

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

*We are called to gather around the sacred story and table of Christ
where all are invited to be fed and everyone's story matters.*

*"All Guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ."
The Rule of St. Benedict*



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST – PROPER 11
July 19, 2020 – 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

(Please be mindful to keep your microphones muted during responses if possible.)

Prelude: *Arioso* **J.S. Bach** *Kathleen Johnson, Organist*

Priest Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Priest
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Priest
Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One

People **Have mercy upon us.**

The Collect of the Day

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

Priest Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

A Reading (Lesson) From the Prophet Isaiah (44:6-8)

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God**

(Psalm to be read responsively breaking at the asterisk. Please mute your microphone.)

Psalm 86:11-17

11 Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth; *
knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.

12 I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, *
and glorify your Name for evermore.

13 For great is your love toward me; *
you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.

14 The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent men seeks my life; *
they have not set you before their eyes.

15 But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.

17 Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *
because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

The Second Lesson

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans (Romans 8:12-25)

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh~ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ~ if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 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. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend Barbara A.T. Wilson

The people say together—(Please mute your microphone)

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Reader 1 Brothers and sisters, Jesus was crucified in faithfulness to the cause of love and justice that all might be reconciled in peace. Let us pray that through the Cross of Christ his example may be realized in our world and our lives.

Silence

Reader 2 As Jesus was lifted high upon the cross of self-sacrifice that he might draw the whole world to himself, may we take up our cross and follow him in pursuit of the work of reconciliation in the world.

God, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Reader 1 Let us pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected, that their cries for daily bread and our care and concern may inspire works of mercy among us to whom much has been given. We pray also for Congregations in the Rockford Deanery: Grace Place Campus Ministries at Northern Illinois University; Holy Trinity in Belvidere; St. Paul in DeKalb; St. Luke in Dixon; Grace in Freeport; St. Andrew's-in-the-Fields in Farm Ridge; Companion Dioceses of SE Mexico and Renk:La Transfiguración in Oaxaca; St. Michael in Paloch

Silence

Reader 2 Jesus calls us to offer food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted. May God's Spirit so move our hearts; that, following in the steps of Jesus, we may give of ourselves in the service of others until poverty and hunger cease in all the world.

God, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Reader 1 Let us pray for an end to the divisions and inequalities that scar creation, particularly the barriers to freedom faced by God's children throughout the world because of gender, sexual orientation, race, class, or creed; that all may have equality in pursuit of the blessings of creation.

Silence

Reader 2 O God, in whom there is neither male nor female, Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free: unite the wills of all peoples that the walls which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; so that all may live together in justice and peace.

God, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Reader 1 Let us pray for an end to pandemic disease, particularly the scourge of COVID-19; that the plague of death may no longer fuel poverty, destabilize nations, and inhibit reconciliation and restoration throughout the world.

Silence

Reader 2 O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of the suffering: Grant your saving health to all who are afflicted by disease or other harm. Bless the labors of all who minister to the sick and unite the wills of all peoples to seek an end to the diseases of our age; that our brokenness may be turned to health and sorrow to joy. We pray especially for Gail, Puz, Toni, Dorothy, Margaret, David, Ed, Colleen, Lisa, Neil, Clark, Edward Stephen, Jubilee, Tasha, Malachi, Damien, Rosemarie, Bryce, Jim, Jan, Connie, Donald, and Sarah.

God, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Reader 1 Let us pray for an end to the desecration of God's creation that we might find balance and the ability to share this good earth and its waters with all of God's creatures.

Silence

Reader 2 Almighty God, you created the world and gave it into our care: Inspire us with wisdom to share the riches of creation that all may be empowered to seek freedom from poverty, famine, and oppression.

God, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Reader 1 Let us pray for the departed, especially our sisters and brothers who have died as a result of poverty, hunger, disease, violence, or hardness of the human heart.

Silence

Reader 2 Almighty God, through the resurrection of Jesus, you revealed that death is never the last word. We commend to your mercy all who have died as a result of the brokenness of our world; and we pray that all may share in the joy of your heavenly reign.

God, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Reader 1 All are invited to offer petitions, intercessions, and thanksgivings, ending with, "God, in your mercy," to which the community will respond, "Hear our prayer."

The Concluding Collect

Reader 2 Eternal God, in your kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered together and reconciled under the banner of your love and justice.

People **Amen.**

Confession

Priest Let us confess our sins to God.

In unison

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. **Amen.**

The Peace

Priest Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

(Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.)

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. **Amen.**

(Please mute your microphone and join in singing)

Hymn: Lord, speak to me



1 Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in
2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the
3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the

liv - ing ech - oes of thy tone; as thou has sought, so
wand - ering and the wav - ering feet; O feed me, Lord, that
pre - cious things thou dost im - part; and wing my words, that

let me seek thy err - ing child - ren lost and lone.
I may feed thy hun - gry ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach the hid - den depths of many a heart.

(Please unmute your microphone for the Lord's Prayer said together.)

Priest

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

May God bless you with discontent with easy answers, half-truths, superficial relationships, so that you will live from deep within your heart.

Amen.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, abuse, and exploitation of people, so that you will work for justice, equality, and peace.

Amen.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and to change their pain to joy.

Amen.

May God bless you with the foolishness to think you can make a difference in this world, so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.

Amen.

And the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, and Companion on the Way be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Announcements for the Good of the Order

Birthday

God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Wedding Anniversary

Gracious Creator: You blessed the marriage of two people with your love years ago. Amid the joys and struggles of their life you have preserved and strengthened the covenant between them; bless and renew that covenant now, increase your love in them, and strengthen their bond of peace, so that surrounded by their children, family and friends, they may always rejoice in the gift of their love for one another and for your enduring love that blesses their days together. This we ask through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Travel

O God, whose beauty and intention fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: preserve those who travel; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ!
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Sonatina Op. 55, No. 1* Friedrich Kuhlau Hannah Buckle, Pianist

Join us for Coffee Chat on Zoom after the 10:30 service

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church
DeKalb, Illinois, Diocese of Chicago
Member of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
900 Normal Road, DeKalb, Illinois 60115
Parish Office: 815-756-4888
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The Reverend Barbara A. T. Wilson, Rector;

Email: revbarbara@stpaulsdekalb.org
Lynne Jacobson, MDiv, Pastoral Assistant
Susan King – Administrative Assistant
Lorraine Langer, Director of Music,
Hannah Buckle, Assistant Director of Music
Kathleen Johnson, Organist.
Rick Johns, Treasurer.
Jocelyn Prall - Sacristan
Julie Rogers, Brittany Altepeter, Karyn Perkins, Nursery Attendants

Our Wardens and Vestry

Maureen Gerrity, Senior Warden, Gretchen Schlabach, Junior Warden
Rebecca Smith, Clerk, Terry Dickow, Donna de Oliveira,
Bill Cummings, Jacob Maas

Announcements

Join us for A Series of Occasions to Connect!

Grace and Peace to you all in this strange time of "sheltering at home" and being compelled for the sake of one another's health and well-being to avoid gathering for worship. We can make good use of this time by sanctifying it and offering it, and ourselves, souls and bodies, to God.

Let's consider this time as a true Sabbath from our usual busy-ness a time to listen and look for God's Presence here. Our weekly series on our website includes a Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom), Gospel reflections and more.

The Liturgy of the Word Service will be on Zoom at 8 AM and at 10:30 AM.

The bulletin will be the same for both services and a Zoom coffee hour will take place after the 10:30 service.

St. Paul's: Share Work plan for church ground care

Several years ago when Dick Downen was on the vestry, he came up with a Share Work plan to care for the church grounds. Several folks adopted a bush or two or an area of plants and Betsy Pool made those folks name plates on stones by their respective bushes. Bill and I have continued to care for our adopted bushes twice a year since the plan was set in motion. Is there anyone else caring for particular bushes so we don't reassign them? Are folks interested in helping? Please email **Susan King or Jennie C.** which area interests you. You can team with someone or ask for an area to be split up. After everyone has a chance, a final plan will be shared. Thank you!! parishoffice@stpaulsdekalb.org

Suggestions: Mark your calendars twice per year to check your adopted bushes. Keep your bushes trimmed and weeded where needed. You may want to trim bushes away from touching the church. If you want to donate mulch for your area or lay down gardener-cloth, feel free.

Tools: Trimmers (electrical or manual); Rake. Please make arrangements if you need to borrow tools or use your own.

Goal: Ownership for everyone wanting to be involved and saving on expenses.

Expenses: None. This plan is not intended to need any funding.

Bishop Anderson House Spiritual Care Training

Our Spiritual Care Visitor Training is geared towards individuals who want to learn the art of being a healing presence through basic skills of active listening. Other topics include the role of faith, sacrament and prayer in spiritual care; addiction; ministry to the cognitively impaired; advance directives; cultural diversity; and serious illness, death, & loss.

The intended audience for Spiritual Care Visitor Training is that person who wishes to enhance their spiritual care skills by learning how to support members of their faith community in times of transition and change. These learned skills can also be applied to different volunteer opportunities at nursing homes, hospice centers and hospitals. Graduates have found it to be very empowering and a very meaningful way to increase their capacity to care for others.

Participants gather for an innovative retreat which will include a time of spiritual reflection, followed by workshops that will explore how to be an “active listener” and the particular concerns of providing spiritual care with those who are dying. This is followed by a series of 7 online modules and active, supervised participation in field work serving in a pastoral care role.

The course begins on August 8 with a Zoom conference. Deadline to register is July 27th. To learn more, visit the Bishop Anderson website, <https://www.bishopandersonhouse.org/spiritual-care-visitor-training-2/>

Book Studies

Join our book study on Zoom, on Tuesdays, @5 PM--on the recent book by Karen Armstrong, *The Lost Art of Scripture: Rescuing the Sacred Texts*.

Here is what Amazon says about the book: "Today the Quran is used by some to justify war and acts of terrorism, the Torah to deny Palestinians the right to live in the Land of Israel, and the Bible to condemn homosexuality and contraception. The significance of scripture may not be immediately obvious in our secular world, but its misunderstanding is perhaps the root cause of many of today's controversies."

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wonder if anyone would like to join me in another book study, this one titled, *How to be an Antiracist*, by Ibram X. Kendi. Here's a review:

"With groundbreaking vision and revelatory clarity of purpose, Kendi argues that to reject racism is insufficient--rather, one must practice antiracism, which demands 'persistent self-awareness, constant self-criticism, and regular self-examination.' Racism, as Kendi illuminates in these pages, is not simply a matter of hatred and ignorance; rather, it's a vicious structural force rooted at the bedrock of American society, infecting everything from community policing to housing policy. Pick up this book for a necessary lesson in unlearning everything you think you know about racism, as well as an essential education in how each and every one of us can play an active role in building the just and equitable world we want to live in."

I look forward to hearing from you. Yours in Christ, Barbara+

Evenings of Taize

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope this note finds you well and that you are discovering new and creative ways to cope with staying at home while keeping yourself and others safe.

As wonderful as it is to gather together to worship through prayer and song please remember that as members of the Body of Christ, even when we are not together, we are still one body and each of us is precious in God's sight. I encourage you to add the music of Taize to your prayer life and routines in an intentional way. If you haven't already created a special space in your home for prayer may I suggest that you do? Light a candle, burn incense, read poetry, listen to the sounds of nature, breathe deeply and allow yourself to fall into, and meditate with, the simple songs of Taize.

We will be sure to let you know when we resume our evening services.

In the meanwhile, please pray for me as I pray for you.

God's Peace to you and to those in your loving care,
Lynne Jacobson, MDiv., Liturgist/Pastoral Assistant

Discretionary Fund Collection and Food Pantry Giving

Donations to the Rector's Discretionary Fund can be mailed to St. Paul's or can be sent using Realm. The Salvation Army Food Pantry has asked for financial help only during this time and you can check on their website on how to send help at

<https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/dekalb/>

For more information about St. Paul's

Go to our website, www.stpaulsdekalb.org - to hear the Sermons, Announcements, Schedules, Mars Hill Newsletter, etc. The Church of St. Paul is on Facebook and Twitter! Like our page and sign up to follow us to get the latest updates on what's going on!

St. Paul's is an affirming and inclusive Christian community!

Striving through worship, love and service to welcome all people just as God created you. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender expression, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we! All are welcome, no exceptions!

CITATIONS

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Service - Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer for on-line use by the Congregation of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, DeKalb, Illinois

<https://www.bcponline.org/>

<http://www.lectionarypage.net/>

<https://episcopalchicago.org/>

<http://www.stpaulsdekalb.org/>

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Prayers of the People. ~ Adapted from A Bidding Prayer for An End to Global Poverty and Instability, based on the UN Millennium Development Goals; provided by The Episcopal Church + Office of Government Relations.

Hymn: Lord, speak to me Words: Frances R. Havergal (1836-1879), Music: *Canonbury*, adapt. Robert A. Schumann (1810-1856), from *Nachtstücke*, 1839; arr. from *Hymnal with Tunes, Old and New*, 1872 Supplemental Episcopal Hymnal, *Voices Found*.

Cover - *Parable of the Sower*, www.MichiganUMC

Household Prayer: Morning

*In whatever shelter I wake this morning
I know this place is holy because you meet me here.
As I wash my body and prepare for the day,
I remember baptismal waters and the claim upon my life.
Wherever darkness looms, Sovereign God,
traffic in mercy this day.
Traffic in mercy this day. Amen.*

Household Prayer: Evening

*As darkness spreads over the land,
I trust that you move in it.
As I yield the night to sleep and dreams,
I pray you would remake me
into a servant bold,
for the sake of Jesus. Amen.*

A word about the Household Prayers:

These prayers are printed on a page of their own so that you can tear them out and use them in your devotions at home. These prayers come from an anthology titled *Feasting on the Word*, that includes several liturgies for services. The prayers reflect the readings of the week, including special feast days.