

*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 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, RICHMOND HILL**

# *Pentecost 14* **AUGUST 25, 2024**

PRELUDE *Trevor Hicks*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
Full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

**Amen.**

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,  
Let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*Silence for reflection*

Eternal God our creator.

**In you we live and move and have our being.**

**Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands.**

**Forgive us all our offenses**

**and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.**

**By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and strength;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit given to us.

In the mercy of almighty God,

Christ died for us while we were still sinners,  
and for his sake, God + forgives you all your sins.

**Amen.**

**HYMN ELW # 404 COME GRACIOUS SPIRIT, HEAVENLY DOVE**

**Come, gracious Spirit, heav'nly Dove,  
with light and comfort from above.  
Come, be our guardian and our guide;  
o'er every thought and step preside,**

**The light of truth to us display  
and make us know and choose your way;  
plant holy fear in every heart,  
that we from God may ne'er depart.**

**Lead us to Christ, the living Way,  
nor let us from his pastures stray.  
Lead us to holiness, the road  
that we must take to dwell with God,**

**Lead us to heav'n, that we may share  
fullness of joy forever there.  
Lead us to our eternal rest,  
to be with God forever blest.**

**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**

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal.  
Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing  
what is false and evil, we may live in you, through Jesus Christ,  
our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

**WORD**

**JOSHUA 24:1-2A, 14-18**

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods..... "Now therefore revere the Lord and serve him in

sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

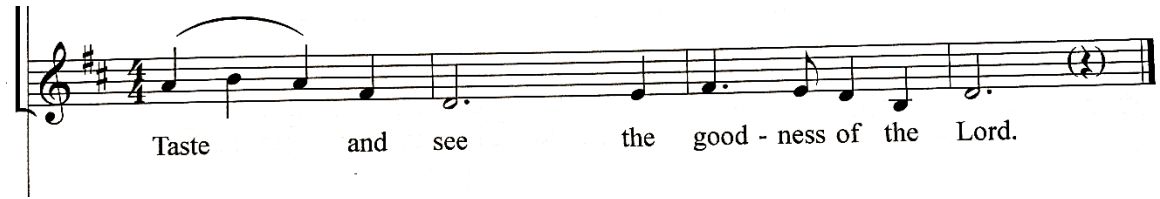
Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

# PSALM 34

## *Sung Antiphon* TASTE AND SEE



I will bless the Lord at all times;  
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

I will glory in the Lord;  
let the lowly hear and rejoice. ***Antiphon***

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord,  
let us exalt God's name together.

I sought the Lord, who answered me,  
and delivered me from all my terrors. ***Antiphon***

Look upon the Lord and be radiant;  
and let not your faces be ashamed. ***Antiphon***

taste and see that the Lord is good;  
happy are they who take refuge in God.

Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord,  
for those who fear the Lord lack nothing. ***Antiphon***

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,  
and God's ears are open to their cry.

The face of the Lord is against those who do evil  
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth. ***Antiphon***

The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them,  
And delivers them from all their troubles.

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted  
And saves those whose spirits are crushed. ***Antiphon***

Many are the troubles of the righteous,  
but the Lord delivers them from every one.

God will keep safe all their bones;  
not one of them shall be broken. ***Antiphon***

O Lord you redeem the life of your servants;  
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished. ***Antiphon***

## EPHESIANS 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## JOHN 6:56-69

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?”

It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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

SERMON *Reverend Annette Smith* St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

**HYMN: ELW # 638 BLESSED ASSURANCE**

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.**

***Refrain* This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending, bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain***

**Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. *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 the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### PRAYERS

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds,  
let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence*

Wisdom has built her house. May the church be a house of wisdom for  
all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never  
thought possible.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has mixed her wine. May the harvest seasons be plentiful this  
year. We pray for orchards, vineyards, farms, and all of creation. Protect  
and conserve the earth. Speak peace wherever homes, towns, businesses  
and lands are damaged by hurricanes, floods, fire or storms.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has employed her laborers. Be with all who seek adequate  
employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support  
the people of our world with fair wages and safe working conditions.  
Come to the aid of all nations and leaders in the midst of conflict,  
violence, or injustice, especially Israel, Palestine, South Sudan, Haiti, Iran,  
Russia and Ukraine. Raise up advocates and peacemakers to speak truth  
and hope into the world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has invited her guests. Make your presence known to all who  
feel lost, abandoned, or hurting at this time. Direct your spirit of care to  
all who seek healing and comfort, especially Ingrid, Hans, the Smalsky  
family, and all we hold in our thoughts and hearts.....

*pause*

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has set her table. May our congregations be a welcome table to all who seek the refuge of God. Break down walls and barriers that prevent us from offering a seat at this table to anyone who comes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has shown her path of insight. May we journey on her paths, looking toward a bright future while remembering from where we have come. We give our thanks for those who have gone before us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

#### OFFERING

*The offering will now be received and may God bless the gifts of your life*

#### HYMN DURING OFFERING

##### ELW # 483 HERE IS BREAD

Here is bread, here is wine  
Christ is with us, he is with us  
Break the bread, drink the wine  
Christ is with us here.

*Refrain* In this bread there is healing  
In this cup there's life forever  
In this moment, by the Spirit  
Christ is with us here.

Here is grace, here is peace  
Christ is with us, he is with us  
Know his grace, find his peace  
Feast on Jesus here. *Refrain*

Here we are, joined in one  
Christ is with us, he is with us  
We'll proclaim, till he comes  
Jesus crucified. *Refrain*



## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray. God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them 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, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,

In the harmonious world of your creation

The plants and animals, the seas and stars

Were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world

You sent your Son to heal our ills

And to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering therefore, his acts of healing,

His body given up, and his victory over death,

We await that day when all the peoples of the earth

Will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal;

As grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
So let your church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
That all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.  
Through him all glory and honour is yours, Almighty God,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both 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.**

### 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"*

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### 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

Let us pray. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart,  
and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood  
of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to  
proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ,  
our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

### BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
**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,  
call my heart to be thine own.**

**Mortal pride and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray our trust;  
what with care and toil we fashion,  
tow'r 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;  
splendour, 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.**

**DISMISSAL**

**Go in peace. Live and love in the truth and joy of the Spirit.  
Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Trevor Hicks*