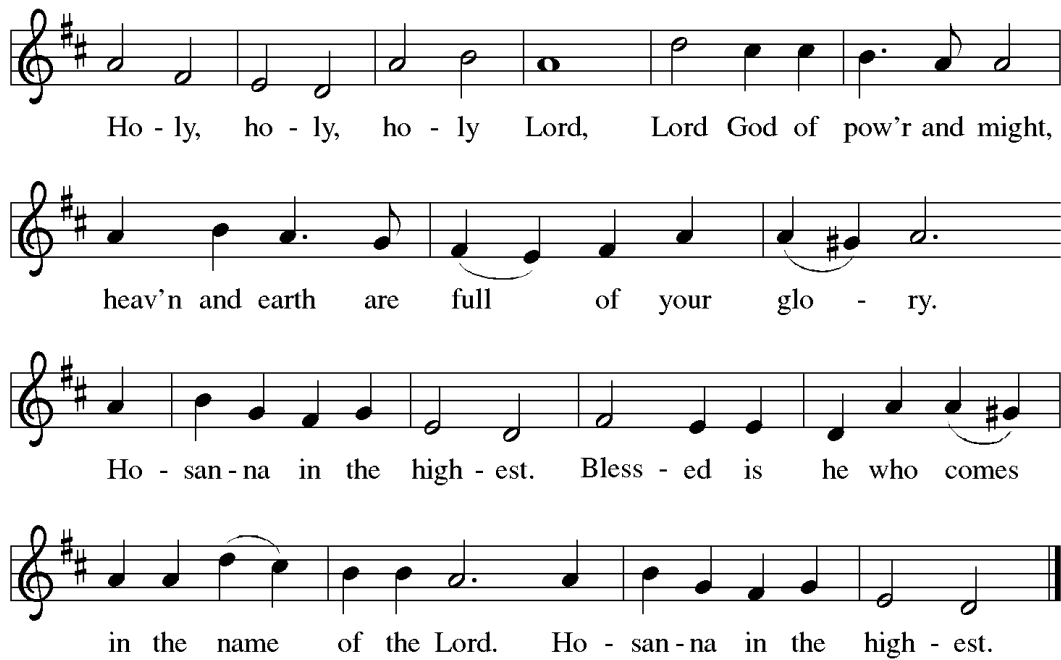
Lift up your hearts.

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.

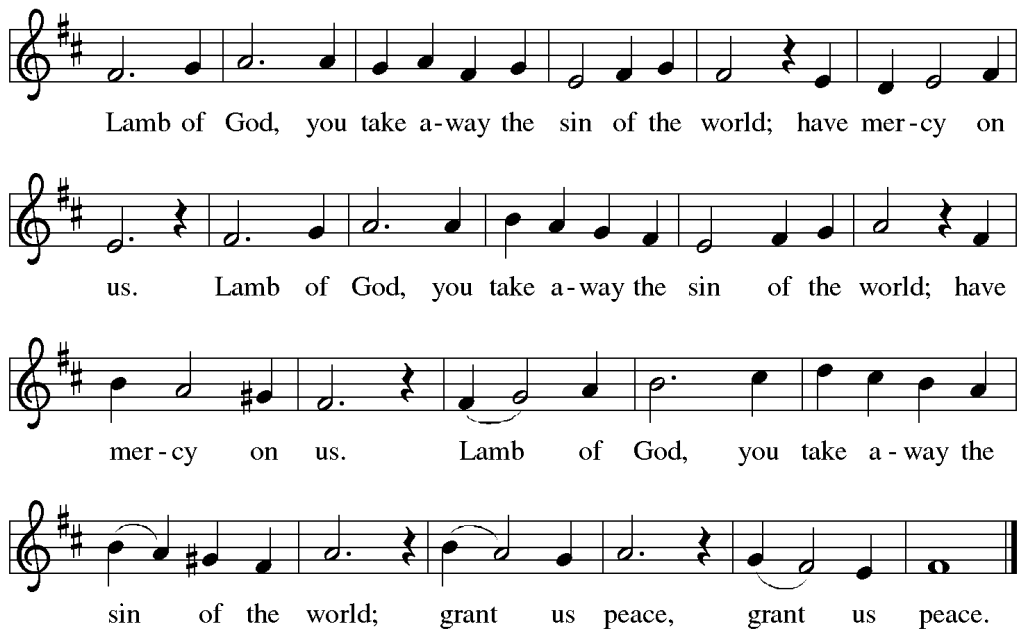
* LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.



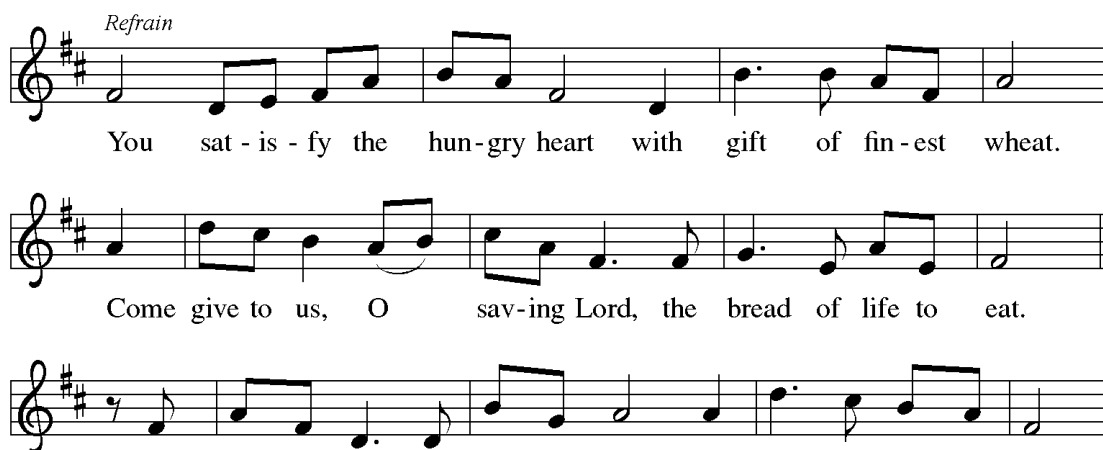
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

ELW 484

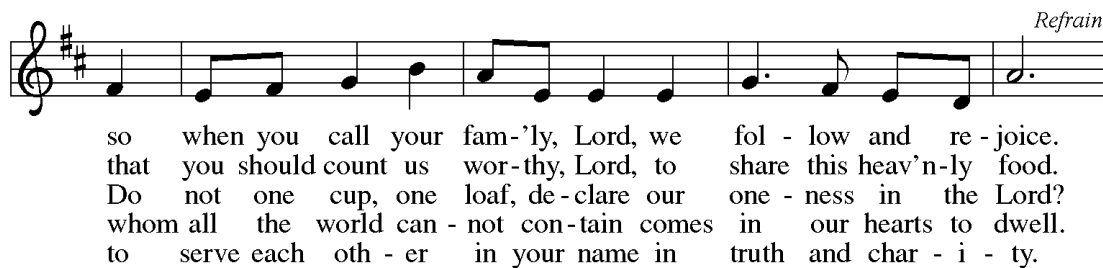
Refrain



You sat - is - fy the hun-gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.
Come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

- 1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

Refrain



so when you call your fam-'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
that you should count us wor-thy, Lord, to share this heav'n-ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de-clare our one - ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can - not con-tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

* 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

* SENDING HYMN

"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"

ELW 538



En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain
un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;
me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.
A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

DISMISSAL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING HAPPENINGS at ST. PAUL

PASTORAL CALL PROCESS UPDATE FROM THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL

On Monday, September 28, 2026, the St. Paul Congregation Council interviewed the pastoral candidate recommended by the call committee. Council voted unanimously to advance the candidate to a congregational vote.

We are now working on the timing and details of the call vote weekend in the coming weeks and will share information as soon as it is finalized.

Please keep our congregation and the candidate in your prayers as we take this next step together.

Kerri Frick, President, St. Paul Lutheran Church

SOUND SYSTEM UPDATES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITY | Sunday, October 4

Over the last few weeks our A/V team has used a new sound system which supports our worship services and live-stream broadcasts. We invite anyone interested in learning how to use the system to attend a short instructional orientation this coming Sunday, October 4th after the 10:30 service. We also invite feedback about your experiences with the sound system: How do things sound from your perspective (either in person, or online)? Feel free to send comments to John Christianson johnchristianson@me.com and we will do our best to refine our approach so all can listen, watch and participate wholly in worship.

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 Jennifer White, Parish Admin for the Bible Study Zoom link (parishadmin@stpaularlington.org).

ADULT FORUM FOR ONE CHURCH SOFTWARE THIS SUNDAY October 4, at 9:30 AM

Sarah Carter and Piercen Oliver will be talking at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall about our One Church app. They'll cover how to interact with it on computer or mobile device, describe its many capabilities and help people sign up for it on their device. Come if you're new to it or if you need a refresher!



SAINT PAUL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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Sandy Walker, *Vice President*

Eric Haugen, *Treasurer*

Piercen Oliver, *Secretary*

Mark Olson, *Financial Secretary*

Kristen Anderson

Eric Carlson

Elizabeth Heichler

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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

Property Committee

Call Committee

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Eric Carlson

Sandy Walker



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



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