

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 11

AUGUST 13, 2023

PRELUDE and WELCOME

HYMN ELW # 761 EVENING AND MORNING

Evening and morning, sunset and dawning,
Wealth, peace and gladness, comfort in sadness,
These are thy works; all the glory be thine!
Times without number, awake or in slumber,
Thine eye observes us, from danger preserves us,
Causing thy mercy upon us to shine.

Gracious Lord, hear me, pardon and spare me;
Calm all my terrors, blot out my errors,
That justified in your sight I may stand.
Order my goings, direct all my doings;
Guard me and guide me and stay close beside me.
All I commit to your fatherly hand.

Ills that still grieve me soon are to leave me;
Though billows tower and winds gain power,
After the storm the fair sun shows its face.
Joys e'er increasing and peace never ceasing:
These shall I treasure and share in full measure
When in your mansions you grant me a place.

To God in heaven all praise be given!
O God, we offer and gladly proffer
Gifts from your hand; these alone we will prize:
Hearts that receive you and faith to believe you;
Hymns that adore you are precious before you
And to your throne like sweet incense arise.

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 our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your children from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

GENESIS 37:1-4, 12-28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him. Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him" —that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father.

So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

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

PSALM 85:8-13

I will listen to what God the Lord God is saying;

for you speak peace to your faithful people, and to those who turn their hearts to you.

Truly your salvation is very near to those who fear you,

that your glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;

righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth

and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity

and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before the Lord,

and shall prepare for God a pathway.

ROMANS 10:5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" ' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?" ' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

'The word is near you,

on your lips and in your heart'

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN ELW # 172 HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH

Halle, halle, halle - lujah

Halle, halle, halle - lujah

Halle, halle, halle - lujah

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

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

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

SERMON

HYMN ELW # 774 WHAT A FELLOWSHIP

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

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.

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

God of grace and faith, your faithfulness is never-ending, and your righteousness becomes ours through Christ Jesus. Send the church to proclaim the gospel both near and far, in church buildings and on street corners, in person and through digital means.

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

God of sky and sea, the plants, animals, mountains, and plains proclaim your glory. Prosper the work of ecologists as they teach us new ways to care for the environment. Bring relief to areas recovering from natural disasters.

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

God of peace and justice, you call us to live as your beloved community throughout the world. Instil in local, regional, national, and global political and civic leaders a desire to work for the well-being of all people.

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

God of care and compassion, you bring assurance when we are afraid. Bring calm to any who are anxious or fearful. Bless the work of therapists, nurses, and other health care providers. Comfort all who grieve and soothe any who are sick or in recovery. We remember before you all in our thoughts and hearts this day.....

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

God of wonder, you accompany us in both joys and sorrows. We pray for children and teachers preparing for a new school year. Make your presence known in our work and play, in lively conversation and in quiet rest.

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

God of new life, you send people to renew both church and society. We give you thanks for their lives of faithful service as examples of following your call.

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.

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

Please come forward to the communion rail, receive the communion wafer in your hand from the pastor and the wine in an individual glass from the assisting minister.

Place your communion cup in the basket provided.

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 # 763 MY LIFE FLOWS ON IN ENDLESS SONG

**My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.**

***Refrain:* No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

**Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? *Refrain***

**What though my joys and comforts die, I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. *Refrain***

**The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? *Refrain***

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE