

The Divine Service

The Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost

September 24 2023

AS WE GATHER

When Paul wrote to his co-worker Timothy that he was “bound with chains as a criminal” (2 Timothy 2:9), he knew well the situation he was in. Acts 16 relates the time that he was thrown in jail in Philippi without benefit of a trial. He was later jailed in Jerusalem and then Caesarea and finally at Rome, where he was under a type of house arrest for two years. The final chapter of Acts finds Paul as a captive one more time, accepting this imprisonment as a prelude to his death. He writes to Timothy “the time of my departure has come” (2 Timothy 4:6). In the centuries since Paul gave his prison witness, countless Christian men and women have been imprisoned for their Gospel witness. We are encouraged to be faithful witnesses in our time by Paul, who writes to his young associate Timothy: “Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith” (1 Timothy 6:11–12a). Paul’s words from prison are good instruction for every situation!

Prelude

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the (✠) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Pastor: Most merciful God,

People: have mercy on us. We confess to you that 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 trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.

Pastor: With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in (✠) Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

Processional Hymn

LSB 827, verses 1 & 4

“Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling”



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus call - ing, “Who will go and work to - day?
4 Hear - ken to the Lord whose com - ing Marks the time when grace shall end,



Fields are white and har-vests wait-ing— Who will bear the sheaves a - way?”
When with His an - gel - ic reap - ers He in glo - ry shall de - scend.



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; Rich re - ward He of - fers thee.
Soon the night, the fi - nal har - vest; Soon the time for work shall cease.



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, “Here am I, send me, send me”?
Then the souls His grace has gar - nered Shall en - joy His Sab - bath peace.

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Greeting

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise: "Now the Feast"

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free-dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God.

to Refrain

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to
make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new. *to Refrain*

Salutation

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, our strength and support in all situations, grant us the power and presence of Your Holy Spirit that we may be strong and steadfast in all situations, joyfully witnessing to the power of Your love and continually learning of You in every season; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

The Old Testament

Isaiah 55:6–9

⁶“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . . ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. ²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Processional (Stand as you are able.)

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twentieth chapter.

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day **“I Love You, Lord”**

Chorus

I love You Lord
And I lift my voice
To worship You
O my soul rejoice
Take joy my King
In what You hear
May it be a sweet sweet sound
In Your ear

Laurie Klein CCLI Song #25266 1978, 1980 House Of Mercy Music For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #2043076

Sermon **“ Wait just one minute. That’s Not Fair!”** **Pastor Scott Henze**
Apostles’ Creed

People I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into
hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into
heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

*Petitions end, “Lord, in your mercy...” Congregation responds, “**Hear our prayer**”*

Offering As We Break the Bread (Choir, 11:00 a.m. only)

Offertory Prayer

Pastor: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Receive now these gifts you have first given and fill us with good things at your table, that we might joyfully and generously share all you have given us, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

A word about Holy Communion: *We are about to receive the Lord's Supper. Before you receive, you might consider the following questions: Do you believe you are a sinner? Do you believe Jesus Christ died for you and shed his blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins? Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper he gives you his true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and strengthens your faith in him and your love for others? If you are a baptized Christian and share these Biblical truths, please come! Those who have not yet received instruction may come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over their chest to indicate they are not receiving the elements.*

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.



Proper Preface

Words of Institution

The Peace of the Lord

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

(The congregation and minister may greet each other with the peace of the Lord).

Agnus Dei

(Congregation may be seated following the Agnus Dei)



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer-cy and love:



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymns during Distribution "Give me Jesus"

LSB 976



1 In the morn - ing when I rise, In the morn - ing when I rise,
2 Dark mid - night was my cry, Dark mid - night was my cry,
3 Just a - bout the break of day, Just a - bout the break of day,
4 Oh, when I come to die, Oh, when I come to die,
5 And when I want to sing, And when I want to sing,



In the morn - ing when I rise, Give me Je - sus.
Dark mid - night was my cry, Give me Je - sus.
Just a - bout the break of day, Give me Je - sus.
Oh, when I come to die, Give me Je - sus.
And when I want to sing, Give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, Give me Je - sus.



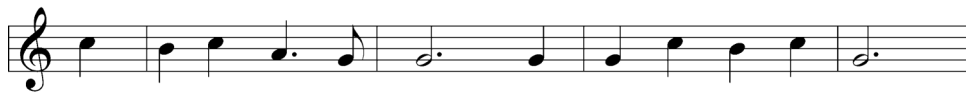
You may have all the rest, Give me Je - sus.

When Morning Gilds the Skies

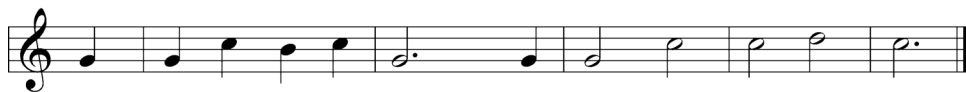
LSB 807



1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, My heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, This is my song of songs:
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon In all high heav'n is known
4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, In this your con - cord find:
5 Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,



“May Je - sus Christ be praised!” When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
“May Je - sus Christ be praised!” God’s ho - ly house of prayer
Than “Je - sus Christ be praised!” There to the e - ter - nal Word
“May Je - sus Christ be praised!” Let all the earth a - round
Sing, “Je - sus Christ be praised!” God’s whole cre - a - tion o’er,

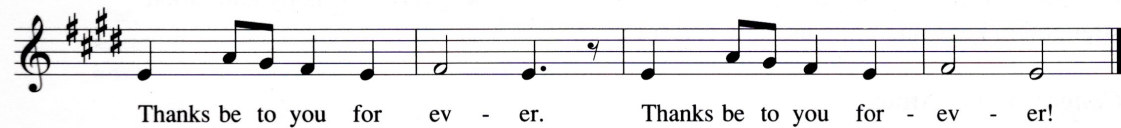
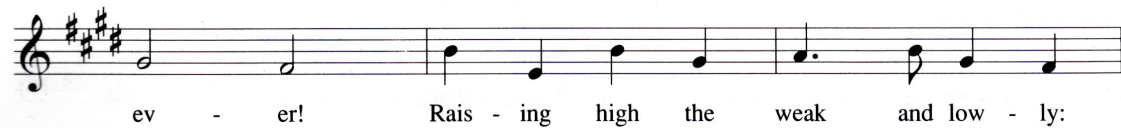
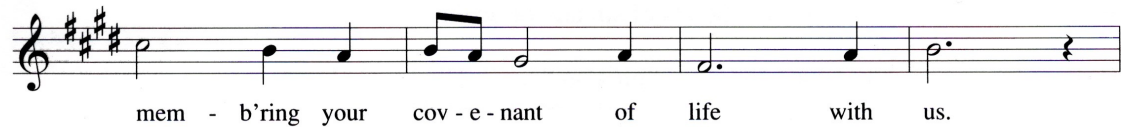
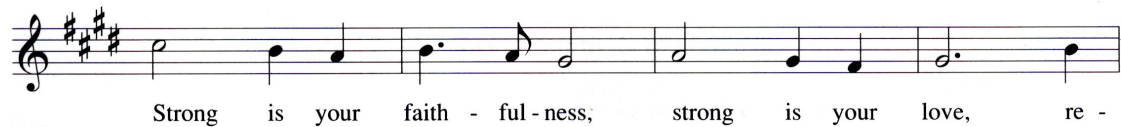
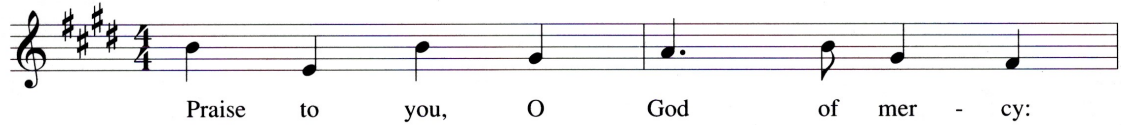


This rings my cur - few call: “May Je - sus Christ be praised!”
Hath none that can com - pare With “Je - sus Christ be praised!”
The e - ter - nal psalm is heard: “May Je - sus Christ be praised!”
Ring joy - ous with the sound: “May Je - sus Christ be praised!”
Both now and ev - er - more Shall Je - sus Christ be praised!



Closing of the Table

Post-Communion Canticle:



Post-Communion Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Installation of new staff members



Announcements

Benediction

Recessional Hymn "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" *LSB 821, verses 1&4*

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om -
scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the
nip - o - tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of
tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
Mar - y, Earth Your foot - stool, heav'n Your throne.
Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
As with - in the veil You en - tered, Robed in
like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of
flesh, our great High Priest, Here on earth both
ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."
priest and vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

Dismissal

Pastor: Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....

People: Disciples making disciples.

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Mark your calendars!

Sunday, October 1st - Kids Choir practice Calling all our talented kids to join *The Unbelievable Super Fantastic Truly Amazing Christmas Extravaganza*. Sign Up Form: <https://stpaulweston.breezechms.com/form/KidsChoir2023>

Friday, October 6 - Middle School Teen Night All middle schoolers are invited to chill and build fellowship. Meeting point at St Paul at 7:45 p.m. To sign up for the event, follow the link under the 'Youth Ministry' tab in the St. Paul app.

Friday, October 13 - Oktoberfest! All are invited! 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Oompah Band, Beer and Brats! Come join the fun and invite your friends and neighbors.

Saturday, October 14 - First Communion Training 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
All children turning 10 years old this year or in 5th grade are invited to this one day training to learn the meaning of Holy Communion. At least one parent will need to attend along with the student. Children will make their first communion on Sunday, October 15. ✝

Friday, October 27 - Trunk or Treat Do you want to participate in our Trunk or Treat? Decorate your car and hand out candy! All families are welcome to participate. 🎃



Order Now!

We're thrilled to announce that this year, you can own a piece of the Oktoberfest experience with LIMITED EDITION

Oktoberfest mugs- \$20.00 each.

Reserve your Oktoberfest mug Now,
please stop by the table in the Breezeway.

Prost!



Go to www.stpaulweston.org for all the latest information.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

Call the church office at 954-384-9096 if you or someone you know would like to speak with a Stephen Minister.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor

Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Mrs. Kathy Henze, Preschool Director

580 Indian Trace, Weston, Florida 33326

Church Office (954) 384-9096 † office@stpaulweston.org

www.stpaulweston.org

Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Sunday School for children and youth : 9:45 AM

Adult Bible Study: 10:00 AM



Website and online giving

St. Paul
LUTHERAN CHURCH
& PRE-SCHOOL