

COME GROW SERVE

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church!

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

*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

I Danced in the Morning

Wilbur Held

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.

God, We Gather As Your People



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
 2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
 3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
 4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love,
 free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
 shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love,
 wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
 that they nev - er have a rea - son to
 May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
 As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
 doubt that they are blest, May they, in your love, find rest.
 love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
 join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand,



Refrain
 Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

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.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you.
Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy,
that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord.

All: Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

¹ Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2A, 29-32

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

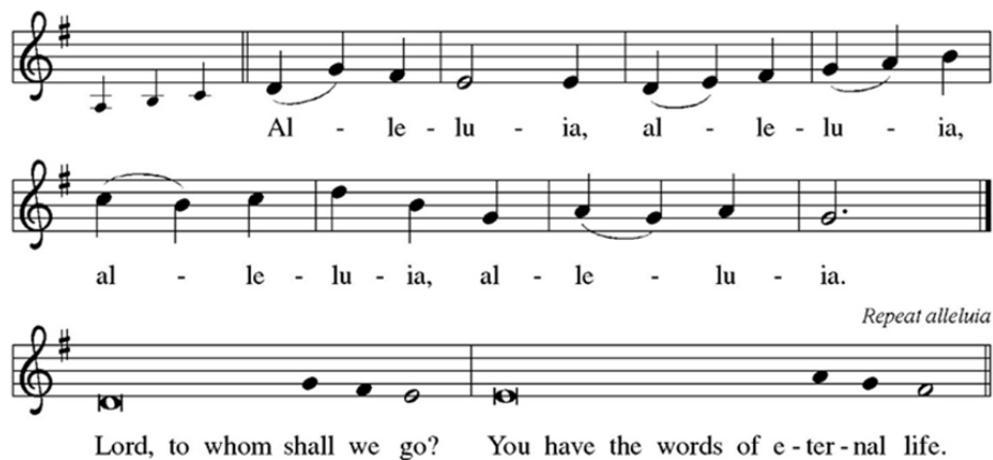
²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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 15:21-28

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

Healer of Our Ev'ry Ill

ELW 612

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: For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

A: For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats, especially endangered birds and plants along the coast of Lake Michigan. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

PM: For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. We pray especially for our country in this time of great uncertainty, of global warfare, and of national incivility. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

A: For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind, 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 congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death. 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 *City Called Heaven* spiritual, arr. Hall Johnson
Libby Harrison, 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.

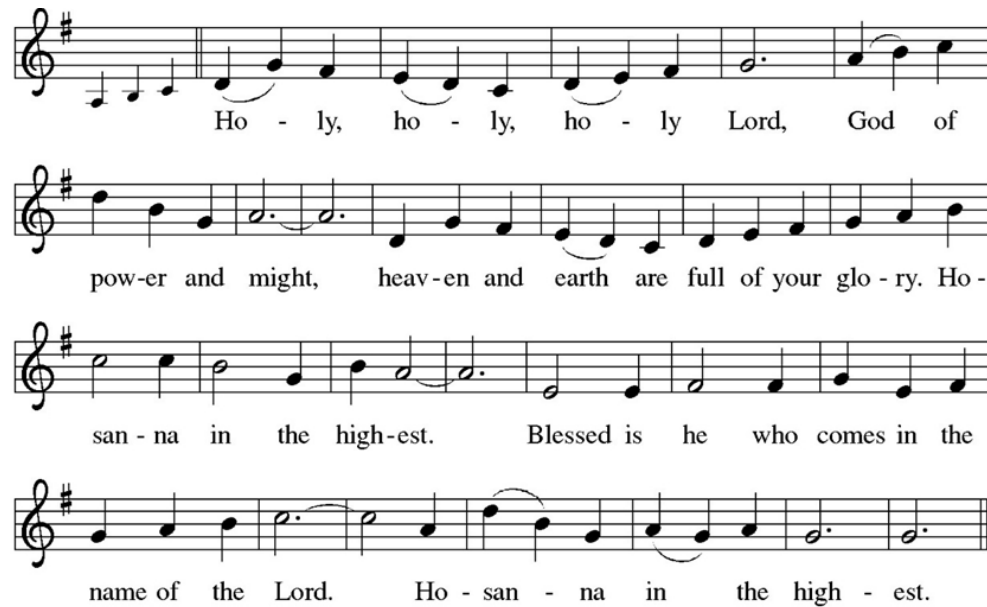
All: We lift them to the Lord.

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.

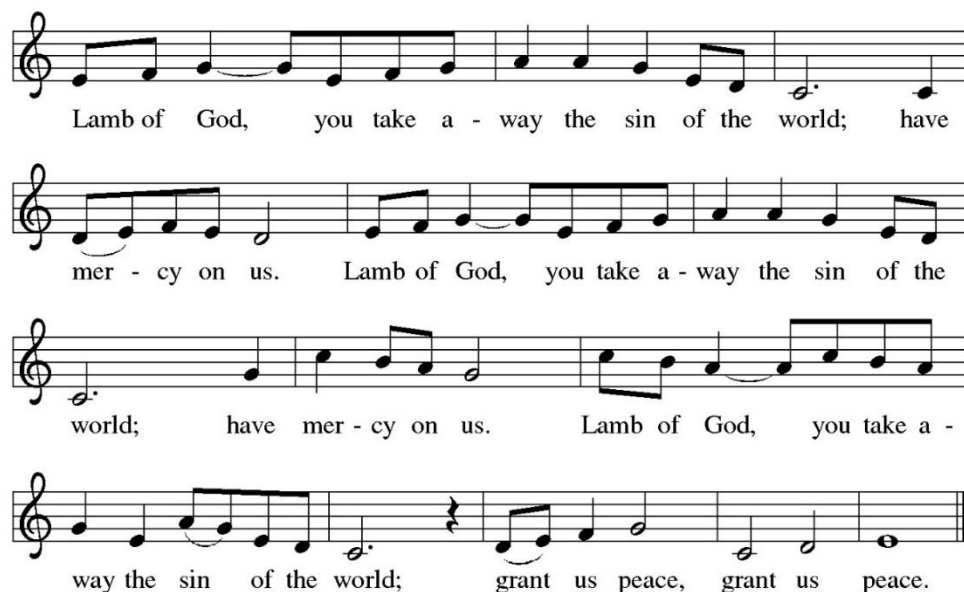
Move to the side eat and drink.

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



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

Jesus Shall Reign

ELW 434, v. 1-4

DISMISSAL

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

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Air from Suite in Eb Major

J.S. Bach

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 “By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed”: The on-going conflict between the ELCA and the North American Lutheran Church (NALC).

The well-loved, long-sung hymn, *The Church's One Foundation*, speaks in one verse of conflict within the church that complicates our message in nearly every generation. As Pastor Mary prepares to go back to South Carolina today, she goes home to a region of the church on the frontlines of a battle with the splinter denomination formed after the 2009 ELCA Statement on Human Sexuality. While this conflict has had little effect here in the Metro Chicago Synod, it is a distracting, depressing, and difficult reality in other parts of our church, mostly in the Southeast and in the upper Midwest. Come and hear what the issues are and hear a little about their battle experience.

THANK YOU

To our musician, Libby Harrison, soprano.

To Harvey Wolf and Diane DiFrancesco 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.



Pastor Mary Anderson

We are thrilled to have had Pr. Mary serving as our Pastoral Fellow for the last 6 weeks. Today we will bid a fond farewell to Mary and hope she can return again next year.

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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