

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat,

Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.

This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pentecost 2 JUNE 11, 2023

PRELUDE and WELCOME

HYMN ELW 870 WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD verse 1

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring;
we lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name: glad praises we sing.**

Listen, my people, and I will speak:.....

for I am God, your God.

For all the wild animals of the forest are mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.

I know every bird of the mountains,
and the creatures of the fields are mine.

HYMN ELW 870 WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD verse 2

**We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been;
when perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.**

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,

and make good your vows to the Most High.

Call upon me in the day of trouble;

I will deliver you, and you shall honour me."

HYMN ELW # 870 WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD verse 3

**With voices united our praises we offer,
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise;
with you, Lord beside us, your strong arm will guide us,
to you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!**

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

GENESIS 12:1-9

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh.

At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ROMANS 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness."

Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN ELW # 174 CELTIC ALLELUIA

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

MATTHEW 9:9-13, 18-26

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said

to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

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

SERMON

HYMN ELW # 861 WHEN LONG BEFORE TIME

**When long before time and the worlds were begun,
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
and even our Maker had only a dream...**

**The silence was broken when God sang the Song,
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
and with its first birthcries creation was born,
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.**

**The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord's,
their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word;
the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the song;
the choir of the creatures re-echoed it long.**

**Though, down through the ages, the Song disappeared,
its harmonies broken and almost unheard,
the Singer comes to us to sing it again:
our God is with us in the world now as then.**

**The Light has returned as it came once before;
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more;
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice
the song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.**

**To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise;
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise;
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,
be glory forever, through life and through death.**

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 life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

A brief silence.

We pray, O God for the church. Unite us with any on the margins, that the whole world recognizes that your mercy is greater than our human capacity to restrict it.

God, in your mercy.....**hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God for your creation. Tend forests and fields and safeguard all cattle, birds, and wild animals. Preserve lakes, rivers, and oceans and send rains to water the earth. Revive lands recovering from fire and flood, especially fire recovery in our land and flood recovery in Ukraine. God, in your mercy.....**hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God for the nations. Awaken in leaders and people compassion for all who have too often felt forgotten or neglected and inspire solutions that promote equity and inclusion. Cast out the demons of hate that make us believe lies about ourselves and our neighbours. May reconciliation and justice govern our relations with our indigenous siblings and the LGBTQ2+ communities.

Continue to bless reconciling efforts in Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Kosovo
God, in your mercy.....**hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God for all in need. Accompany anyone enduring chronic illness, any who suffer in secret, and those grieving a loved one's death. Send healing touch for all who plead for relief from sickness or pain. We pray for all who seek your comfort.....all we name in our hearts this day.

Pause

God, in your mercy.....**hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer us, O God in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SINGING INTO PEACE "COME O LORD AND SET US FREE"

Come, O Lord, and set us free. **Come, O Lord, and set us free**

Give your people peace. **Give your people peace.**

Come, O Lord, and set us free. **Come, O Lord, and set us free**

Come, Lord Jesus, come. **Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE and OFFERING

MEAL

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness

in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We praise you, all-holy God, our maker, our lover, our keeper,

For the universe beyond our knowing,

For lands and seas and all their animals,

And for friends and strangers and family,

For homes, and grocery stores and schools.

We praise you for your covenant people,

For Abraham and Sarah, Moses, and Miriam.

For centuries of faithful Christians,

For Mary and Mary Magdalene, Peter, and Paul

and all who speak truth to power in our day.

We praise you for your Son Jesus Christ,

Who saves us from sin and from evil,

Who bids us to love our neighbour.

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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We pray for your Holy Spirit,

Your breath, your fire, your wisdom.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Christ,
Inspire us for service.
And renew the world with your mercy,
With your healing, your justice, and your peace.
We praise you, all-holy God, our Creator, our Redeemer, our Sustainer,
Today, tomorrow, and forever. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All people are called to Christ's table, come, eat what is good.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY COMMUNION

*you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words
"the body of Christ given for you" "the blood of Christ shed for you"*

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ strengthen us and keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is your dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed +
bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

HYMN ELW # 836 JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Praising thee their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE