

# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

7th Sunday after Pentecost + Saturday, July 6, 2024



## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The*

*Spirit always operates in the "between": between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.*

## WELCOME

### BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**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.**

### **KYRIE**

Lord, have mercy:

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy:

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy:

**Lord, have mercy.**

### **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 and 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  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

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

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:1-5**

*In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.*

A reading from Ezekiel.

<sup>1</sup> [A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.<sup>2</sup> And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup> The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." <sup>5</sup> Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 123**

<sup>1</sup> To you I lift up my eyes,  
to you enthroned in the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> **As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,  
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,**

<sup>3</sup> so our eyes look to the LORD our God,  
until he show us his mercy.

<sup>4</sup> **Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,  
for we have had more than enough of contempt,**

<sup>5</sup> too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,  
and of the derision of the proud.

## **SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10**

*Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.*

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

<sup>2</sup>I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. <sup>3</sup>And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—<sup>4</sup>was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, <sup>7</sup>even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup>Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, <sup>9</sup>but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

## **GOSPEL: Mark 6:1-13**

*At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God's word and relieve affliction.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup>On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! <sup>3</sup>Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” <sup>5</sup>

And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. <sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup> He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup> He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; <sup>9</sup> but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup> He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. <sup>11</sup> If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." <sup>12</sup> So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. <sup>13</sup> They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

Glorious God, you bend down to wash the feet of your disciples. Let the servant church arise in our teaching, our praying, our healing, and our doing. Make all your faithful people powerful in weakness and strong in grace. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Life-giving God, your fingers trace the heavens and your hands mold the earth. Where there is drought, bring nourishing rain. Where there is devastation from fire or flood, bring relief. Sustain the well-being of every living thing. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, you speak and the nations listen. Open those who govern to the cries of all who journey with no food or shelter, particularly people fleeing violence, those seeking freedom, and those in search of community. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, your embrace brings wholeness to those who are troubled. Anoint those whose names we speak out loud, in our hearts or list online ... all who suffer in any way with the oil of healing and grant them renewal. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Welcoming God, in your presence strangers become companions and enemies become neighbors. Open our doors to those we have so easily shut out, particularly people who are different from us or who are marginalized by church or society. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, you gather us into your house of many dwelling places. We give you thanks for our faithful departed (*especially*). Inspire us by their lives of faith until, with them, we rest forever at our journey's end. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*We worship God by giving our offering in praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done for. We use put these offerings to use in obedience to our Lord's command to go and share the good news of Jesus Christ. You may place your offering in the offering plate or give electronically through the St. Paul's Web site [www.stpauls-edison.org](http://www.stpauls-edison.org).*

## PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace our table with your presence, Lord,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

## 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 on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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 power and might,**

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

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,  
that by this Holy Communion we may know  
the unity we share with all your people  
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**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

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

**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.**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

**Amen**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU!** Thank you to Erin, Sue, Lu and all our Camp Firelight workers, planners and volunteers. Be sure to stay after worship today for all the different activities for children and adults!

**NOTE NEW EVENING TIME FOR WALKING AT ROOSEVELT PARK. Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. and Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.** Call your friends and put on your walking shoes and meet at skating rink entrance and enjoy fellowship and walk around the park.

## BIBLE STUDY

**Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.** We gather in the lounge on Wednesdays for fellowship and discussion around God's Word.

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

**MID-YEAR CONGREGATION MEETING. Sunday, July 14.** There's been a lot going on at St. Paul's over the last few months. Plan to stay after worship to check in on the state of our fellowship at the mid-point of 2024. **TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!. Sunday, July 28.** Sign up to be part of the St. Paul's community cheering on the Somerset Patriots. Tickets are \$10 each; you can sign up in the lounge. If you can't afford tickets, don't worry. We have five free tickets. Just let Pastor Jim know that you need them.

**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

### **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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