

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 are welcome, no exceptions!



SECOND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST – PROPER 6

June 14, 2020

“All Guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ.”

The Rule of St. Benedict

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

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.

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through
your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with
compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, 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 Book of Genesis (18:1-15)

- A The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.
- B They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

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 116:1, 10-17

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

10 How shall I repay the Lord *
for all the good things he has done for me?

- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the Lord *
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O Lord, I am your servant; *
**I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
 you have freed me from my bonds.**
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the Lord'S house, *
**in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
 Hallelujah!**

The Second Lesson

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans (Romans 5:1-8)

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person~ though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
 People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Matthew 9:35-10:23

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

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

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”]

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

Presider 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

Leader 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.**

Presider 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.

Silence

Leader 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.**

Presider 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

Leader 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.**

Presider 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

Leader 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.

God, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Presider 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

Leader 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.**

Presider 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

Leader 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.**

Leader 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

Presider 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.

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.**

*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.

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
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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.

Beginning this week, 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.

Book Studies

Join our book study on Zoom, on Tuesdays, @10 AM--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+

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/>

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

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!

Household Prayer: Morning

*Holy Presence, let me be with you today.
Awaken my senses to the wonders of your creation,
and fill me with compassion for every person I meet.
Protect me from those who would hurt me;
make me watchful so that I do not harm anyone.
Fill my inward being with the love of Christ,
and inasmuch as it is possible,
let others know your presence through me.
In this way let me glorify you, Holy One, Holy Three. Amen.*

Household Prayer: Evening

*Maker of day and night, creator of sun, moon, and all planets and stars,
thank you for your protection during the hours I have passed in your light.
Guard me, I pray, through the coming dark.
As I settle into sleep, recall to my mind each blessing you gave me
while I was awake so that I can rejoice in your goodness.
Grant me peace, rest, and renewal as I close my eyes in your presence.
Watch over me while I am helpless in the world.
If it is your will to speak to me in dreams while my mind is quieted and still,
grant that I may be attentive to your Word and guided by your Spirit
when I awake to a new day.
Let me arise and join my voice with all the faithful in giving you
thanks and praise through Jesus Christ, the Light. 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.