

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*



FIFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST – PROPER 9
July 5, 2020

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

Prelude: *Allegretto* G. F. Händel 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.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

A Reading (Lesson) From the Book of Zechariah (9:9-12)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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 145: 8-15

8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 The Lord is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.

10 All your works praise you, O Lord, *
and your faithful servants bless you.

11 They make known the glory of your kingdom *
and speak of your power;

12 That the peoples may know of your power *
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; *
your dominion endures throughout all ages.

14 The Lord is faithful in all his words *
and merciful in all his deeds.

15 The Lord upholds all those who fall; *
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

The Second Lesson

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans (Romans 7:15-25a)

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19,25-30

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

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

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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: St. Bride in Oregon; Christ Church in Ottawa; Emmanuel in Rockford; St. Anskar in Rockford; And in our Companion Dioceses of SE Mexico and Renk: San Marcos in Veracruz; Jarbanat Sub-Parish.

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 dis-eases of our age; that our brokenness may be turned to health and sorrow to joy. We pray especially for Gail, Puzz, Toni, Dorothy, Margaret, David, Ed, Colleen, Lisa, Neil, Clark, Edward Stephen, Jubilee, Tasha, Malachi, Damien, and Rosemarie, Bryce, Jim, Jan, Connie, and Donald. We pray for Debbie, who passed into the greater life in God, and especially for her husband Bill, and all her family.

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 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.

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
Email: parishoffice@stpaulsdekalb.org
Website: <http://www.stpaulsdekalb.org>

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.

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."

"In this timely and important book, one of the most trusted and admired writers on the world of faith examines the meaning of scripture. The sacred texts have been co-opted by fundamentalists, who insist that they must be taken literally, and by others who interpret scripture to bolster their own prejudices. These texts are seen to prescribe ethical norms and codes of behavior that are divinely ordained: they are believed to contain eternal truths. But as Karen Armstrong shows in this chronicle of the development and significance of major religions, such a narrow, peculiar reading of scripture is a relatively recent, modern phenomenon. For most of their history, the world's religious traditions have regarded these texts as tools that enable the individual to connect with the divine, to experience a different level of consciousness, and to help them engage with the world in more meaningful and compassionate ways."

"At a time of intolerance and mutual incomprehension, *The Lost Art of Scripture* shines fresh light on the world's major religions to help us build bridges between faiths and rediscover a creative and spiritual engagement with holy texts."

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

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/>

mthrbbarbara@gmail.com

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.

Cover -

Household Prayer: Morning

*As the darkness recedes, open my eyes to the gift of this day;
help me to trust you with all that it will hold.
In the hours to come, as my plans are interrupted,
tune my ear to the sound of your voice,
my eye to the movement of your Spirit,
my heart to the strength of your desire,
that I might glimpse your hidden graces and be strengthened in your service,
for I would be your instrument. Amen.*

Household Prayer: Evening

*Merciful God, I come weary, grateful for the chance to meet you in the silence,
eager to be washed again in your claim. Lift from me the burdens I do not easily yield.
In your gracious provision, fit me with a better yoke that I might rest as a child
secure and rise with a teachable spirit. 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.