

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

Vigil of Pentecost + Saturday, May 18, 2024



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

At this liturgy we gather in vigilant prayer as the disciples did in the days preceding Pentecost. Our world waits for an end to war and violence. The whole creation waits for an end to suffering. With undying hope we pray for the crowning gift of Easter—the Spirit of the risen Christ among us.

WELCOME

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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, riches, 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, glory and might to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

For the Lamb, the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you fulfilled the promise of Easter by sending the gift of your Holy Spirit. Look upon your people gathered in prayer, open to receive the Spirit's flame. May it come to rest in our hearts and heal the divisions of word and tongue, that with one voice and one song we may praise your name in joy and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Exodus 19:1-9a

At Sinai God assures Israel that they are God's prized possession and commissions them to serve as mediating priests for the nations. God's word spoken to Moses is the basis of the people's trust.

A reading from Exodus.

¹On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ²They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. ³Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: ⁴You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

⁷So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ⁸The people all answered as one: "Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do." Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD. ^{9a}Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 33:12-22

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!

Happy the people he has chosen to be his own!

¹³**The LORD looks down from heaven,
and beholds all the people in the world.**

¹⁴From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze
on all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵**He fashions all the hearts of them
and understands all their works.**

¹⁶There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army;
a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.

¹⁷**The horse is a vain hope for deliverance;
for all its strength it cannot save.**

¹⁸Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him,
on those who wait upon his love,

¹⁹**to pluck their lives from death,
and to feed them in time of famine.**

²⁰Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.

²¹**Indeed, our heart rejoices in him,
for in his holy name we put our trust.**

²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
as we have put our trust in you.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:14-17, 22-27

The Holy Spirit has made us God's children who eagerly await the glorious future God has prepared for all of creation. While we cannot fully see what God has in store for us and creation, we eagerly anticipate it in hope. Even when we are unable to pray, the same Spirit prays for us.

A reading from Romans.

¹⁴All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and 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. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people;
set them on fire with your love. Alleluia!*

GOSPEL: John 7:37-39

Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as living water, quenching the thirst of all who come to him and filling the hearts of believers until they overflow.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁷On the last day of the festival [of Booths], the great day, while Jesus was standing [in the temple], he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God, begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

We pray for the church universal, for its ministries, and for the spread of the gospel.

Show your Spirit upon Sunday school students, confirmands, and the newly baptized.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For the earth, our precious home. We give thanks for the diversity of plant and animal life on our planet. Empower us by your Spirit to be wise and faithful stewards of all you have made. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For the nations and those who govern. Give those in authority understanding hearts, that they work together to bring justice and peace on earth. Grant all who vote in elections wisdom and discernment. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For those in need around the world: for victims of crimes, for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, for those who are incarcerated. For all who suffer in any way. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For those who are sick in body, mind or spirit: for those living with chronic disease, for struggling with mental illness, for those who grieve, and for all in need of your peace and healing, especially those whose names we speak now, out loud, in our hearts, or by listing online. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For this congregation and its ministries: for those who plan and lead worship, for acolytes and communion servers, for readers and tech ministers, for all who prepare and clean our worship space. May our worship be pleasing in your sight. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We remember the faithful departed. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us in the faith. At the last day, breathe new life into our dry bones, that we might feast forever with all the saints in light. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise.

Be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph. 5:15, 18-20)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who rose beyond the bounds of death and, [on this day,] as he had promised, poured out your Spirit of life and power upon the chosen disciples. At this the whole earth exults in boundless joy. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

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

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;

you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.

We thank you for the new world to come

and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen,
the people of your promise:

the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,

the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile,
and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the incarnation of your Son:
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life:
his eating with outcasts and sinners,
and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb,
his ascension to the seat of power,
and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives,
when Christ will come again in beauty and power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we and all who share in this bread and cup
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place, and unite them
with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.
Amen, amen, amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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 HYMN

**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.**

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

Let us pray.
Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you
have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WALKING AT MENLO MALL (OR ROOSEVELT PARK). Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Call your friends and put on your walking shoes and meet at the entrance to Nordstrom under the cover of the parking garage and enjoy fellowship and walk around the park.

SENIOR LUNCHEON. Tuesday, May 21, at 11:30 a.m. Bring a light lunch and come gather and abide with friends. It's a great way to invite your neighbors to come and see what God's doing at St. Paul's and always a way God refreshes our souls. Drinks, sweets and sides provided.

BIBLE STUDY.

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. We gather in the lounge on Wednesdays for fellowship and discussion around God's Word. In the Easter Season we will read and discuss the First John. This book will be read as the second reading in worship each week.

Thursday at 7:00 p.m. This study meets on Zoom. See your virtual bulletin for the link to join this study from any place.

IT'S TIME TO REFRESH THE WEB SITE. Sunday, May 26, after Worship. Our Web is need of a refresh to better express what God is doing in St. Paul's at this time. This includes developing a strategy to use all kinds of electronic means to share the good news about Jesus and invite people into the fellowship we share here at St. Paul's ... no matter where they are in the world. If you have ideas, skills, and commitment to help us take our online and social media presence to the next level, talk to Pastor Jim and plan on attending a meeting after worship, May 26.

VBS VOLUNTEER MEETINGS. Sunday, May 26, after worship (11:30 a.m.). If you would like to volunteer to help with VBS this summer, please plan to attend a volunteers meeting on May 26 to start getting ready for VBS.

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING. Thursday, May 30, at 7:00 p.m. It's time to plan for an exciting summer of worship at St. Paul's. All serving as assisting ministers, lectors, or musicians — or those who would like to serve in those roles — are encouraged to attend and share their ideas for creating faithful and engaging worship services for all.

ST. PAUL'S PICNIC. Sunday, June 9, at 11:30 a.m. Invite your friends and family to join you for worship and stay for food, fellowship and games at our church picnic. RSVP by using the sign up sheet in the lounge or by calling the church office at (732) 287-0888.

MAKE PLANS FOR VBS. MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR CAMP FIRELIGHT

"When I am Afraid, I put my trust in you." Psalm 56:3

- Friday evening, June 28, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday evening, June 29, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- Sunday, June 30, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Camp Firelight St. Paul's Takeover! VBS for All of Us!

You'll want your neighbors to come and be part of this amazing adventure in learning and discipleship at the beginning of our summer!

REGISTER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. Children Age 3 through 6th grade can sign up for Vacation Bible school using the form link in the Virtual Bulletin or at the Camp Firelight Tree in the lounge.

VOLUNTEER TO SPARK THE EXCITEMENT! If you would like to use your unique abilities (and you have lots) to help make VBS a memorable experience for our children ... see Erin or Pastor Jim or use the sign up form in the Virtual Bulletin.

DONATE S'MORE STUFF AND ENJOY THE FUN! Between now and the end of June you can purchase and donate all the stuff that goes into making great S'MORES ... Graham Crackers, Chocolate (of all kinds), Marshmallows (of all kinds), sticks, and more! Leave your donations at the Camp Firelight Tree in the lounge.

DAILY PRAYER. Daily prayer is one of the means the Holy Spirit uses to keep us in faith. Here are two ways to make daily prayer part of your life: a daily service of morning prayer and a daily service of night prayer.

Morning Prayer: Start each day (Monday through Saturday) with a brief service of Morning Prayer. This service is available as an audio file on the [St. Paul's Website](#) and the St. Paul's Facebook each morning. You can listen and pray along from your home or take it with you as you exercise or commute.

Night Prayer: End your day in prayer and fellowship. This ongoing prayer group meets **on Zoom each night at 9:00 p.m.** to share what has been happening in their day, to let go of each day's trouble and to participate in a brief service of night prayer. Zoom log info: Meeting ID = 401 244 599 + Password: 042662

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

**Now, Lord, 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 all people:
a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father and to the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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