

*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.*



**A Mighty River**  
Amos 5: 24

**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023

*The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home, the Oikos of God.*

*The Season "Celebration" begins on 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. This year we will unite around the theme, "Let Justice and Peace Flow."*

## **ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Pentecost 15      SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**

WELCOME

*Water is poured*

The mighty river of peace and justice flows into and through our lives and calls us into life and hope.

This is a life-giving invitation.

In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst . . .

**come worship a God who feeds the hungry.**

In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed . . .

**come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.**

In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumor of war . . .

**come worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for the world.**

In the midst of a world of spiritual emptiness . . .

**come worship a God who gives life meaning.**

**Come worship a God whose grace and love know no end.**

**SONG: "WORSHIP THE LORD"**

**Refrain:** Worship the Lord. **Worship the Lord.**

Worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son.

Raising our hands. **Raising our hands**

**In devotion to God who is One.**

**Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing.**

**And with our lips our togetherness voicing.**

**Giving ourselves to a life of creativeness, worship and work must be one. R**

**Praying and training that we'll be a blessing**

**And by our handiwork daily confessing.**

**We are committed to serving humanity, worship and work must be one. R**

**Called to be partners with God in creation.**

**Honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation.**

**We must be ready for risk and for sacrifice, worship and work must be one. R**

**Bringing the bread and the wine to the table.**

**Asking that we may be led and enabled.**

**Truly united to build new communities, worship and work must be one. R**

**Now in response to the life you are giving.**

**Help us, Creator to offer our living.**

**Seeking a just and a healing society, worship and work must be one. R**

**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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.

Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through

Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

## EXODUS 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*Speak Lord, your servant is listening.*

*You have the words of everlasting life.*

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

MATTHEW 18:15-20

“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

SERMON

### **SONG “UNTIL ALL ARE FED”**

How long will we sing? How long will we pray?

How long will we write and send? How long will we bring?

How long will we stay?

How long will we make amends?

*Refrain:* Until all are fed! we cry out;

Until all on earth have bread.

Like the One who loves us Each and everyone

We serve until all are fed.

How long will we talk? How long will we prod?

How must we fret and hoard?

How long will we walk to tear down this facade?

How long, how long, oh Lord? *Refrain*

How can we stand by and fail to be aghast?

How long till we do what's right?

How could we stand by and choose a lesser fast?

How long till we see the light? *Refrain*

On the green, green grass they gathered long ago

To hear what the Master said.

What they had they shared - some fishes and some loaves,

They served until all were fed. *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

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbours.

*A brief silence*

Merciful God..... **receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE and OFFERING

The peace of God be with you all.

**In God's justice is our peace.**

Brothers and sisters,

Christ calls us to live in unity with each other and with the whole of Creation.

**We seek to live in the Spirit of Christ.**

Shalom, my friends. Shalom, my friends. Shalom. Shalom.

May peace be with you. May peace be with you. Shalom. Shalom.

## MEAL

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **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

Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people praise you saying:

Your mercy endures forever.

**Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures, granting them life and calling them to flourish, setting the sign of your bow in the clouds, the colours of your love and faithfulness.

Your mercy endures forever.

**Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise you bound yourself to your people of old, blessing them with family outnumbering the stars and calling them to be a blessing to others, showing them steadfast love in every generation and calling them to be a light to the nations.

Your mercy endures forever.

**Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved, grafting us into the living Vine, and calling us to bear fruit of your self-giving love.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember his life laid down and lifted up.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless us to be a blessing.

Make us a sign of your faithfulness.

Send us to tend and cherish the earth  
and to serve the world with mercy and love.

Renew the world with your mercy, your healing,  
your justice, and your peace.

With all the saints in light, with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus,  
in your Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,

Let us pray for the breaking in of God's kingdom in our world today.

Lord God, because Jesus has taught us to trust you in all things, we hold  
to his word and share his plea:

**Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Where nations budget for war while Christ says, "Put away your sword":

**Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Where countries waste food and covet fashion while Christ says,  
"I was hungry . . . I was thirsty . . .":

**Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Where powerful governments claim their policies are heaven blessed  
while Scripture states that God helps the powerless:

**Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Where Christians seek the kingdom in the shape of their own church as  
if Christ came to build and not to break barriers:

**Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Where our prayers falter, our faith weakens, our light grows dim:

**Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Where Jesus Christ calls us:

**Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Lord God, you have declared that your kingdom is among us. Open our  
ears to hear it, our hands to serve it, our hearts to hold it. This we pray  
in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

A Wee Worship Book, pp. 16-17

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## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat, and live.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

### 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

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

May you never feel alone in the struggle for justice and peace.  
May you know the support of family, friends  
and people who feel as passionately about the world as you do.  
May you feel a part of the great cloud of witnesses who,  
through the ages,  
did God's work and prayed for the coming of the Kingdom.  
May you never feel alone.  
And if you do, may you carry in your heart  
The words of Jesus, who told his friends:  
"I am with you always."

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE