

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 5

JULY 2, 2023

PRELUDE and WELCOME

HYMN ELW # 522 AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE

**As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.**

**Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.**

**Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us,
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.**

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 direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mould us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."

So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

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

ROMANS 6:12-23

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN ELW # 172 HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Hallelujah

Hallelujah

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

MATTHEW 10:40-42

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

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

SERMON

BLESSING OF THE BLANKETS

Gracious God, as we place our hands on these blankets, We give thanks for the variety of gifts that compose these blankets: wool carefully chosen for colour and texture, patterns that are held in the minds of their makers, the faithful hands that spend hours lovingly bringing pattern, wool and crochet hook together.

We give thanks for the fellowship of all who work together to make the blankets, the laughter, the shared stories, the joy of crafting something with one’s hands and heart for another and the time to reflect and wonder about the recipients.

We give thanks for those who collect and deliver these blankets to care facilities in our region and for the staff who provide them there.

We send these blankets as a sign of God’s love and blessing for each child who receives one, trusting that their blanket will be a source of comfort and hope in the midst of sickness and healing, a symbol of Christ’s love and a reminder that each recipient is a beloved child of God.

Bless all who give and all who receive, as we are in mission together in the unity of your Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

HYMN ELW # 802 LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS

**Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
flee the world which would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, trav’lers here, our home above,
full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Saviour's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; Savior, I shall follow where you guide.**

Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross;
joy will follow all our sadness; where he is there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy,
all discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter
Jesus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus; since by death he conquered death,
he will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion, that would lead us into sin,
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.

Let us also live with Jesus; he has risen from the dead,
that to life we may awaken. Jesus you are now our head.
We are your own living members, where you live, there we will be;
in your presence constantly, living there with you forever,
Jesus, let me faithful be; life eternal grant to 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 ELW # 676 LORD, SPEAK TO US

**Lord, speak to us, that we may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let us seek
your straying children, lost and lone.**

**Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead
the wand'ring and the wav'ring feet;
oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed
your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.**

**Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach
the precious truths which you impart;
and wing our words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.**

**Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord,
until our very hearts o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE