

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 4 JUNE 25, 2023

PRELUDE and WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

A Reading from ROMANS 6:1b-5

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

People of God, in the baptismal waters we travel with Christ from death to life. Our past, our sin, our failure, our doubt, and our shame are drowned and gone here.

You, O God, wash us clean.

Our fear, our confusion, our self-righteousness, our despair
-washed away by grace.

You, O God, wash us clean.

Our pride, our hypocrisy, and other people's opinions of us
no longer have the power to define us.

You, O God, give us new life.

The Spirit lives and moves through us now, a great and joyful mystery, so we may bring love and mercy into the world as the body of Christ.

You, O God, give us new life.

Rejoice that God has claimed us in this baptismal grace, not by our own doing or believing but by God's mercy alone.

You, O God, give us new life.

And so, as we worship, we give thanks to God for the gracious gift of baptism that joins us together in Christ by the Spirit's power. Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

We praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

To you be given honour and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN ELW # 876 LET THE WHOLE CREATION CRY

Let the whole creation cry,

"Glory to the Lord on high!"

Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,

"Praise to our Almighty King!"

Praise God, angel hosts above,

ever bright and fair in love;

sun and moon, lift up your voice,

night and stars, in God rejoice!

Servants striving for the Lord,

prophets burning with the Word,

those to whom the arts belong,

add their voices to the song.

Pow'rs of knowledge and of law,

to the glorious circle draw;

all who work and all who wait,

sing, "The Lord is good and great!"

**Men and women, young and old,
raise the anthem loud and bold,
and let children's happy hearts
in this worship bear their parts;
from the north to southern pole
let the mighty chorus roll:
“Holy, holy, holy One,
glory be to God alone!”**

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

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not count the cost, to fight and not heed the wounds, to toil and not seek for rest, to labour and not ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

GENESIS 21:8-21

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.”

So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off,

about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

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 10:24-39

"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than

me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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

SERMON

HYMN ELW # 798 WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME

Will You Come And Follow Me If I But Call Your Name?

Will You Go Where You Don't Know And Never Be The Same?

Will You Let My Love Be Shown,

Will You Let My Name Be Known,

Will You Let My Life Be Grown In You And You In Me?

Will You Leave Yourself Behind If I But Call Your Name?

Will You Care For Cruel And Kind And Never Be The Same?

Will You Risk The Hostile Stare

Should Your Life Attract Or Scare?

Will You Let Me Answer Prayer In You And You In Me?

Will You Let The Blinded See If I But Call Your Name?

Will You Set The Prisoners Free And Never Be The Same?

Will You Kiss The Leper Clean,

And Do Such As This Unseen,

And Admit To What I Mean In You And You In Me?

Will You Love The 'You' You Hide If I But Call Your Name?

Will You Quell The Fear Inside And Never Be The Same?

Will You Use The Faith You've Found

To Reshape The World Around,

Through My Sight And Touch And Sound In You And You In Me?

Lord, Your Summons Echoes True When You But Call My Name.

Let Me Turn And Follow You And Never Be The Same.

In Your Company I'll Go

Where Your Love And Footsteps Show.

Thus I'll Move And Live And Grow In You And You In Me.

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.

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 ACS # 1027 DON'T BE AFRAID

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
and I have promised,
promised to be always near.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, share the harvest.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE