

COME GROW SERVE

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church!

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

*Words printed in **bold** are spoken by all. Visitors are invited to sign the guest registry in the Narthex or fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate.*

THIS SERVICE IS LIVE STREAMED. TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

GATHERING

WELCOME

P: Welcome to those who are joining us online. Welcome to worship at St. Paul's!

PRELUDE

Musette

Leon Boellmann

The assembly is invited to stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

All: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

All: **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.**

P: 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.

All: **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW 632, v. 1-4

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray.

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The assembly is invited to be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

A reading from the First Book of Kings.

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

¹¹ He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

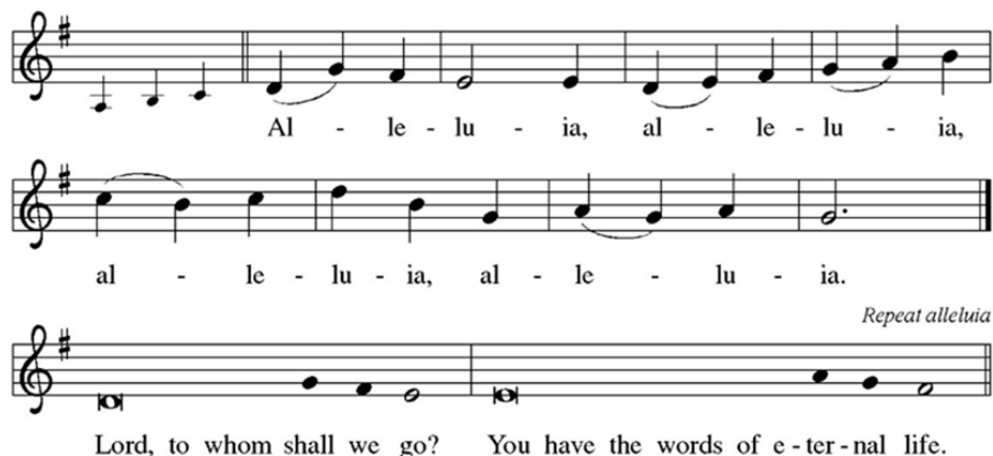
¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

The assembly is invited to stand for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pr. Mary Anderson

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

ELW 756, v. 1-3

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PM: 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.

PM: We pray for the servants of your gospel in every place, that your word may be heard. Where your voice is scorned and your people persecuted, strengthen the church in its faithful witness. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

A: For this world you have created, that all life may flourish. Preserve biodiversity in all its variety and help ecosystems to survive the extremes of a changing climate. We give thanks for our Green Team here at St. Paul’s. Move our hearts with compassion to join in this work. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

PM: For leaders of towns, states, nations, and organizations, and all who are in positions of authority, that they lead with justice and integrity. Teach us to respond with Christ-like mercy to all who are afraid or in danger. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

A: For all who struggle amid the storms of life, that they find peace and hope in your loving presence. Comfort any who are lonely and grieving and all who suffer, especially those on our prayer list and those we pray for either silently or aloud (*pause*). Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

PM: For St. Paul's and its ministries, that they reflect your love and life amid a turbulent world. Guide council members, staff, and other church leaders with your still, calm voice. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We give thanks for the faithful who have gone before us, including Gillian Olson. Guide us in our earthly journey, that we may one day join them in your eternal kingdom. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

P: 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.

All: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

MEAL

THE OFFERING

An offering is gathered and the Table is set.

MUSICAL OFFERING

There Is A Balm in Gilead

arr. Mark Hayes

Nicholas Marotta, mezzo-soprano

OFFERING PRAYER

A: 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.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

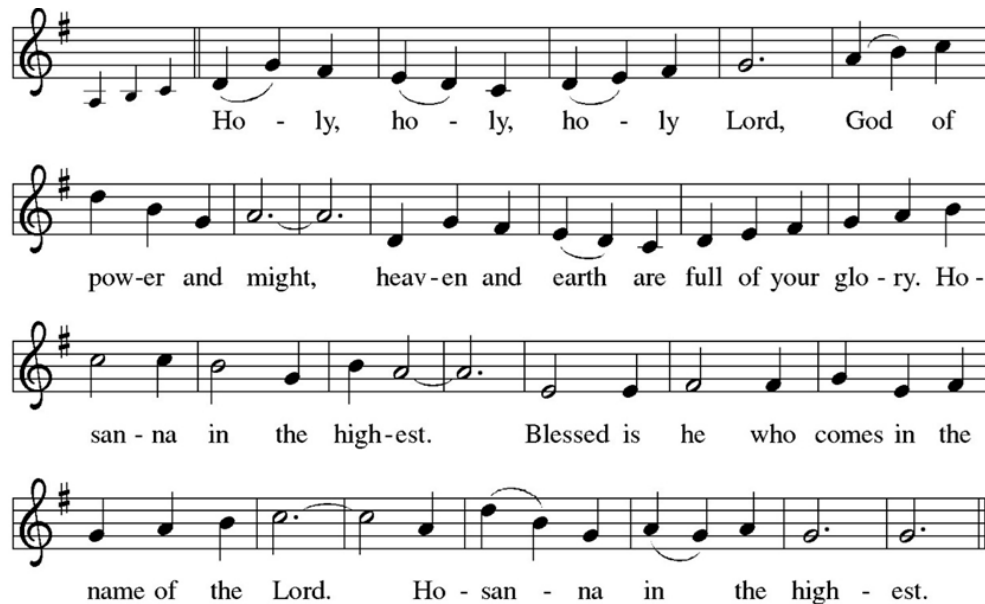
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Together as one body, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us.

All: **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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNE

P: Heaven has come near. Come share in the feast!



DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We will commune one side of the church at a time. Please come forward to receive the bread first. Gluten free wafers are available.

You may choose a cup of red wine or white grape juice.

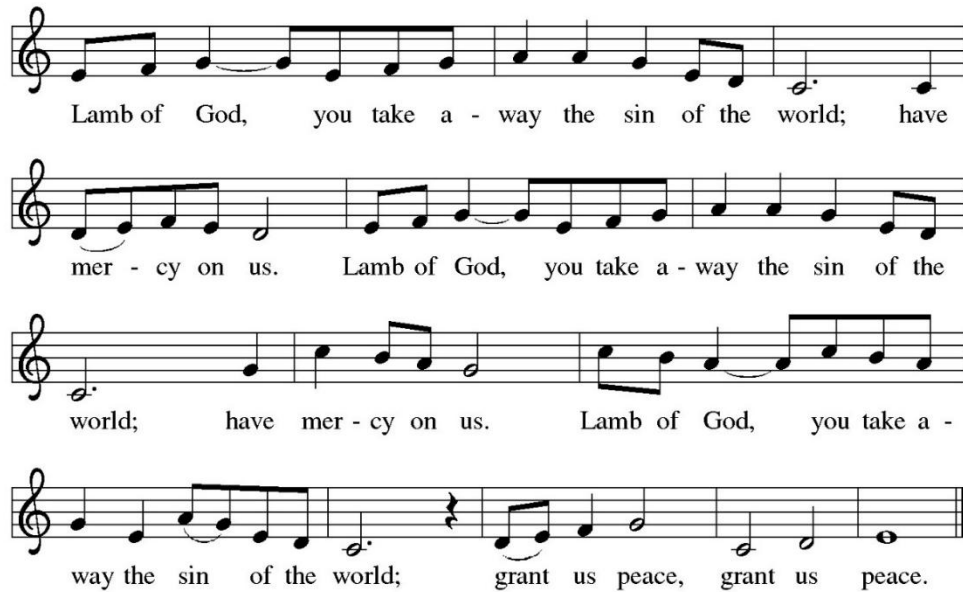
Move to the side eat and drink.

Place your empty cup in the tray provided.

All are welcome at Christ's Table. We believe Jesus is the host and the gifts of God are for everyone. Children will be offered communion unless otherwise indicated by parents. The wine is red and grape juice is white.

Please be seated.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN

*Calm to the Waves
Change My Heart, O God*

ELW 794

ELW 801

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

P: Now may the power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind, and your body to heal your wounds and, through your healing to all the earth. In Jesus' name,

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

All: Amen.

SENDING

Please be seated for the announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly is invited to stand.

SENDING BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

All: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

ELW 763, v. 1-3

DISMISSAL

A: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Sonata in D Major

Domenic Scarlatti

Coffee Hour Conversation with Pastor Mary

Grab a cup of coffee and a snack and head up to the front pews for a conversation about Mary Magdalene.

Mary Magdalene Rediscovered

This conversation will really need to be condensed because there is much to share about a 2021 shock discovery by a New Testament student who was examining a 2nd century copy of the Gospel John in a library in New York City. Come and hear how the portrait of Mary Magdalene is coming into clearer view and how her significance was diminished by the early church. You'll never read John 11 the same way again!

THANK YOU

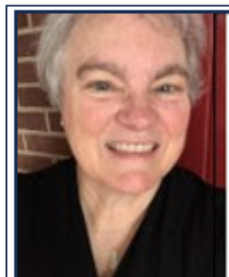
To our musician, Nicholas Marotta, mezzo-soprano.
To Linda Nagatani for hosting coffee fellowship.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For Joan Brandt.
For Jan Rock, as she recovers from stenoses.
For Bill Kastilahn, recovering from eye interaction with medication.
For Frank (godparent) and Mary Anderson, and the parents of Gillian Olson, as they mourn her death.



To donate via Zelle, aim your device's camera at the code on the left, click on the link and follow the instructions. Or you can go to your bank's website, go to Zelle payments and look for "office@stpaulvanston.org."



Welcome Back Pastor Mary Anderson

We are thrilled that Pr. Mary is making a return visit to her old stomping grounds at St. Paul's. This is the 2nd time Pr. Mary has served as our Pastoral Fellow – she was with us for June 2024, and she'll be back with us now for July 12th through August 16th.

Here's a bit of background on this extraordinarily talented worship leader:

Pastor Mary Anderson (PMA) led St. Paul's as pastor from January 1992—December 2001, and greatly enjoyed this congregation and the Evanston community. She received her M.Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia and her Doctorate in Ministry from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. She has served as a pastor for 44 years in rural and urban settings in the South Carolina Synod and the Metro Chicago Synod. She is now back home in Columbia, SC, living on the land that's been in her family since 1752. She is now serving as a called interim pastor and is currently placed among the people at Pilgrim Lutheran in Lexington, SC, which is her fifth interim site. She volunteers in Columbia as a reading tutor to elementary school students and as the Chaplain at Transitions, a homeless recovery center. She has a strong on-line presence on her website mypocketpreacher.com, as well as a blog ("Ponder Anew") www.ponderanewpma.com and a podcast ("You're on Mute") on Spotify + Apple + Google.

Her husband, Frank, is pastor at her home congregation, St. Michael's in Columbia. Daughter Colleen (42) is a geriatric nurse in Hickory, NC, and daughter Elise (37) is Pastor at St. John's in Abingdon, VA. PMA is excited and grateful to be back at St. Paul's among many friendly faces and many faithful folk.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN

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