



# ST. PAUL'S

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Connecting people with God and each other

**Sunday, May 15, 2022: Fifth Sunday of Easter - Retreat**

*I will take refuge under the cover of your wings.  
(Psalm 61:4)*



## Opening Song: *Morning Has Broken*

### The Gathering of the Community

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: May his grace and peace be with you.

People: **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

People: *(Sung)* **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: O God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

### Children's Focus

#### The Reading of Scripture

##### **1 Kings 18:25-26, 28-29, 31, 33-39**

Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, 'Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it.' So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, 'O Baal, answer us!' But there was no voice, and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made. Then they cried aloud and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response. Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, 'Israel shall be your name'; Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, 'Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt-offering and on the wood.' Then he said, 'Do it a second time'; and they did it a second time. Again he said, 'Do it a third time'; and they did it a third time, so that the water ran all round the altar, and filled the trench also with water.

At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said,

'O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.' Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt-offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, 'The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God.'

*Reader: The Word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 61 Chanted Together**

1. Hear my cry, O God, \*  
and listen to my prayer.
2. I call upon you from the ends of the earth with heaviness in my heart; \*  
set me upon the rock that is higher than I.
3. For you have been my refuge, \*  
a strong tower against the enemy.
4. I will dwell in your house for ever; \*  
I will take refuge under the cover of your wings.
5. For you, O God, have heard my vows; \*  
you have granted me the heritage of those who fear your name.
6. Add length of days to the king's life; \*  
let his years extend over many generations.
7. Let him sit enthroned before God for ever; \*  
bid love and faithfulness watch over him.
8. So will I always sing the praise of your name, \*  
and day by day I will fulfil my vows.

### **1 Kings 19:1-12**

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.' Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up

and eat.' He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he 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?' 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.'

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; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

*Reader: The Word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Processional

### The Gospel Reading

*Reader:* The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Reader:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Gospel Reading: Luke 5:12-16*

Once, when he was in one of the cities, there was a man covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground and begged him, 'Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.' Then Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, 'I do choose. Be made clean.' Immediately the leprosy left him. And he ordered him to tell no one. 'Go', he said, 'and show yourself to the priest, and, as Moses commanded, make an offering for your cleansing, for a testimony to them.' But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray.

*Reader: The Gospel of Christ.*

**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



## Prayers of the People

Leader: Let us not forget those in need.  
Here, in your arms of O God, where you love us with the intensity of a parent, we remember our world:

All: **Its places of power, in need of God's wisdom and humility  
Its peoples, longing for His lessons of understanding and trust**

*Silent prayers are offered*

Leader: Here, in the arms of God Who hears every cry, every desire and every hope, let us remember the country which gives us a home:

All: **Its poor and hopeless ones, in need of compassion and care  
Its broken and destructive ones, searching for healing and peace  
Its children, longing for love and guidance**

*Silent prayers are offered*

Leader: Here, in the arms of God Who has engraved our names on the palms of His hands, let us remember ourselves and those we love:

All: **Our tears, seeking consolation  
Our pain, hoping to be soothed  
Our fears, reaching for faith  
Our lives, hungry and thirsty for God**

*Silent prayers are offered*

## Sharing the Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of Christ I share with you

People: **May Christ's peace rest upon you as well**

## Offertory Song: *Man of Sorrows*

## Prayers Before Communion

Celebrant: Let us not forget why we gather. Loving God, Timeless Designer of time and place, You have gathered us here together in this tiny fragment of earth, this small fraction of history. You have chosen this sacred moment to fill our minds and to touch our Spirits with God, to remind us of You and Your awesomely weak human life among us. We

gather here because we forget.

**All: Speak to us again, O God**

Celebrant: When life breaks over us, we forget Your strength

**All: Still the waves again, O God**

Celebrant: When pain is a constant, unwelcome companion, we forget Your compassion

**All: Touch and heal again, O God**

Celebrant: When fear and uncertainty undermine us, we forget Your Presence

**All: Stand among us again, O God**

Celebrant: When grief hollows out our hearts, we forget Your comfort

**All: Weep with us again, O God**

Celebrant: We need the gentle whisperings of Your Spirit to inspire faith in us again. We need to know once more that we are truly not alone; that we are loved with life-forfeiting love; that we are forgiven by debt-cancelling grace; that we are restored to vulnerable relationship with You

**All: We thank You for this brief retreat into remembering and re-creation. Let us not forget, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

Celebrant: Let us not forget our life together, as we gather together around this table of memories as God's family. Let us remember as we greet each other:

That God has made us all in God's image

That despite our sin God does not cease to care for us

That in the fullness of time God sent Jesus, God's only son, to share our human nature and to live and die as one of us

That God raised Jesus from the dead and banished the darkness of sin and despair

That God has placed us in His loving community.

That this table and this community is always open to everyone in God's family who wishes to be here.

**People: This is not a right to be earned. This is not a reward to be achieved. This is a gift which can only be accepted from our forgiving and generous God.**

Celebrant: Let us not forget Jesus. It was at a table like this that Jesus shared His last meal with His followers. We lift the bread as He did. We break it as He did. And we share it remembering His words: "My body is

broken for you. Eat and remember me.” We also lift the cup as He did. And we share it remembering His words: “My blood flows for you. Drink and remember me.” Here and now we are one in this memory and this meal.

**All: One loaf, one cup, one Lord laying down His life for us.**

### **The Communion**

*You are welcome to receive communion or come forward for a blessing. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please fold your arms over your chest. Gluten-free wafers available upon request.*

### **Communion Music: O Sacred Head Now Wounded**

### **Prayer After Communion**

**Celebrant:** Let us not forget our mission. It is not for us alone that this sacrifice was made . . .

**All:** **God's love for the world is so strong that He gave His only Son. Whoever believes may enter His life.**

**Celebrant:** This meal reminds of the world He loves. And so, at His word, we share life with all people, so that all people may share in His life.

**All:** **Teach us, Lord, to be a people of open arms, large hearts, and faithful companionship. We remember Your mission to save us, Your call to work through us, And your promise to draw all creation back to You in Jesus. Amen**

### **Blessing**

### **Closing Song: My Jesus, I Love You**

### **The Dismissal**

**Celebrant:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**