

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Sunday, October 18, 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 & Jennifer Parker, *Altar Guild*

Morgan B. and Toby M. *Acolytes*

Bev Hjorth, *Cantor*

Mark Rom, *Lector*

Piercen Oliver, *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

John Stanley (1712-1786): Voluntary Op. 5 No. 8 Adagio

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

"We Raise Our Hands to You, O Lord"

ELW 690

1 We raise our hands to you, O Lord, like
2 What good and bless - ing you be - stow are
3 Oh, make our bar - ren trees to grow, our
4 As sum - mer fol - lows spring - time's rain, grace
5 Through grace your new cre - a - tion lies in

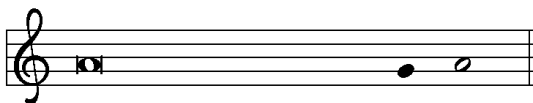
emp - ty ves - sels. Oh, come to us and
free - ly giv - en. Your pow'r will make the
hands to blos - som, and let our lives and
fol - lows sor - row, and grief and joy bring
hands held o - pen. O Giv - er of shall
all

give us life from springs where liv - ing wa - ters flow.
weak - est strong and bar - ren branch - es start to bud.
forth such fruit that heals our neigh - bor's grief and pain.
bear much fruit, though hid - den from our hu - man eyes.
good - ness, come, dwell with us in our earth - ly home.

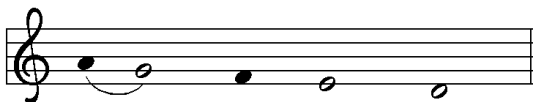
* GREETING

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.**

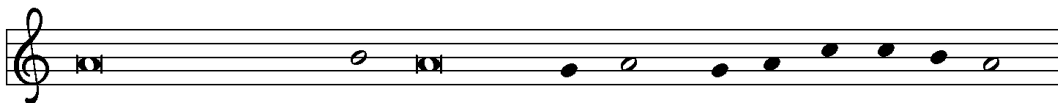
* KYRIE (only 10:30)



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.



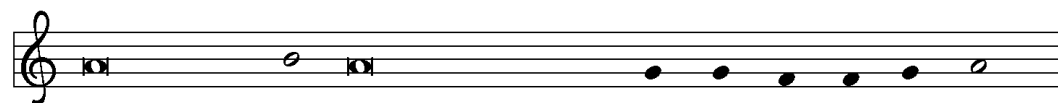
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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*)



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

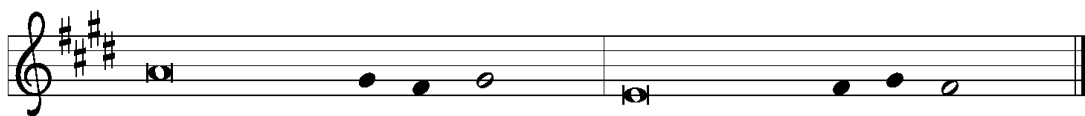
Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me
I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

PSALM (*spoken at 8:15*)

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]



Sing to the Lord ¹ a new song;
sing to the Lord, ¹ all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord, bless the name ¹ of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from ¹ day to day.**

Declare God's glory a- ¹ mong the nations
and God's wonders a- ¹ mong all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly ¹ to be praised,

more to be feared ¹ than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they ¹ are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have ¹ made the heavens.

**Majesty and magnificence are ¹ in your presence;
power and splendor are in your ¹ sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families ¹ of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord hon- ¹ or and power.

**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the ¹ holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts ¹ of the Lord.**

Worship the Lord in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, ¹ all the earth.

[Tell it out among the nations: “The ¹ Lord is king!

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- ¹ ples
with equity.”**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the ¹ earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that ¹ is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- ¹ ing, O Lord,
for you come to ¹ judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peoples ¹ with your truth.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

A reading from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



*** GOSPEL**

Matthew 22: 15-22

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

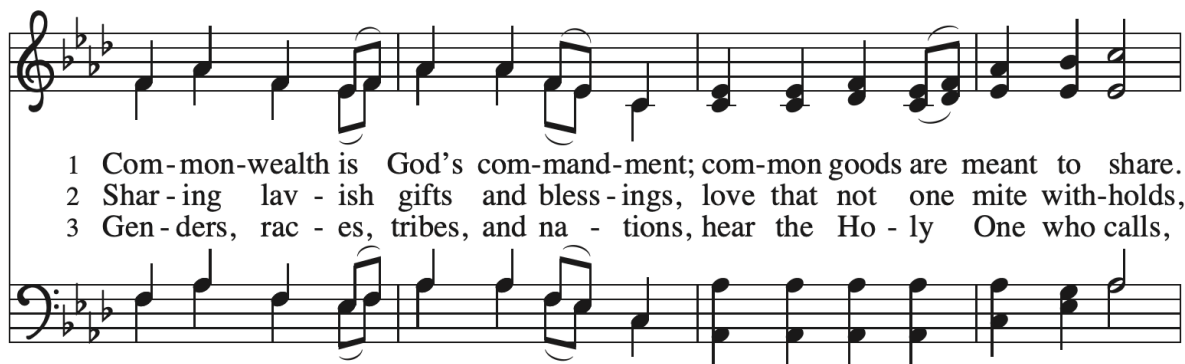
The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

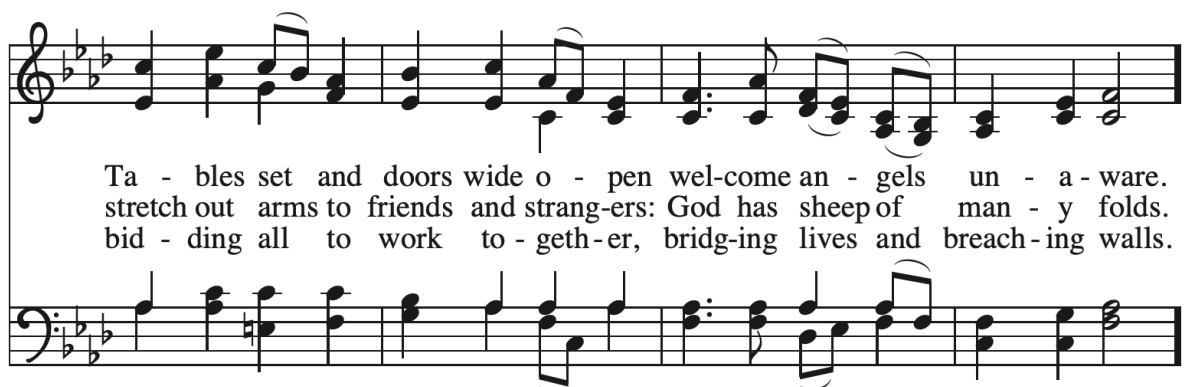
* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Commonwealth is God's Commandment"

ACS 1036

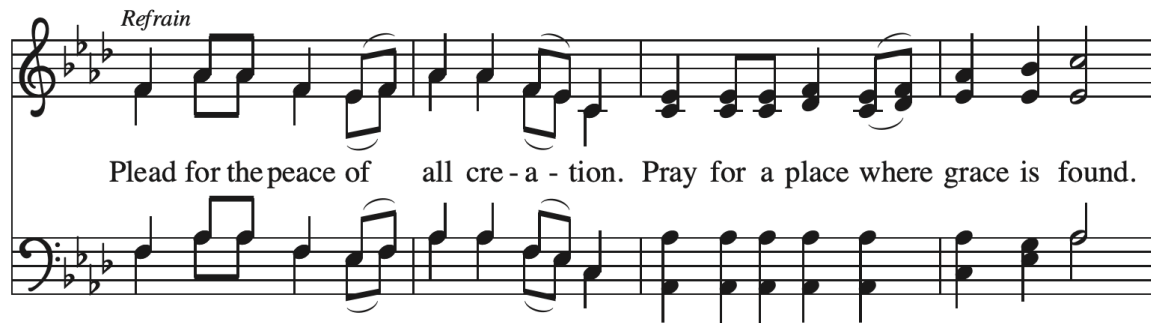


1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
 2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
 3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



Ta-les set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
 stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
 bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.

Refrain



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

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.

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering

especially Bobby, Dan, Heather, Jim, Kate, Lynn, Mark, Meredith, Paul, Roberta, and Susan. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through 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.

ANTHEM

Scott Perkins: Take My Life That I May Be

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 the QR code. You may also make an offering by placing a gift in the offering plate as it passes through congregation.



*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



*** GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

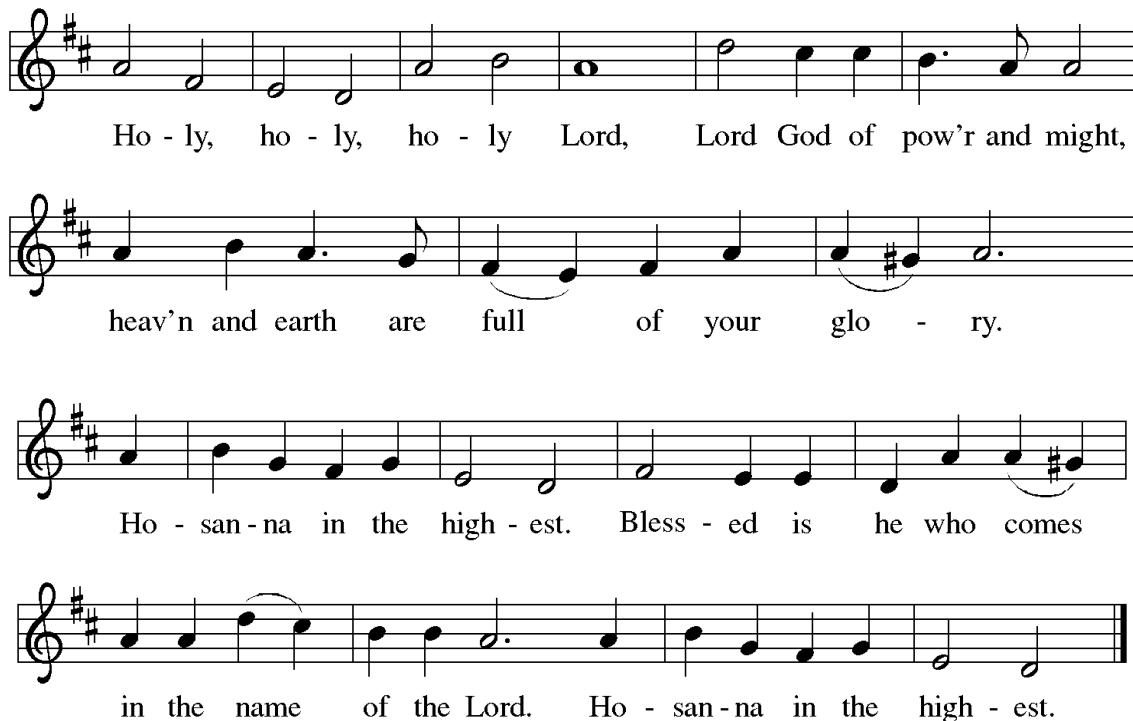
Lift up your hearts.

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 HYMNS

"In the Singing"

ELW 466



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Refrain
Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

"Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal"

ELW 464



1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.



* 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

"When Our Song Says Peace"

ELW 709



1 When our song says peace and the world says war, we will
2 When our song says free and the world says bound, we will
3 When our song says home and the world says lost, we will



sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,



who breaks the spear and sword and stills the storm of war.
who o - pens pris - on doors and sets the cap - tives free.
who brings us home at last, and gives a song to all.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

John Stanley (1712-1786): Voluntary Op. 5 No. 8

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING HAPPENINGS at ST. PAUL

SAVE THE DATE:

PASTORAL CANDIDATE CONGREGATIONAL VOTE

Please save **November 7 and 8** to meet our pastoral candidate, worship together, and participate in a congregational vote.

Saturday, November 7 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Meet the Candidate

Join us for an informal drop-in gathering in the **Goodman Fellowship Hall**. Come meet the candidate, visit with fellow congregants, and learn more about them. We plan to have the nursery available with an attendant. More details about this to come.

Sunday, November 8 | 9:30 a.m.

Worship & Congregational Vote

We will have **one worship service at 9:30 a.m.**, led by the pastoral candidate. The **congregational vote will take place immediately following the service in the Sanctuary.**

--- We hope you will join us for this important weekend in the life of our congregation.

ADULT FORUM | October 18 and 25

Don't miss the next two Adult Forums! Kevin Kreutter, a member of St. Paul's stewardship team, will present important ideas from Mark Allan Powell's book, *Giving to God*, on October 18. On October 25, Pastor Don will speak on the theme "Martin Luther's Hymns: Their Background and Their Impact."

VESPERS CHOIR OPPORTUNITY | Dates below

From our Music Director Ana Zecic Jeffers: We are delighted to have received an invitation from **Ben Perry, Director of Choirs at St. John Lutheran Church in Sudbury**, to join their Vespers service on October 25th! This will be a wonderful opportunity to sing together with other choir members and be part of a beautiful musical experience. I warmly encourage you to join us for this special occasion!

- **Thursday, October 15th, 7:30 PM- 9:00 PM**, St Paul Sanctuary
- **Saturday, October 17th, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM**, 30 Conant Street in Acton, MA
- **Thursday, October 22nd, 7:00 PM–9:00 PM**, Rehearsal at St. John Lutheran Church
- **Sunday, October 25th: 3:00 PM call, 5:00 PM service**, followed by a **6:00 PM potluck**

FALL LUTHER LEAGUE EVENT Saturday, October 25, 7:00-8:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Come join Luther League for Pumpkin Carving! We will be hosting a fun evening of carving pumpkins and socializing in the Fellowship Hall! Open to all our youth in grades 5-12.

Please let Sarsh Carter know if you are coming or have any questions!

OWL (OUR WHOLE LIVES) FIRST MEETING | Sunday, November 8, 6-9 PM

We will be running our middle school OWL program again this year. This is open to 8th and 9th graders. Please share with anyone that might be interested in joining us. You can register here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfX4GU3SCgbRFl5Twif-8jfoG5sPGNgf-isUZ7QDAj5oG8kg/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=104284083508357117752>. Any other questions can be directed to Sarah Carter (stpaularlingtonfamily@gmail.com).

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).

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

In response to the devastation of WWII several churches banded together to form an organization dedicated to helping people around the world. Lutheran World Relief (LWR) formed in 1945, and began working with local communities. Learn more at LWR.org.

When disaster hits, LWR partners with local leaders and sponsors to provide immediate relief. LWR stays, often for the long term, to help communities recover and face the future. LWR works not only in the United States but all over the world where there are wildfires, tsunamis, earthquakes, floods, or violence.

This year the Social Ministry at St. Paul gave \$1000 toward girls' education in Sierra Leone. Looking ahead toward the Lenten season 2027, Social Ministry will start a collection for LWR personal care kits. Stay tuned for details in February 2027.

ARLINGTON EATS TURKEY TROT | Sunday, November 8, at 8 AM

Registration is open for the Arlington Eats event annual Turkey Trot. The Trot starts at Hill's Hill Field at Ed Burns Arena, Arlington. Consider coming to run, walk or just support one of the many teams using their feet so all can eat! Link to register for the Turkey Trot:

turkeytrot.arlingtoneats.org

ARLINGTON EATS! October Spotlight Items:

Flour, Sugar, Salt, Cocoa Mix, Baking soda. Baking powder, Cinnamon, Baking chips (chocolate, etc), Gluten Free Flour, Baking mixes.



SAINT PAUL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

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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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