

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 8 JULY 23, 2023

PRELUDE and WELCOME

HYMN ELW # 681 WE PLOW THE FIELDS AND SCATTER

**We plow the fields and scatter The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered By God's almighty hand:
who sends the snow in winter, The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes, and the sunshine, And soft, refreshing rain.**

***Refrain:* All good gifts around us Are sent from heav'n above;
 We thank you Lord, We thank you Lord, For all your love.**

**You only are the Maker Of all things near and far;
You paint the wayside flower, You light the evening star;
The winds and waves obey you, By you the birds are fed;
Much more to us, your children, You give our daily bread. *Refrain***

**We thank you, our creator, For all things bright and good,
The seedtime and the harvest, Our life, our health, our food;
No gifts have we to offer For all your love imparts,
And what you most would treasure - Our humble, thankful hearts. *Refrain***

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

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

GENESIS 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place— and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

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

PSALM 86:11-17

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth;

give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,

and I will glorify your name forevermore.

For great is your love toward me;

you have delivered me from the pit of death.

The arrogant rise up against me, O God;

and a band of violent people seeks my life,

they have not set you before their eyes.

But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and full of kindness and truth.

Turn to me and have mercy on me;

give your strength to your servant; and save the child of your handmaid.

Show me a sign of your favour,

so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;

because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

ROMANS 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN ELW # 172 HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH

Halle, halle, halle lu jah

Halle, halle, halle lu jah

Halle, halle, halle lu jah

Hallelujah Hallelujah

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

MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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

HYMN ELW # 516 ALMIGHTY GOD YOUR WORD IS CAST

**Almighty God, your Word is cast like seed into the ground;
now let the dew of heav'n descend and righteous fruits abound.**

**Let not the sly satanic foe this holy seed remove,
but give it root in ev'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.**

**Let not the world's deceitful cares the rising plant destroy,
but let it yield a hundredfold the fruits of peace and joy.**

**So when the precious seed is sown, life-giving grace bestow
that all whose souls the truth receive its saving pow'r may know.**

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

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for
The church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence

O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth
both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it,
trusting that your Spirit bears witness among us.

Hear us, O God.....**your mercy is great.**

You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policy makers to
protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas
impacted by natural disasters. Bless the efforts of all who recover from forest
fires, floods and severe temperatures.

Hear us, O God.....**your mercy is great.**

You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighbourhoods
from hatred and violence, watch over police officers and firefighters, and
teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. May reconciliation find a
home with the people of Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, India and all
lands where your gracious understanding is needed.

Hear us, O God.....**your mercy is great.**

You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction. Sustain your people living with HIV/AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Grant healing comfort to all who grieve and all in distress, pain or in recovery. We remember Ingrid, Bryan, Harold and Margaret, and all we name before you...

pause

Hear us, O God.....**your mercy is great.**

You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality to welcome all, equip us for faithful living, and enacting the gospel in our community.

Hear us, O God.....**your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Saviour. **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 # 627 O DAY FULL OF GRACE

**Oh day full of grace that now we see Appearing on earth's horizon,
Bring light from our God that we may be Replete in his joy this season.
God, shine for us now in this dark place; Your name on our hearts emblazon.**

**O day full of grace, O blessed time, our Lord on the earth arriving;
then came to the world that light sublime, great joy for us all retrieving;
for Jesus all mortals did embrace, all shame and despair removing.**

**For Christ bore our sins, and not his own, When he on the cross was hanging;
And then he arose and moved the stone, That we, unto him belonging,
Might join with angelic hosts to raise Our voices in endless singing.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE