

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 21 OCTOBER 22, 2023

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN ELW 757 ALL MY HOPE ON GOD IS FOUNDED

**All my hope on God is founded;
who will all my trust renew,
who through change and chance will guide me,
only good and only true.
God unknown, God alone
calls my heart to be his own.**

**Mortal pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust;
what with care and toil we fashion,
tower and temple fall to dust.
But thy power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tow'r.**

**Great thy goodness, e're enduring;
deep thy wisdom, passing thought:
splendor, light and life attend thee,
beauty springing out of naught.
Evermore from thy store
newborn worlds rise and adore.**

**Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of God's own Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.**

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

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory: redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

EXODUS 33:12-23

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight.' Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth." The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

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

PSALM 99

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble.

The Lord is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

The Lord, great in Zion;

is high above all the peoples.

Let them confess God's name, which is great and awesome;

God is the Holy One.

O Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity;

you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and fall down before God's footstool.

God is the Holy One.

Moses and Aaron among your priests,

and Samuel among those who call upon your name, O Lord.

They called upon you, and you answered them.

You spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;

they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.

O Lord our God, you answered them indeed;

you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.

Proclaim the greatness of the Lord, and worship upon God's holy hill;

for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

SERMON

HYMN ELW 580 HOW CLEAR IS OUR VOCATION, LORD

How clear is our vocation, Lord,
When once we heed your call:
To live according to your word,
And daily learn, refreshed, restored,
That you are Lord of all,
and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find
Your yoke is hard to bear;
If worldly pressures fray the mind,
and love itself cannot unwind
Its tangled skein of care:
Our inward life repair.

We marvel how your saints become
In hindrances more sure;
Whose joyful virtues put to shame
The casual way we wear your name,
And by our faults obscure
Your pow'r to cleanse and cure.

In what you give us, Lord, to do,
Together or alone,
In old routines and ventures new,
May we not cease to look to you,
The cross you hung upon -
All you endeavored done.

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 the transformative power of God's loving Spirit; let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labour of love.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. Continue to guide and guard those amid hurricanes, floods, fires and earthquakes. Bless the labour of those who plant, care for and harvest crops that feed communities.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. Accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants that they govern in accordance with God's vision of justice, providing shelter and refuge to all in need, striving toward the goal of peace and prosperity for all.

We continue our prayers for Ukraine, Russia, India, and for the Palestinians and people of Israel during this war time. Be with all those suffering from being displaced or hurt physically. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering especially for Ingrid, Bryan, Tom and all in our hearts.....

pause

Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this community of believers, that the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful of all that is true, honourable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent. Inspire courageous vision for ministry.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE and OFFERING

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

We share the peace with one another.

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 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

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

The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names,
And the Spirit who lives in you, Bless you now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN ELW 705 GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY

**God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of ths hour,
for the facing of ths hour.**

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us,
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us,
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**Cure your children's warring madness,
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE