

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)



Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
Service of Holy Communion  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
November 15, 2020 at 11 am

# Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A "Reconciling in Christ"  
Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America (ELCA).

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **WELCOME**

*As you arrive, please sanitize your hands and take a communion packet from the table. There are 2 tabs: the clear one on top opens the container with the bread and the second one opens the container with the wine. When instructed, we will open the cups and receive the bread and wine.*

### **CHORAL PRELUDE**

The choir sings hymn #710.

*1-Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth; give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth. The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights, the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight. Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow'r; abolish ancient vengeance; proclaim your people's hour.*

*2-For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end, for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend. Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun, on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run, O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one; dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.*

*3-Your city's built to music; we are the stones you seek; your harmony is language; we are the words you speak. Our faith we find in service, our hope in others' dreams, our love in hand of neighbor; our homeland brightly gleams. Inscribe our hearts with justice; your way—the path untried; your truth—the heart of stranger; your life—the Crucified.*

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

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, one God,  
in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us  
beloved.

**C** Amen.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Holy One,  
C we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

P Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through ✝ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. C Amen.

### \*GREETING

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.

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
C Amen.

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

Lisa Wackler

*Today's other readings are:*

**Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

*The day of the LORD*

**Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12**

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (*Ps. 90:12*)

### READING

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

**P** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **\*INSTRUMENTAL GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

#### **\*GOSPEL**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

**P** The Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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

*Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more

talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

P The Gospel of the Lord.  
C Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

Pastor Andrea Walker

### **\*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**

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light *especially for* .... Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

*(Please remember to send your offering via mail, online giving or by text. Our Text2Give number is 844-262-6943)*

## **OFFERING ANTHEM**

*My Lord, what a morning*—traditional spiritual, at hymn #438

*My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning; oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.*

You will hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.

You will hear the sinner cry...

You will hear the Christian shout...

## **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**A** Let us pray. God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**C 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.**

## **\*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; 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C 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.**

### **\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**P** 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 upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **C Amen.**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray together the prayer Our Savior taught us:

**C 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

P These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

*At this time, please open the first tab to receive the bread.*

P This is the body of Christ given for you.

*At this time, please open the second tab to receive the wine.*

P This is the blood of Christ shed for you.

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet.

Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

**C Amen.**

### **\*BLESSING**

P May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

**C Amen.**

### **\*DISMISSAL**

A Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

Prelude No. 15 in G major from *Well-Tempered Clavier (Book 1)*  
by J.S. Bach (BWV 860)



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***Today, we pray for those who are sick or suffering in any way, especially;*** Judy Baumgardner, Carmen Ortiz, Carol Hollar, the Revana and Mahan families, Marty, Maggie, Jane, JJ, Barb Pitts, Carolyn Boston, Michon, Taquina, Levi, John LeSane, Julie Hamlin, Greg McAllister, the Carr family, Pearl Apisson, Gillian Flory, Russell and Stephanie Thomas, Joan Tolbert, Stefanie Skurcenski, Barbara Hostage, Sue Ericsson, Russell Stevens, Glenn Ralph, Betty Mastrobattista, Richard, Dallas Dean, Carolyn Denison, Lois Leland, Bill Jackson, Grace Yin, Ralph Benson, Susan Russo, the Rademacher family, Neal, the Williamson family, persecuted Christians throughout the world, and all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

