

The Season After Pentecost Fourteenth Sunday



The Season After Pentecost: Fourteenth Sunday

ELW Service of the Word

St. Paul Lutheran Church—September 6th, 2020– 10:00 A.M.

Introduction to the day

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

PRELUDE

Our Father, God in Heaven Above (ELW 746,747)

Settings by J. S. Bach, Dieterich Buxtehude, Johann Krieger, Marcel Dupré

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.
We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.
We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.
We sin in thought, word, and deed.
By your grace, forgive us;
through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, lead us;
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.
 2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
 3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
 4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.

Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.
 God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
 but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.
 Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Ezekiel.

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God – who is about to attack Jerusalem – gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God, Word of Life



Psalm 119:35

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ³³Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.
- ³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**
- ³⁵Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.
- ³⁶**Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain. R**
- ³⁷Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.
- ³⁸**Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.**
- ³⁹Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.
- ⁴⁰**Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me. R**

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Romans.

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, Word of Life

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (from Setting 9)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals – and the church as a whole – should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Anne Deneen

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -

in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,

you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
 Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
 Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.
 Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958
 Text from *Songs of Praise Enlarged Edition*, © Oxford University Press 1931.
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THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of our church in this community, strengthen our interfaith partnerships, and our bless our cumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to listen with love, to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit, especially those on our prayer list, and those whose names we offer now... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith, especially Mary Lee Kingman Natti, whose memorial was this week. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

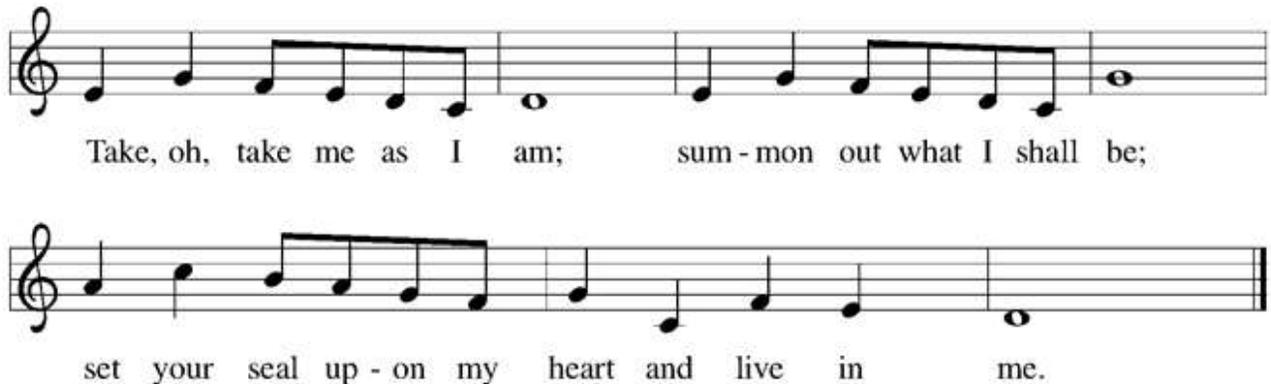
THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY SONG

Take, Oh Take Me as I Am

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G-clef (treble clef) with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;
set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, rich in love, we bless your name and give you thanks. In our need, you make haste to help us. You plant us beside streams of your wisdom, teach us in pastures greenening with truth, and guide us on the path of your promise. By your Spirit awaken our faith, that, feasting on your Word, we may love you more fully and serve our neighbor more faithfully; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Toccatà

Johann Krieger

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY:

Presiding: Pastor Anne Deneen

Preaching: The Rev. Anne Deneen

Assisting Minister: TBD

Reader: TBD

Musician and Choir Director: Theodore Stoddard

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NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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WELCOME TO ST. PAUL

Thank you for joining virtually. Please follow us on Facebook and/or sign up for our FYI Newsletter by logging into our website at stpaulcapeann.org.

WEEKLY MORNING PRAYER

Join next week's prayer and quiet reflection time by going to the St. Paul Facebook page at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesdays. We will continue offering Morning Prayer throughout the summer.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANNE: In-Person Visits outside, with Social Distancing

I have started visiting people at home, outside. It's wonderful to see you in person. If you would like an in-person visit, please let me know. I'm also continuing on-line Zoom visits, Facetime, Microsoft Teams, Messenger facetime or telephone calls, if you prefer that. If you would like to meet with me, please send an email or call. Please contact me directly or contact the office at 978-283-6550 or office@stpaulcapeann.org.

PRAYER LISTS

Please keep these people in your prayers for healing throughout the week: Heidi H., Pastor O., Roger K., Dan W., Caitlin G., Janet C., Dennis G., Elaine V., Mary V., Andrew G., Hope L., Amy P., Alane B., Daneen R., Rachael, Sonny M., Mitch O., Tasha R., Carole F., Carrie T., Willy G., Henry K., Jim W.

Armed services: Josh Coakley, Stephanie Norberg, Brian Misuraca, Christian DiGregorio, John Korpi III, Danny Hill, Rachel Misuraca Lewin, Zach Hafey, Liam Carney, and Tony Favalora

Please see the FYI emails for more information