



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BOLD WOMEN'S SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL!

We are happy to have you here!

HOW TO KNOW WHEN TO STAND, SIT, OR SPEAK

Whenever you see an asterisk (*) at a heading, you are invited to stand as you are able. You are not required to stand, so if, for health or emotional reasons you cannot or do not wish to stand, that is okay.

You are invited to speak the words printed in **bold type**.

WE ARE AN OPEN COMMUNION CONGREGATION

This means that any Christian who has received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is invited to receive Holy Communion.

HOW TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT US



Offerings can be made online at **stpaulpgm.org/give**, mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 200, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, placed in the mail slot (outside door to Pastor Paul's office), or in the offering plate located in the lobby/narthex near the entrance of the sanctuary.

A NOTE ON COMMUNION WAFERS



To topple barriers that prevent participation in worship, we want to make it possible for individuals with Celiac Disease or gluten intolerant to be able to eat the Body of our Lord. Our default wafers are made by Parish Crossroads and are known as "Low Gluten Wafers" because they contain trace amounts of gluten. However, the wafers are tested at least once a year for how much gluten is in them. Since 2020, the wafers have routinely tested to contain

15ppm gluten or less (The US FDA defines most food products with 20ppm or less as "gluten free"). Use the QR Code and look for the link that gives the most recent test results. If you still have concerns, we have some truly gluten-free wafers available upon request.

GATHERING

The Gathering for worship began when you started readying yourself for worship

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

PRELUDE — Out of consideration for our musicians, please refrain from talking during the prelude.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. A: Amen.

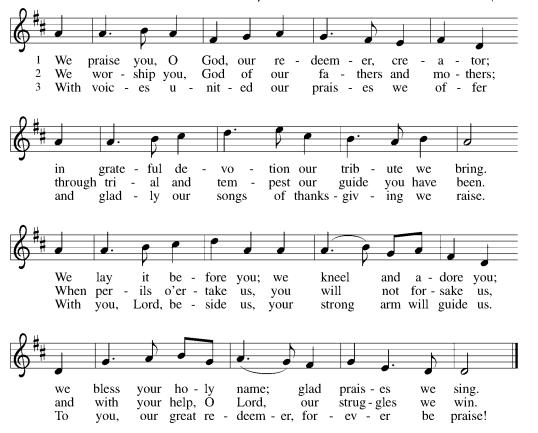
L: Let us confess our sin, in the presence of God and of one another.

L Most merciful God, A: we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **A: Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN "We Praise You, O God"

(ELW 870)



Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963

Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck, 1626

*GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: And also with you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray. O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 4:11-12, 22-28

Because Luke often presents Jesus as carrying on the ministry of the Old Testament prophets, our first readings during these weeks is from several of those figures. Today we continue reading through the book of Jeremiah. Today's reading presents the nation's destruction by the Babylonians as a result of their injustice and idolatry. The missing verses describe God's anguish at this judgment and the suffering it entails.

¹¹ At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward the daughter of my people, not to winnow or cleanse, ¹² a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them.

22 "For my people are foolish; they do not know me;
they are stupid children; they have no understanding.
They are skilled in doing evil but do not know how to do good."

- ²³I looked on the earth, and it was complete chaos, and to the heavens, and they had no light.
- ²⁴I looked on the mountains, and they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro.
- ²⁵I looked, and there was no one at all, and all the birds of the air had fled.
- ²⁶ I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger.
- ²⁷ For thus says the LORD: The whole land shall be a desolation, yet I will not make a full end.
 - ²⁸ Because of this the earth shall mourn and the heavens above grow black, for I have spoken; I have purposed; I have not relented, nor will I turn back.

L: The word of the Lord. A: Thanks be to God.

This psalm continues Jeremiah's message, but with an element of hope that is absent from this reading (though not from Jeremiah's wider preaching).



SECOND READING: 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17

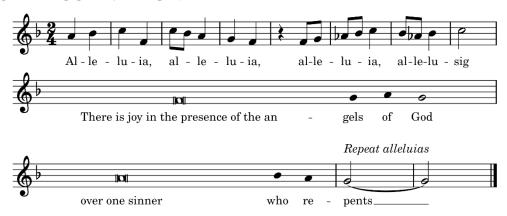
Today we begin reading through the letters addressed to Timothy. Purporting to be written by Paul to his young colleague, whom he left behind as pastor of the church at Ephesus, they give advice to pastors and congregations about how to minister together. Today's reading fits well with the theme of repentance and renewal in the first reading and the Gospel.

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might

display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

L: The word of the Lord. A: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: LUKE 15:1-10

For the last several weeks the Gospels have focused on the cost of discipleship. This week we begin a series of parables about God's joy at reconciliation with sinners – concluding with that of the Prodigal Son, which we heard during Lent.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a

lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

L: The gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



- 5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.

 Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt. Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

*APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain (*especially*). Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life, especially Twila May Corl, Lois Corl, and Janet Conrad. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

A: Amen.

*PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also with you.**

MEAL

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

*OFFERTORY: "Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring"

(ELW 691)



- 1 Ac-cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up-on your ta-ble.
- 2 The vines were plant ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea-sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble. What once was com - mon, dail - y food be-comes a ho - ly trea-sure. Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum-bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957 Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

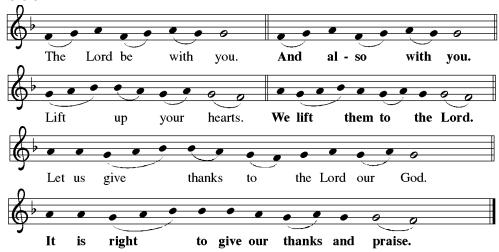
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*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE

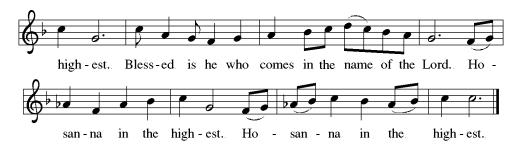


*PREFACE

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus





*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: All praise to you, glorious God of grace.

Throughout the ages you have blessed us with foremothers of the faith.

With Sarah, we bless you for your gift of life. Gen. 18:12

With Ruth, we praise you for family and food. Ruth 4:13

With Miriam, we celebrate our escape from the foe. Exod. 15:21

Remembering Deborah,

we honor the words of your prophets. *Judges 4:4-5*

Remembering the woman at the well,

we laud you for living water. John 4:29

Remembering Junia, we thank you for those

who minister among your people. Rom. 16:7

One with the daughter of Jairus,

we wake to life in you. Mark 5:41-42

With Mary, we magnify your name:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. Luke 1:46

On the night before he was handed over, he 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.

We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Remembering Martha and Mary,

we join Jesus at this meal. Luke 10:38-39

Living, he healed the bleeding woman; Mark 5:29

dying, he cared for his mother; John 19:26-27

risen, he sent Mary Magdalene in mission. John 20:14-18

With these and all our forebearers we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Mighty God of mercy,

as you heard the prayers of Hannah,

so now hear us. 1 Sam. 1:27

Send your Spirit on this bread and wine,

that sharing the body and blood of Christ

we become his body in the world.

Send your Spirit on this assembly, that like Phoebe,

we serve one another with zeal. Rom. 16:1

Send your Spirit on the church, that like Anna,

we tell others of your mercy. Luke 2:38

Send your Spirit into our hearts, that like Dorcas,

we care for the poor and needy. Acts 9:40-41

A: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise to you, powerful God of peace.

We adore you, our God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

you who mother and feed and comfort us, today, tomorrow, and forever.

Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: 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.

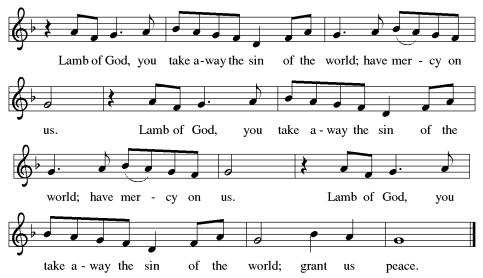
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into time of trial,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
forever and ever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

*LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION

P: The body of Christ, given for you. L: The blood of Christ, shed for you. A: Amen.

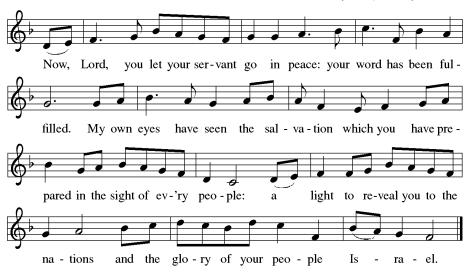
COMMUNION HYMN: "I am Thine, O Lord"



*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you, body, mind, and soul, now, and unto eternal life. **A: Amen**

*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – Nunc Dimittis (Now, Lord)



*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **A: Amen.**

SENDING

*SENDING OF COMMUNION

L: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **A: Amen.**

BOLD WOMEN'S DAY LITANY

One Voice: Made in the image of a bold, beautiful God, we yearn to embody that grace in this world God so loves

Many: We long to tell our authentic truths, to hear and share stories, to nurture one another and serve God's creation. We crave healing and wholeness for all.

One: But sometimes we are overwhelmed—seduced by what is frivolous, distracted from what is important.

Many: Teach us when to care and when to step aside.

One: We groan for renewal and change yet fear that we are not enough can immobilize us. Guilt and shame provoke us to be overly busy and to hide.

Many: Teach us when to rest and breathe and when to rise to action.

One: Where can we find rest? How can our lives make a meaningful difference?

Many: Teach us when to be silent and still. Teach us when to shout and sing.

One: Remind us you cherish us when we get it right and when we don't.

Many: Embolden us to live fully in the freedom of your indestructible love.

One: Show us the way. Stay with us while we practice and learn. Hold us always.

Many: Amen.

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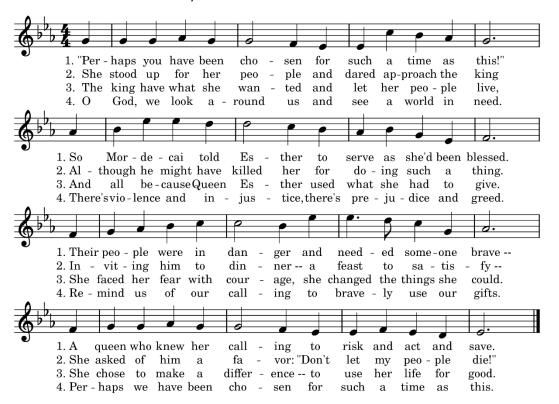
ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may be seated.

*BLESSING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the Son, 4 and the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN: "Perhaps You Have Been Chosen"



*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, September 14

Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-10 (1) 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10

Monday, September 15

Amos 7:1-6 1 Timothy 1:18-20 Psalm 73

Tuesday, September 16

Jonah 3:1-10 2 Peter 3:8-13 Psalm 73

Wednesday, September 17

Job 40:6-14; 42:1-6 Luke 22:31-33, 54-62 Psalm 73

Thursday, September 18

Exodus 23:1-9 Romans 3:1-8 Psalm 113

Friday, September 19

Ezekiel 22:17-31 Romans 8:31-39 Psalm 113

Saturday, September 20

Isaiah 5:8-23 Mark 12:41-44 Psalm 113



SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister	Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Worship Leader	Morgen Hummel
Pianist	Michelle McMullen
Sacristan	Delorse Homan
Reader	Ann Reede
Guest Speaker	Jennifer Pencek,
·	Executive Director at Centre Safe

ABOUT ST. PAUL

PURPOSE

We are a beacon, boldly sharing the light of Jesus' grace and love.

MISSION

Guided by Jesus, we strengthen faith, deepen compassion, extend generosity, and serve community.

CORE VALUES

Faith • Compassion • Generosity • Community

OUR BIBLE VERSES

As Paul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. [Jesus said,] 'Paul is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before the nations.' – Acts 9:3,15

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock people, where we gather for worship this morning. We also acknowledge the Seneca, Cayuga, Lenne Lenape, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home.

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