



ST. PAUL'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



# 18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27th, 2026

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN – ELW 883

### All People That on Earth Do Dwell

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in five stanzas, with the first four stanzas having five lines of text each, and the fifth stanza having four lines of text. The music is a simple, hymn-like setting with a steady rhythm and a clear melody.

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the  
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our  
3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with  
4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy  
5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom

Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his  
aid he did us make. We are his folk, he  
joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his  
is for - ev - er - sure; his truth at all times  
heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the

praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice.  
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.  
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.  
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.  
an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

**C: Amen.**

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,

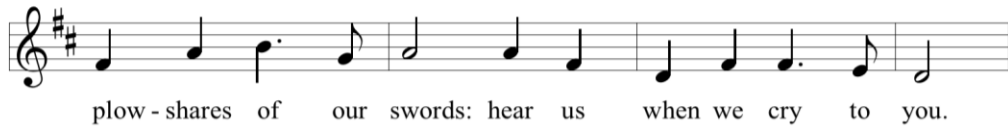
**C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

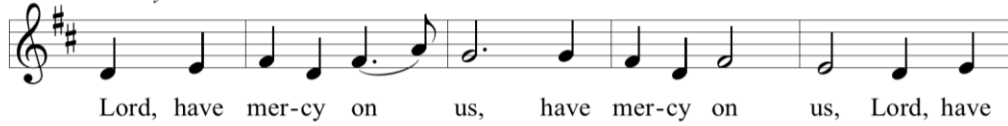
**C: Amen.**

# KYRIE

*Cantor*



*Assembly*



*Cantor*



*Assembly*



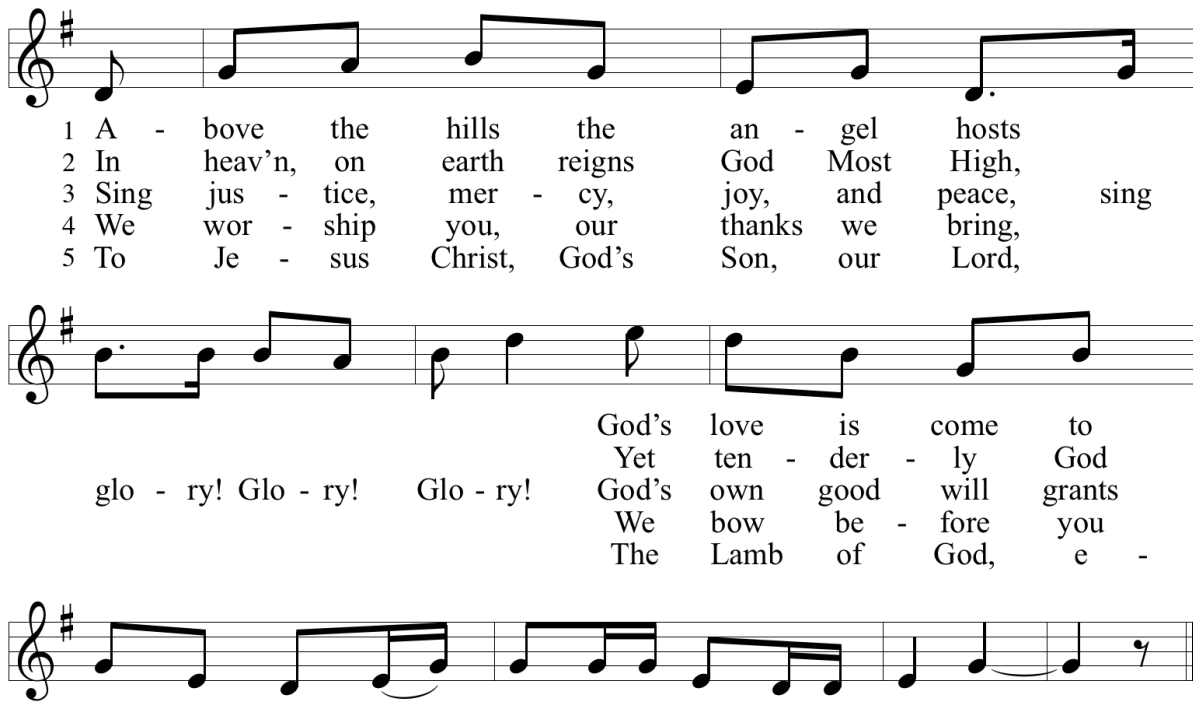
*Cantor*



*Assembly*



## Glory



1 A - bove the hills the an - gel hosts  
 2 In heav'n, on earth reigns God Most High,  
 3 Sing jus - tice, mer - cy, joy, and peace, sing  
 4 We wor - ship you, our thanks we bring,  
 5 To Je - sus Christ, God's Son, our Lord,

glo - ry! Glo - ry! Glo - ry! God's love is come to  
 Yet ten - der - ly God  
 God's own good will grants  
 We bow be - fore you  
 The Lamb of God, e -

seek the lost.  
 hears our cry.  
 sin's re - lease. Give glo - ry to God in the high - est!  
 as we sing.  
 ter - nal Word.

### GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**C: And also, with you.**

P: Let us pray. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Choir Anthem

## **WORD**

### **First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

### **Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13**

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he existed in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be grasped,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly

and gave him the name

that is above every other name,  
 so that at the name given to Jesus  
 every knee should bend,  
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
 and every tongue should confess  
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
 to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence  
 but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and  
 trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to  
 work for his good pleasure.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### \*GRADUAL HYMN

1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun-dred - fold,  
 2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,  
 3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field

we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,  
 at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.  
 will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.

who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil  
 Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,  
 Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;

where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.  
 that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.  
 and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter, beginning with the 23rd verse.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

## Sermon

# HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW 806

## O God, My Faithful God



1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,  
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing  
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;  
 4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;

with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:  
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—  
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;  
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;

give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in  
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless  
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,  
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,

a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.  
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.  
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.  
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT, Ahasuerus Fritsch, 1629–1701

### **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Let us now confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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, and 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**

A: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

*A brief silence.*

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need, especially Rosemary Rizzo, Tony Rizzo, Erin Jankowski, Dee Marinov, John Veihdeffer, Diane Busdiecker, Sarah Burke, Pat Nowak, Mary Ann and Chip Orlando, and all those we name in our hearts. Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

## PEACE

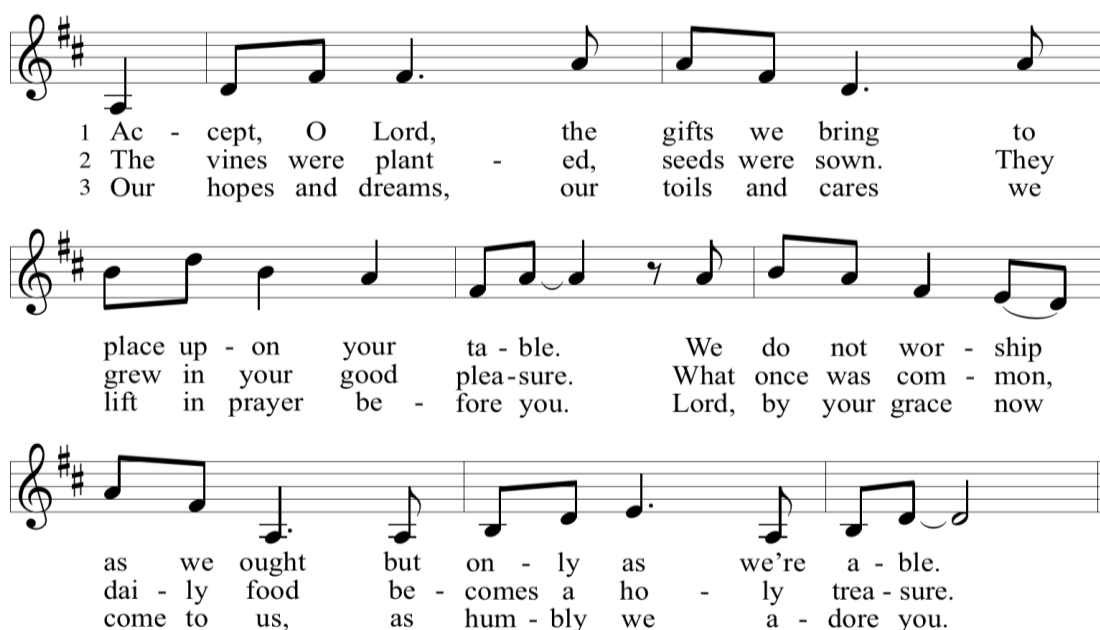
P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also, with you.**

P: Let us share God's peace with each other now.

## MEAL

### OFFERING AND SETTING THE TABLE



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to  
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They  
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we

place up - on your ta - ble. We do not wor - ship  
grew in your good plea - sure. What once was com - mon,  
lift in prayer be - fore you. Lord, by your grace now

as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.  
dai - ly food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.  
come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

### \*OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: **God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

### **\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

### **\*THE PROPER PREFACE**

P: We exalt you, Lord God for the holy extravagance of your salvation. Worthy are you to whom we bow, for in your Son you have knelt before us in humility. You have looked with favor upon your servant Israel; you have scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts and have lifted up the lowly. Your Son, though of the same love and same mind as you, did not regard equality with you as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. Being born in human likeness, he humbled himself even unto death on a cross. You lifted him up in resurrection glory, and exalted him to your right hand on high. And so, on bended knee, we confess him as Lord, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, joining the unending hymn:

*Verses: Cantor or choir*



1 Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the  
 2 High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes  
 3 Oh, what a sight it was to see and

scrip - tures do re - cord, I - sa - iah to the  
 flow - ing through the hall, while six - wing - ed an - gels  
 oh, what a sound to hear! The tem - ple door - posts

tem - ple came to see the ho - ly Lord.  
 flew a - bove. I - sa - iah heard them call.  
 shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air.

*Refrain: Assembly*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's  
 glo - ry fills all heav'n and earth, God of pow - er and might.

## Words of Institution

P: 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.

And so Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Lord Jesus taught us.

**C:** 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.

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P:** Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

### **COMMUNION MUSIC**



1 O Lamb of God, to earth you came to  
 2 O Lamb of God, the on - ly Son, to

save us all from grief and shame. Shorn of your life, up -  
 us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. You save the world from

on the tree you hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
 all its sin. Lord, give to us your peace. A - men.

\*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

# COMMUNION HYMN – ELW 471

## Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

## **SENDING**

### **\*PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

P: And now may this, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace forever.

C: **Amen.**

A: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

### **\*BENEDICTION**

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn – ELW 537 (See next page)**

### **DISMISSAL**

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

## On Our Way Rejoicing



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.  
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.  
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;  
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?  
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

*Refrain*

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,  
hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.  
Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

\*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WE PRAY FOR...

ROSEMARY RIZZO  
TONY RIZZO  
ERIN JANKOWSKI  
DEE MARINOV  
MARYANN AND CHIP  
ORLANDO  
JOHN VEIDOFFER  
SARAH BURKE  
DIANE BUSDIECKER  
THE DICKIE FAMILY  
PAT NOWAK

GEORGE TROESTER- SON OF MAUREEN SIETESKI  
MAYA CHAKRABORTY  
KATHERINE SIKORSKI  
ANGELA ROESER  
EMILY- NIECE OF PATTY WALKER  
JANICE DARVEAU- FRIEND OF KATHY BUSDIECKER  
DAVID JINKS- FATHER OF SARAH KUEHFUS  
REED AND MARSHALL WHITE- COUSINS OF NANCY STOEHR  
KEVIN MACIVER- SECOND COUSIN OF ANNETTE BERG  
WANDA ZYGMUNTOWICZ- FRIEND OF JOE SOMMA  
DAN GRAUPMAN- COUSIN OF SUE GIBBONS  
JAMES STONER - BROTHER-IN-LAW OF KATHY HABERMEHL  
GRACE - GRANDDAUGHTER OF PAT NOWAK

## BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet on September 27th to discuss Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall. This is a book that is sure to spark thoughtful conversation, emotional reactions, and a wide range of opinions. Whether you loved it, questioned the characters' choices, or were surprised by the ending, come prepared for a lively discussion!  
Discussion Leader: Nancy Daniels | Hostess: Kathy Hannon

Altar flowers are given by George and Angela Roeser in Loving memory of Lloyd, Emily, and Carl Roeser.

St. Paul's has a Cardiac Emergency Response Team (CERT) to help in a cardiac emergency. When needed, CERT members will: (1) identify a person at risk of cardiac arrest; assess, begin chest compressions; (2) Call 911; (3) Get the AED (located on the wall in the vestibule outside of the Church Office; (4) Usher people out of the sanctuary.



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# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

The worship bulletin is intended to help guide us through our worship. Sections in bold print are for congregation response. Non-communing children and adults are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Please contact an usher if you need to be communed in the pew.



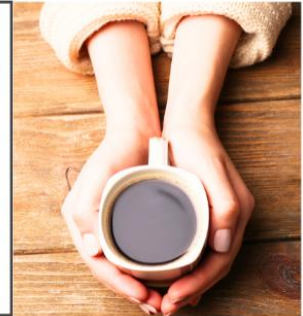
## ALL ARE WELCOME!

We believe our risen Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion and we extend our Lord's invitation to all who are baptized to share in this meal. We have both red wine and grape juice in the center of the communion tray available for all who come to the Lord's table. Gluten free wafers are also available. If you need gluten free, please let Pastor know upon reaching the front of the communion line.



## COFFEE HOUR

All are welcome to join us for Coffee Hour before service. We meet for coffee, muffins or danish, and conversation! If you'd like to bring some goodies, please see the sign up in the kitchen. We hope to see you there!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School meets from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.



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## An Invitation to Grace

It is so easy and so tempting to build ourselves up at the expense of others. "I can't imagine ever doing that." "How can people live like that?" "Who would do such a thing?" At some point we all think or say these sorts of things. Like it or not, we use these words to comfort ourselves at the expense of others.

But all people stand in need of God's grace. Each of this day's readings shows us this reality. In the parable of the two sons, Jesus invites us to choose between two sons when neither fully does the will of their father.

Here Jesus makes the point that we are all equally in need of God's grace. Ezekiel proclaims God's invitation, "Turn, then, and live" (Ezek. 18:32). This is an invitation that extends to all people from a God deeply desiring a loving and life-giving relationship with humanity.

In Philippians, we are reminded of Jesus' act of grace on the cross, emptying himself, becoming sin so that all creation might be redeemed through him. In response, we discover a vision of the day in which all creation speaks with a unified voice, declaring that Jesus Christ is Lord.

This is a day of confession and forgiveness. We confess our need for God, our distance from God, and our failures before God. In response, to our joy, we discover again the grace of God outpoured. All humans are in need of God's grace; God extends grace to all, and one day we will confess that salvation as one people. All of today's readings reveal the way in which all humans are equal in the eyes of God.

**PASTOR ASHLIN MARCHESE**  
PREACHER/PRESIDER

**PATRICK GARD**  
ORGANIST

**DAVID JOHNSTON**  
LITURGICAL ASSISTANT

**DAVE NUZZO**  
COMMUNION ASSISTANT

**DAWN DEMORROW & JOHN DOERFLER**  
USHERS

**PATTY & ELLIE WALKER**  
ALTAR GUILD

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