

Pentecost +9

August 7, 2022 + 9:00 AM

Welcome to our worship of the living God on this Ninth Sunday after Pentecost! In today's gospel reading, Jesus says to us, "It's your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." But this isn't some novel thing on God's part. It's God's promise from the beginning— to Abraham, to the early Church, and to the "little flock" of which we're a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God even along life's nomadic wilderness journeys. So don't be afraid!

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

ENTRANCE HYMN: "The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing"

W+P 139

See the next page for the music to this hymn.

INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS:

Blest are You, Holy and Triune God, the Creator, + Redeemer, and Reconciler of all!

And blest is Your Reign, now and forever!

Out of love for Your children wounded by sin, You've bound Yourself to us in Christ Jesus.

***But we've sinned against You, against one another,
and against the earth You've entrusted to our care.***

We're worried and distracted by many things, and we fail to love You above all else.

We store up treasures for ourselves and turn away from those in need.

We stew in anger at our own frustration, then lash out at others who differ from us,

denying all the while how our own anger feeds the demons of violence.

Silence for personal reflection and confession.

For Jesus' sake, have mercy on us and forgive us our sin!

***Transform us and reorient us by Your Holy Spirit,
that we may live in the freedom for which You've created us.***

(cont'd on p. 3)

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
 2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
 3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
 peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
 poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
 he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
 the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light. Come and rev - el in



heav - en's love and light. Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin, the feast is read - y to be - gin.

Listen to the Good News, brothers and sisters:
Though we were dead in sin, God's made us alive together with Christ,
and in the life-giving power that raised Christ from the dead, you're + forgiven!
Now live in the freedom born of God's forgiveness,
that through you, all may know the abundance of God's grace. ***Amen. Thanks be to God!***

HYMN OF PRAISE: "This is the Feast of Victory!"

Sung to the tune of "Alabaré" WOV 791

***This is the feast of victory, the feast of vict'ry for our God!
This is the feast of victory, the feast of vict'ry for our God!***

***Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood has set us free from every sin!
Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and all blessing shall be His!***

refrain

***Sing with the people, the people of God, and join creation in a joyful hymn:
Blessing and honor and glory and might to God and to the Lamb be without end!***

refrain

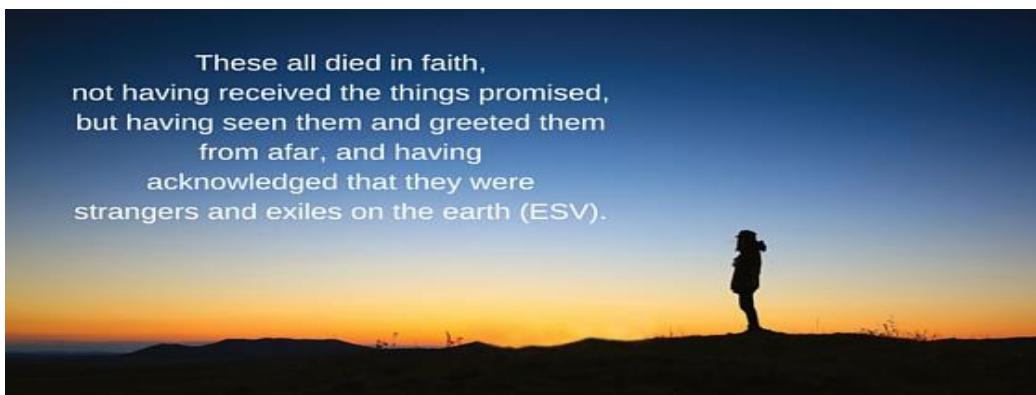
GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the + love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit are with you all.

And also with you.

Then let's pray: Almighty God, You sent Your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of Your Church. Open our hearts to the riches of Your grace,
that we may be ready to receive You wherever You appear
through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



WORD AND PRAYER

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD:

See ELW 515 for the tune

*Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once You broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page, I seek You, Lord; my spirit waits for You, O Living Word!*

FIRST READING:

Genesis 15.1-6

NRSVUE

Sometime after first calling him, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Don’t be afraid, Abram! I’m your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will You give me? For I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You’ve given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵*The Lord* brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars— if you’re able to count them.” Then He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶And *Abram* believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

This is holy wisdom; this is holy Word.

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING:

Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16

NRSVUE

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith, we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what’s seen was made from things that aren’t visible.

⁸By faith, Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith, he stayed for a time in the land he’d been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith, with Sarah’s involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered Him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises— but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they're seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they'd been thinking of the land that they'd left behind, they would've had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God's not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, He's prepared a city for them.

This is holy wisdom; this is holy Word.

Thanks be to God!

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

Luke 12.32-40

NRSVUE

See ELW 174 for the tune:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the twelfth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord!

Jesus said to His disciples, "Don't be afraid, little flock, for it's your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that don't wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes! Truly I tell you, he'll fasten his belt and have ***them*** sit down to eat, and he'll come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves!

³⁹ "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he wouldn't have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you don't expect."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

See ELW 174 for the tune:

***Bless Your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when You blessed the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall, and I shall find my peace, my All-in-All!***

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

HYMN OF FAITH: “Christ is God’s Never-Changing ‘Yes!’”

W+R 369

Sung to the tune of “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” ELW 674

***Christ is God’s never-changing “Yes!” Every one of God’s promises
Is confirmed in the Love that died by the One who was crucified.
“Yes!” from God and then “Yes!” from Christ again! In the Spirit we say “Amen!”
“Yes!” from God and then “Yes!” from Christ again! In the Spirit we say “Amen!”***

***Earth, corrupted by sin and shame, scandalized the Creator’s Name;
Now the Spirit of God says “Yes!”—Christ has honored God’s holiness!
“Yes!” from God and then “Yes!” from Christ again! In the Spirit we say “Amen!”
“Yes!” from God and then “Yes!” from Christ again! In the Spirit we say “Amen!”***

***Jesus, now we are called to be “Yes” ourselves to Your victory.
God anoints us to serve with You; yes, the Spirit will keep us true.
“Yes!” from God and then “Yes!” from Christ again! In the Spirit we say “Amen!”
“Yes!” from God and then “Yes!” from Christ again! In the Spirit we say “Amen!”***

***Love has conquered— though Jesus died, He is risen and glorified!
This is promised, and nothing less: All creation will answer “Yes!”
“Yes!” from God and then “Yes!” from Christ again! In the Spirit we say “Amen!”
“Yes!” from God and then “Yes!” from Christ again! In the Spirit we say “Amen!”***

*Words by Alan Gaunt © 1997 Stainer & Bell Ltd., admin. Hope Publishing Co.
Used by permission under One License music license number 731531-A*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND SHARING OF THE PEACE:

United in Christ, guided by the Spirit, let’s pray for the Church, the world, and all in need:

Gracious God, we give You thanks, for it’s Your good pleasure to open the Kingdom to us. Through Christ Jesus, Your Son and our Savior, You called us to travel lightly as strangers and foreigners on the earth, putting our hopes in You alone and always ready to welcome Your promised future. As You blessed and sent Abraham from his familiar home and comfort zones to be a blessing to the world, send us out from each place of worship to be a light to the community and the world around us; and wherever You send us, equip us to share our hope in Christ Jesus. Strengthen us in patience, that we may trust in Your loving providence even when the path ahead of us doesn’t seem clear. Help us testify to all the good things You’ve done and are doing even now; and give us the compassion to care for those who seem to have lost their faith, that their hearts may be renewed and come to a new relationship with You. Merciful God, ***receive our prayer.***

Bless and protect Your good creation, raising up stewards and innovators to nourish and sustain natural wonders too many to number. Bring healing to lands and communities devastated by extremes of temperature and rainfall, and send sun and rain where they're needed, that all may share in Your abundance. Merciful God, ***receive our prayer.***

Inspire and empower peacemakers at every level in this and every land; fill them with courage as they work to end divisions in the human family and promote reconciliation. Walk with those being persecuted or leaving home for the first time, that they may rely upon You for strength and draw upon Your wisdom in making their decisions. Pitch Your tent with migrants and refugees, guiding them in their search for safety and touching the hearts of many to welcome and encourage them as sisters and brothers. Bring Your peace and healing to our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Central America, and violence-ravaged homes and communities in our own nation; and have mercy on all those who live amidst violence and those seeking to assist them, turning the hearts of all to recognize the value of each person and protect everyone from harm. Merciful God, ***receive our prayer.***

Bless and comfort those in need, providing shelter to those without homes, food to those who hunger, companionship to those who are lonely, and healing to those who are sick or grieving, especially our brothers and sisters... In whatever wilderness they find themselves, be their help and their shield, that they may come to know wholeness of life in You. And as You promise new life to all Your children, and You wipe away every tear from our eyes. Gather us with all Your saints into the fullness of Your Reign, and renew us in faith and hope until the day when death is no more. Merciful God, ***receive our prayer.***

Gracious God, receive our prayers; hear our hearts deep yearnings, yet to be formed into words. Give us the courage to yield ourselves, all that we are and have yet to become, to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, and carry out in us and through us Your work of new creation through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The peace of the Lord is with you always.

And also with you.

Reconciled to God and to one another, we share a sign of Christ's peace.

MEAL

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY HYMN: "Give Thanks"

W+P 41

*Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ; His Son!
Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ; His Son!
And now, let the weak say "I am strong!"
Let the poor say "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"
And now, let the weak say "I am strong!"
Let the poor say "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" Give thanks!*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

Blest are You, holy, mighty, and merciful Lord!

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory!

We praise You and thank You for creating the universe in power and love,

*for setting Your people free time and again when we found ourselves enslaved,
for Your promises and challenges spoken through Your prophets,
and for Christ Jesus in whom Your fullness dwells.*

Born of Mary, He shares our life; eating with sinners, He welcomes us;

*guiding His children, He leads us; visiting the sick, He heals us;
dying on the cross, He saves us; risen from the dead, He gives new life;*

living with You, He prays for us still, drawing us always to Your throne of grace.

And so with Your Church on earth and the whole company of heaven,
we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

Sung to "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing":

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might adored,
Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of Your Name!
Hail, hosanna, God Most High! Blest is He who now draws nigh
In the Name of God our King! Let our high hosannas ring
And with earth and sky and sea praise His Name eternally!*

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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."

So with thanksgiving, we take this bread and cup and proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Now pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in this holy meal.
Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast.
Unite us in faith, encourage us in hope, and inspire us to love,
that we may serve as Your faithful disciples until we feast at Your table in glory.
All this we pray with joy through our Lord Jesus Christ, who's taught us to pray:

***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.***

THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Now we share God's consecrated gifts among God's consecrated people, knowing that our living Lord Jesus is fully present with us in His Supper, giving Himself to us in bread and wine and forgiving love. Today, we'll share the Lord's Supper by receiving the body and blood of Christ at communion "stations" at the altar rail. Come forward a pew at a time; take an empty glass from the tray, or a glass already filled with grape juice if necessary. Receive "**the body of Christ, given for you**" from the Pastor; receive "**the blood of Christ, shed for you**" from our communion assistant. We'll pause for silent prayer after we've all communed...*

*If you're joining us from your home, we invite you to share the bread and cup with one another. When giving the bread to your neighbor, say "**The body of Christ, given for you.**" When giving the wine/grape juice say, "**The blood of Christ, shed for you.**" Whatever's left over may be reverently eaten and drunk by everyone after our worship is over. Once we've all shared in the body and blood of Christ, we continue in blessing and prayer:*

SENDING

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace.

Amen.

Life-giving God, through this meal
You've bandaged our wounds and fed us with Your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know Your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

And now may God not be ashamed to be called your God;
may Christ Jesus find you attentive and well prepared;
may the Holy Spirit give you the assurance of all that's been promised to you;
and the Triune God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: **"Praise to You, O God of Mercy"** *ELW 208*
See the next page for the music to this hymn.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL:

God has a plan.

We're it!

What's our part in God's plan?

Sharing God's love in joyful service!

Then let's go in peace, live in joy, and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!



Acknowledgements

**Liturgy, Lyrics, Music, and Graphics reprinted
under the following copyright licenses and permissions:**

- Sundays and Seasons license SAS006887 (© 2022 Augsburg Fortress; used by permission)
- One License music license number 731531-A
- CCLI music license number 2280004

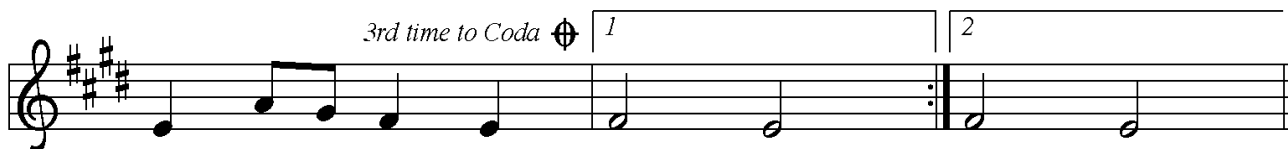
Praise to You, O God of Mercy



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.

⊕ *Coda*



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Text and music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Used with permission under One License music license number 731531-A

I was two months old when my parents left their native India to begin a new life in the United States. Like many immigrants, they came to America in the hope of securing a better future for themselves and their children. But also like many immigrants, they struggled for decades after their arrival to accept themselves as “hyphenated” people— people who live in the liminal and often lonely spaces between homelands, identities, and cultures.

I had no words for such complexities when I was little, but I sensed my parents’ restlessness all the same: their passionate desire to belong, combined with a fierce need to stand apart; their yearning for a safe place to call home; the torn, divided gaze that marked them as foreigners— glancing backwards in nostalgia while straining forward in hope; their will to shape a life worthy of the sacrifices, losses, hurts, and challenges that came with immigration; their tireless conviction that more and better was not only a possibility, but a promise...

In our lectionary readings this week, the Biblical writers capture similar experiences of in-betweenness— experiences of loss and hope, exile and belonging. Directed by God, Abraham gazes at the night sky, trying in vain to imagine descendants as numerous as the stars, while his wife, Sarah, remains heartbreakingly barren. The Psalmist writes of those who “hope in [God’s] steadfast love,” even when that hope entails little more than patient endurance through famine, suffering, and death. The writer of Hebrews acknowledges that the heroes of the faith “confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth,” seeking a homeland even as they toiled in exile, desiring “a better country, that is, a heavenly one.” And through the Gospel writer, Jesus describes faithful servants who wait for their beloved Master through the long watches of the night, hopeful that he’ll return home and reward their diligence— albeit at an unexpected hour.

Each of these readings describes the lives of the faithful. Each explores what faith looks and feels like in the world we actually live in. Abraham’s belief is credited to him as righteousness. The eye of the Lord is on those who trust Him as their help and shield. Faith is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” The servants who put their faith in their Master’s return are blessed and rewarded.

Okay. But what *is* faith?

Growing up, I was taught that faith was a matter of creeds and doctrines, a matter of intellectual assent. To accept Jesus into my heart, to be “born again,” was to affirm a set of claims about who Jesus is and what He accomplished through His death and resurrection. To enter into orthodox faith was to agree that certain theological statements about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the human condition, the Bible, and the Church, were true. When the Christians I knew spoke of “growing in the faith,” what they meant was that they were honing their doctrinal commitments, making sure they had their theological ducks all in a row...

For me, this way of believing, this way of defining faith as an intellectual assent to precisely codified doctrines, has slowly but surely fallen apart— not because I can’t assent, but because my assenting, in and of itself, hasn’t fostered anything close to the meaningful relationship I desire to have with God. If anything, the intellectual assent has been a smokescreen, a distraction, a poor substitute for the real thing.

So again, what's the real thing? What *is* faith? As I've spent time with the lectionary readings this week, I've been struck by the fact that they affirm a definition of faith that my immigrant parents would understand. The texts describe the faithful as people who set out for new places, anticipate new arrivals, wait for big changes, and search for new homelands. In these texts, the faithful are *nomads*. They wander. They contend with a holy restlessness. They straddle the hyphen. They work for the transformation of this world even as they yearn with all their hearts for another...

Faith as it's described in Scripture, isn't, in other words, a destination. It's not a conclusion or a form of closure. Faith is a longing, a hunger, a desire...

According to Abraham's story, faith is the restless energy that pushes us out the door and onto the road in pursuit of the inheritance God has promised. Faith is the audacity to undertake a perilous journey simply because God asks us to— not because we know ahead of time where we're going. Faith is the itch and the ache that turns our faces towards the distant stars even on the cloudiest of nights. Faith is the willingness to stretch out our imaginations and see new birth, new life, new joy— even when we feel withered and dead inside. Faith is the urgency of the homeless for a true and lasting home, a home whose architect and builder is God.

Likewise, according to Jesus' parable of the diligent servants, faith is a posture of active, engaged alertness. It's the rightly aligned heart, the dressed-for-action body, the lit lamp on a dark night. It's the humble willingness to take care of a house we don't possess until its rightful owner comes home. It's the patient ability to wait on a Presence that's not yet arrived, a promise that's not yet been fulfilled. It's an overwhelming desire to welcome, serve, and nourish Jesus— whenever and however He makes an appearance. It's the daily business of living on our tiptoes, our eyes on the door, our hands ready at the knob for the Master's joy-filled arrival...

By these definitions, the opposite of faith isn't doubt, but rather complacency, apathy, resignation, and cynicism. The opposite of faith is falling asleep. It's pie-in-the-sky, a disengaged acceptance of the status quo, a refusal to embrace holy restlessness as an incentive to work for a more just and loving world here and now. The opposite of faith is accepting anything less than the Kingdom God wishes to give us. It's hanging back and holding still when the call of God on our lives is to move.

As a child of immigrants, living at a cultural moment when immigrants are facing unspeakable hatred, contempt, and abuse here in the United States, I'm particularly grateful that God loves the traveler, the wanderer, the foreigner, the exile. I love that those who embrace in-betweenness can serve as vital, living metaphors for the life of faith— contemporary parables for the Church's growth and edification. I love that those who don't belong are the closest to the heart and mission of God. And I love that the holy restlessness we feel as people of faith comes from God's restless love and desire for us. The home we strain towards is the same home God is preparing for us right now, because it's God's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom. All we have to do is journey towards it. All we have to do is welcome it by faith...

• *Debie Thomas*

This Week at St Paul's

P = Parish House, F = Fellowship Hall

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Sun. 8/7 Pentecost +9	9:00 AM	Holy Communion in person and online: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown/live
	10:30 AM	Fellowship Hour live and/or via Zoom: [use meeting ID 839 381 0896, passcode 90e8Dm]
	2:30 PM	Pr Dave leading worship @ Lutheran Comm. at Telford
Mon. 8/8 thru Fri. 8/12	9:00 AM	"Tree of Healing" Vacation Bible School @ St John's Lutheran Activity Center, Richlandtown
Mon. 8/8	10:00 AM	Social Ministry Team [F]
Tues. 8/9	7:30 PM	Finance Team via Zoom: [use meeting ID 839 381 0896, passcode 90e8Dm]
Thur. 8/4	10:00 AM	Bible Study via Zoom/FCC *
	7:00 PM	Scouts BSA Troop 007 [F]
Fri. 8/5	1:00 PM	Al-Anon [F]
	7:00 PM	AA [F]
Sun. 8/14 Pentecost +10	9:00 AM	Service of Word, Prayer, and Thanksgiving in person and online: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown/live
	10:30 AM	Fellowship Hour live and/or via Zoom: [use meeting ID 839 381 0896, passcode 90e8Dm]

* If you'd like to participate in these **activities taking place over Pr Dave's Zoom platform**, go to zoom.us, click "Join a Meeting" at the top right of the page, use meeting ID 3700147169, and if it asks for a password, use 119805 and you should be in. If you're using your phone, these dial-in numbers will work: 929.205.6099 or 312.626.6799. After you dial, you'll be asked for the host's code, and you'll type in 3700147169#, then 119805# and you're in. (What's more, with your smart phone or computer, you can engage video as well as audio, so we can see and hear you—something that's precious right now!) You can also use **Free Conference Call [FCC]**: Dial 857.232.0157, enter conference code 144261, and you're in.

- The Armed Forces, President Biden and his cabinet, Crossroads Pregnancy Care, David & Mary Johnson Sr., Morgan, Ally, Dontay, & Emily Hassler, Andrew Edmonds, Don & Karen Ludovici, Derek & Matt Ludovici, Barbara Graser, Bob Knapp, Bob & Charyl Westervelt, Ray Constable, Connie Slotter, Norm Diehl Sr., Amy Miller, Karen Capella, Chrissy Cousins, Bob Shimalla, Robert & Cheryl Ball, Melissa Manhart, Tammy Zepiora, Kamryn Jenkins, Aaron Hamlin, Gary Hertzog, David & Carol Marks, Katie, Cassidy Owens, David Gullett, Kelly & Jim, Larry Young, Kelsey Shaak, the Evanchuk family, John Apple, Nancy Schnabel, Dr Jenn Phelps; the people of Afghanistan and Ukraine; victims of natural disasters and gun violence; everyone struggling with COVID-19 and its containment.

- Families and friends of Jordan Scholl, Phyllis Boyer, Lisa Kearns, Fay Barndt, Kenneth Horn, Joseph Ricca, Christopher Young, Eric King, Liam King, Patrick King, Russell Stier, Mary Ziegenfuss, Dawn Gilbert, Paul Stepanoff, Steve, Karen Capella, Jon Swartz, Amy Blizard, JoAnn Spaits, Karin Silvius, Mark Bilger, Pr Susan Lynch, George Kirk Hansen, William “Bill” Watkins, Alan West.

Serving in Worship Today:

Usher:	Gary Hertzog	Altar Guild:	Volunteers needed
Communion:	Stefanie Bauman		
Acolyte:	Stefanie Bauman	Bulletin	Alicia Byelich
Counter:	Bill Shaeffer	Reader	Sascha Baringer

Today's bulletins are sponsored by Joe and Aly Brown in loving memory of Dusty, their beloved fur baby. **Today's flowers** are sponsored by Larry and Sue Young in loving memory of their son Christopher Robin Young.

We've resumed **sharing Holy Communion at the altar via "continuous Communion/'stations'"**, encouraging folks to come forward a pew at a time to ensure safer distancing. We'll keep on **"livestreaming" our worship services** via Facebook Live **AND streaming the audio of our services via our Free Conference Call line** (857.232.0157, conference code 144261).

Lutheran Disaster Response for the people of Ukraine: LDR is working with companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, providing refugees with immediate support and supplies as well as pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they've endured. You can donate to Ukraine Relief by going to community.elca.org/eastern-europe-crisis-response or by sending donations to Lutheran Disaster Response, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Your gifts designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region.

Our **Monthly Special** recipient for August is the **Haycock Fire Company**, which serves Haycock Township and surrounding communities with quick-response emergency medical services, firefighting, and marine rescue services. Please give as you're able!

Next Sunday, **August 14** (weather permitting), we'll be holding our first **outdoor worship service** of the summer here at St Paul's. Bring along your lawn chairs, invite your neighbors and friends to join you, and let's praise the Lord together as we enjoy God's good creation!

Stewardship Note: As of June 30, our congregation's expenses for 2022 have exceeded our income by over \$15,000. We know that right now, funds are tight for everyone; but we ask you to prayerfully consider how you might be able to support our ministry together. If you'd like to give electronically (via Simply Giving, our church website, or some other electronic means) and would like some information on how to do that, please contact the church office.

Our **Quakertown Lutheran Cluster Vacation Bible School** for kids in kindergarten through grade 5 will be held **this week, Aug. 8-12, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM** at St John's Lutheran Church Activity Center in Richlandtown. We'll be reflecting on God's "**Tree of Healing**", and our own Rose Sutkins is coordinating this effort along with Pr Dave. If you haven't registered yet, go online to docs.google.com/forms/d/1lWKnI_CnwVEU_jCY1K0ZKXaP0TjAi9ISVUDOfv7cl/edit.

Fence Topper Fundraiser: We're selling antique cast-iron fence toppers from our church cemetery. These decorative pieces are about 150 years old; proceeds will benefit St Paul's and/or our local food pantries through Joyful Noise 9. A fence topper without an end goes for \$40; a fence topper with an end (that'll fit on a standard 1" iron pipe) is \$45. Checks can be made payable to "St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church".

Our Scouts BSA Troop 007 here at St Paul's is having a **Hoagie Sale** this month. Italian or turkey hoagies are \$6.00 each, and proceeds from the sale will help fund Troop 007's activities. You can email your order to sharin_swavely@yahoo.com or sign up on the sheet posted in the narthex; payment can be made via Venmo (@sharin-babb) or at pickup. All orders and money are due by Aug. 18; hoagie pickup will be Aug. 25 from 8:00-8:15 PM at the church. Thanks in advance for your support!

And our Social Ministry Team is also sponsoring a **Hoagie Sale** on Sept. 10, with all proceeds going to our local food pantries (who are experiencing even higher demand right now). Italian or turkey hoagies, with or without onions, are available at \$5.50 each or two for \$10. Order forms are in the fellowship hall; orders must be placed by Sept. 1. Let's help feed the hungry even as we assuage our own hunger!

Though Joyful Noise 9 isn't taking place until 2023, we're still supporting our local food pantries through a **gift basket raffle**. The raffle will be drawn at the end of September, but we could use help selling tickets now—at a family picnic, yard sale, the campgrounds you visit, birthday parties you're attending, or around your neighborhood or workplaces. If you're interested in selling raffle tickets, please contact Linda Hertzog at 610.737.4022 to get raffle tickets. (You can even take baskets with you to advertise!)

For the latest announcement updates, go to:

docs.google.com/document/d/1aZi_IL0SHaQ1BOGFS_s3bt0oHoTQ4fCy9t0372PZioE/edit#

For more information on our ministries, please contact:

St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

837 Old Bethlehem Road, Quakertown, PA 18951

215.536.5789

www.stpaulsqtown.org

stpaulsqtown@gmail.com

Rev. David A. Heckler, Pastor

570.470.0716

prdaveheckler@gmail.com