

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

IN THE NAME OF JESUS, WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.



*THE ENTRANCE RITE*

*PRELUDE*

*God Himself is Present*  
Setting: Jeffery Blersch

*ENTRANCE HYMN*

*God Himself is Present*

LSB 907

- 1 God Himself is present:**  
Let us now adore Him  
And with awe appear before Him.  
God is in His temple;  
All within keep silence;  
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.  
He alone  
On His throne  
Is our God and Savior;  
Praise His name forever!
- 2 God Himself is present:**  
Hear the harps resounding;  
See the hosts the throne surrounding.  
"Holy, holy, holy!"  
Hear the hymn ascending,  
Songs of saints and angels blending.  
Bow Your ear  
To us here:  
Hear, O Christ, the praises  
That Your Church now raises.
- 3 Fount of ev'ry blessing,**  
Purify my spirit,  
Trusting only in Your merit.  
Like the holy angels,  
Worshiping before You,  
May I ceaselessly adore You.  
Let Your will  
Ever still  
Rule Your Church terrestrial  
As the hosts celestial.

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION*

LSB 167

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*KYRIE*

LSB 168

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE This is the Feast*

LSB 171

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are His.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

### *THE PRAYER OF THE DAY*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God, from whom all good proceeds,  
**grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



### *THE LITURGY OF THE WORD*

*FIRST LESSON (Be seated)*

Ezekiel 33:7-9

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(8:00) PSALM 32:1-7 (Sung responsively)*

(10:30) ANTHEM

Jubilation Choir

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

Text: E. Hoffman Music: A. Showalter

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain:*

Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to  
day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)

SECOND LESSON

Romans 13:1-10

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

(10:30) CHILDREN'S SERMON

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

*GOSPEL*

Matthew 18:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man came to save the lost. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on

earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, O Christ.**

*SERMON (Be seated)*

*HYMN OF THE DAY (Stand) My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker*

LSB 820

**1 My soul, now praise your Maker!**  
Let all within me bless His name  
Who makes you full partaker  
Of mercies more than you dare claim.  
Forget Him not whose meekness  
Still bears with all your sin,  
Who heals your ev’ry weakness,  
Renews your life within;  
Whose grace and care are endless  
And saved you through the past;  
Who leaves no suff’rer friendless  
But rights the wronged at last.

**2 He offers all His treasure**  
Of justice, truth, and righteousness,  
His love beyond all measure,  
His yearning pity o’er distress;  
Nor treats us as we merit  
But sets His anger by.  
The poor and contrite spirit  
Finds His compassion nigh;  
And high as heav’n above us,  
As dawn from close of day,  
So far, since He has loved us,  
He puts our sins away.

**3 For as a tender father**  
Has pity on his children here,  
God in His arms will gather  
All who are His in childlike fear.  
He knows how frail our powers,  
Who but from dust are made.  
We flourish like the flowers,  
And even so we fade;  
The wind but through them passes,  
And all their bloom is o’er.  
We wither like the grasses;  
Our place knows us no more.

**4 His grace remains forever,**  
And children’s children yet shall  
prove  
That God forsakes them never  
Who in true fear shall seek His love.  
In heav’n is fixed His dwelling,  
His rule is over all;  
O hosts with might excelling,  
With praise before Him fall.  
Praise Him forever reigning,  
All you who hear His Word—  
Our life and all sustaining.  
My soul, O praise the Lord!

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

#### OFFERING

***Offerings** support the church's mission work – both here and through our many partners. Offerings may be placed in the box at the sanctuary entrance or sent to the church through our website or the mail. **Fellowship Cards** help us welcome new people and track participation. Please fill one out and place it in the offering box following the service.*

#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*The response to each petition will be:*

let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

- 1 Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
And fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
That we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
Unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with Your presence, and give us  
A foretaste of the feast to come.**



*SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT*

*PREFACE*

*LSB 177*

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 Him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good right and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

*SANCTUS*

*LSB 178*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING*

*LSB 178*

*THE WORDS OF OUR LORD*

*LSB 179*

*PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST*



*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.**

*PAX DOMINI*

*LSB 180*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**Amen.**

*AGNUS DEI*

*LSB 180*

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*THE COMMUNION (Be seated)*

*The Communion Assistant will come forward to receive first, then those from the pulpit side – by order of pew, front to back. Communicants will come up the center aisle and return via the side aisle. When all from the pulpit side have communed, the baptismal font side will commune in the same manner. We ask that the wine be consumed away from the tray table. Empty cups should be dropped into the receptacles.*

- 1 Today Your mercy calls us  
To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass,  
Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy  
Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us  
And make us clean today.
- 2 Today Your gate is open,  
And all who enter in  
Shall find a Father's welcome  
And pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten,  
A present joy be giv'n,  
A future grace be promised,  
A glorious crown in heav'n.
- 3 Today our Father calls us;  
His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather  
Around the heav'nly gates.  
No question will be asked us  
How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered,  
It is our Father's home.
- 4 O all-embracing Mercy,  
O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without You  
When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us,  
To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open,  
One ear will hear our prayer.

## NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 182

Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;  
Your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:  
A light to reveal You to the nations  
and the glory of Your people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER (Stand)

BENEDICTION

- 1 Thy strong word did cleave the  
darkness;  
At Thy speaking it was done.  
For created light we thank Thee,  
While Thine ordered seasons run.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!
- 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,  
Dark as night and deep as death,  
Broke the light of Thy salvation,  
Breathed Thine own life-breathing  
breath.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!
- 3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;  
Bright with Thine own holiness,  
Glorious now, we press toward glory,  
And our lives our hopes confess.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!
- 4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining  
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;  
From the cross forever beameth  
All Thy bright redeeming light.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!
- 5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,  
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the light which Thou dost send  
Fill our songs with alleluias,  
Alleluias without end!
- 6 God the Father, light-creator,  
To Thee laud and honor be.  
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever  
Praise the holy Trinity!

*ANNOUNCEMENTS (Be seated)*

*DISMISSAL*

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

*POSTLUDE*

*Thy Strong Word*  
Setting: Paul Manz

*FLOWERS: In thanksgiving for God's many blessings.* By Marge Glass

Those serving:

Sunday, September 10, 8:00 a.m.:

Greeter: Steve Janssen  
Comm. Assist.: Judy Koucky  
Reader: Norm Williams

10:30 a.m.:

Greeter: Steve Berg  
Comm. assist: Jill Hecht  
Reader: Janice Sebring  
AV Assistants: Hannes Buuck  
                  Andreas Buuck

Acknowledgments

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