

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

L: Holy One, you indeed are creator and sustainer of all. We thank you for placing all things into our care. We thank you for the responsibility of tending the garden of earth.

Chiefly, we are bound to thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, who in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, 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.

Holy Spirit, bless this meal and those who partake in it.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

A: 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; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

COMMUNION MUSIC VIDEO

"Lord of the Harvest" by Lindy Cofer

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Let us pray. We give thanks for this meal of the body and blood of Jesus. Send us from this feast to love the earth you created and all humanity. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

SENT FOR WORK AND WITNESS

Blessing

L: The God of all creation: of fields and harvest, of flowers and trees, of butterflies and bees and all creatures, bless you, keep you, and strengthen you. In the name of the + Triune God.

Amen

SENDING HYMN

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" (Words on Screen, Vs. 2 & 3)

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Be blessed to be a blessing.

A: Thanks be to God!

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Presiding Minister: Pastor Christine McNeal

Worship Steward: Marty Heller

Greeters: Nathan Joerndt

Ushers: Karen Hoegger & Judy Sykes

Lector: Carissa Webster

Communion Prep: Pat Lund

Comm. Asst: Jack Bristow & Carissa Webster

Hospitality: Jack Bristow & Carissa Webster

Musician: Julie Mehlberg

SS Teacher: Blayne Dixon

Counters: Marty Heller & Jean Harrison

Livestream: Louis Kehinde



St. Paul Lutheran Church

October 6, 2024

20th Sunday

after Pentecost

Introduction: God our creator gave us the gift of life, placing us on earth with fields and seeds, flowers and fruits, minerals and waters, and living creatures of grace and beauty. At harvest time the earth reaches the peak of its fruitfulness. We praise God with all of Creation.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMNS

"Great are you Lord" (Words on Screen)

"Beautiful Things" (Words on Screen)

Call to Worship

L: We enter the song of Creation!

A: Earth cradles our ancestors, birthing new life.

L: We enter the prayer of Creation!

A: Sky brings darkness and light, holds storms and the stars.

L: We enter the praise of Creation!

A: Mountains peaked with snow, hills swaying with grasses, fields ready for harvest.

L: We enter the silence of Creation!

A: Humanity between the ground and the heavens.

L: We come here, humbly, as one earthly family to worship our Creator: the giver of form, the maker of all.

A: Amen.

Confession & Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

A: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Gracious God,

A: have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

L; God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Compassionate God, in wisdom you made this remarkable creation. From the warmth of this living earth to the cold depths of the oceans, all creation sings your praise. Help us to tread lightly in this world, to revel in the beauty and complexity of nature, and to join in the song of all creation in praise and thanksgiving to you. All this we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Children's Message – Dismissal to Children's Chapel

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading – Job 12:7-10

7 'But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; 8 ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. 9 Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? 10 In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.

L: Word of God, word of life

A: Thanks be to God

Psalm 8:

L: A reading from Psalm

1 O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

2 Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

4 what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

5 Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour.

6 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

7 all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

9 O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

A: Thanks be to God

Second Reading – Romans 8:18-21

18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; 20 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will

obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

L: Word of God

A: Thanks be to God

Please rise, as you are able, for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” (Words on Screen)

Gospel – John 1:1-14

L: The Holy Gospel according to John

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

L: The Gospel of the Lord

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Christine McNeal

HYMN OF THE DAY

“This is My Father's World” (ELW 824)

APOSTLE'S CREED

L: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

A: 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 OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end “God of grace” and the congregation will respond “hear our prayer”.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of God's peace with your neighbors by turning to the people near you saying, “Peace be with you.”

OFFERING “Special music”

Offerings can also be sent by mail or given online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764 or give online at stpaulpontiac.org

Offering Prayer:

L: Loving Creator, you brought us forth from the very earth itself. We share with others what you have entrusted to us. Bless these offerings, and compel us to use them not only to serve our human neighbors, but also to serve our sister sky, our brother field, our mother earth, and all our family in creation. We pray this in the name of the Word that dwells among us.

A: Amen.

MEAL

All are welcome at Christ's table. Communion is distributed in front of the altar by intinction. Please dip the wafer into the lighter colored liquid which is grape juice or the darker liquid which is wine. If you prefer not to receive communion you may come forward with your hands crossed over your chest to receive a blessing or you may remain in your seat.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, O Lord, our God: For you spoke all things into being, giving humanity the special responsibility to care for the earth as partner with you in the continuing process of creation. You sent your Son Jesus to restore right relationships, opening the way for harmony to once again be experienced and to be for us the fullness of your love. And so with all the angels and archangels, our ancestors and descendants, and our companions in nature, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy (music on screen)