



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2026, 10:00am
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
StPaulsSparks.org

Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you're welcome to participate fully in all that we do here. We invite you to say the words in bold throughout the service. Restrooms are outside the sanctuary and down the hall. Turn right at your first opportunity. You're invited to join us for coffee and fellowship after the service in the parish hall. If it's your first time worshipping with us, please fill out the Connect Card in the foyer. Be sure to leave your mobile number if you'd like a text from Mother Hannah.

Announcements & Welcome

The Processional

*Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!*

*Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.*

Hymn #8 "Morning Has Broken"

*Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.*

*Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!*

The Acclamation & Collect for Purity

Blessed be the one holy and living God. **Glory to God for ever and ever!**

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.**

The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us. Repeat three times.

Let us pray. *(A moment of silence for prayer.)* Divine sower, scattering seed, never hoarding, wasting life—or so the world thinks: give us the depth to receive the gift so freely given and the maturity to revel in love's abundant, reckless growth; through Jesus Christ, the grain of life. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (55:10-13)

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

We will say the Psalm responsively by half-verse.

You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; *

the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, *

for so you provide for the earth.

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *

with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

You crown the year with your goodness, *

and your paths overflow with plenty.

May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, *

and the hills be clothed with joy.

The Second Lesson

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (8:1-11)

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

Hymn #490 "I Want to Walk"

I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

*Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.*

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

*The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (13:1-9,18-23)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the

path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" "Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Acclamation Continued

*In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.*

*The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

The Sermon

Silent reflection after the sermon.

The Rev. Hannah Wilder

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.

Special Prayers

If you're celebrating sobriety, a birthday, an anniversary, or traveling, or any other significant milestone, you are invited to come forward for prayer.

The Prayers of the People

O God, Creator of every star in the night sky, we thank you for our place in your vast Universe. Bless us with an abiding sense of awe and wonder as we go about our daily lives.

We give you thanks and praise, O God.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. O Lord, **Hear our prayer.**

In our diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for all retired diocesan clergy members. O Lord, **Hear our prayer.**

O God, Creator of our beautiful, blue planet among the stars, we thank you for the sky and ocean, clouds and waves, and for every living thing. Grant us knowledge and wisdom to live in harmony with your planet. O Lord, **Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, Creator of Humanity, we thank you for creating us. Guide us away from harming each other, and towards loving each other and living in harmony. Bless, inspire, and guide all people who exercise power and influence. O Lord, **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for the well-being of our families, for those we love, and for our neighbors. We pray especially for you to help us love those people who seem different, who we do not understand, and who we fear. O Lord, **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for all who are ill, suffering, or in any kind of distress. We pray especially for Pat and Mike Entwistle, Karen Rehne, Faith, Moose, Sue, Deni, Bill, Milt, Bailey, Ryan, Jennifer, and those we now name (*pause*). May you comfort them and may your mercy shine upon them. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for those who have left this mortal life. We pray especially for Paul Allison, Tiger Goddard, Trish Healy, and those we now name (*pause*). May you bless them and keep them in your sight forevermore. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Priest: O God, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit among us, and to grant our prayers in accordance with your divine will and wisdom, through the mercy and love of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Confession & Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
(*A moment of silence for prayer. Please stand, bow or kneel, as you are able.*)

Most merciful God, **we confess 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 loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Feel free to greet one another with whatever sign of peace (handshake, fist bump, nod, etc.) is comfortable for you.

Communion Instructions & Offertory Sentence

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

The Offertory

“My Lord, What a Morning”

Your gifts sustain our mission and ministry. Thank you for being generous. You may place your gifts in the offering plate as it comes around. Or you can point your phone camera at the code to the right and follow the instructions to give online. We especially appreciate automated giving, and help with covering fees. When the offering is brought to the front, we stand and sing together:



The Presentation Song

Hymn #411 “O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

*O bless the Lord, my soul!
His grace to thee proclaim!
And all that is within me join
to bless his holy Name!*

*He pardons all thy sins,
prolongs thy feeble breath;
he healeth thine infirmities
and ransoms thee from death.*

*He will not always chide;
he will with patience wait;
his wrath is ever slow to rise
and ready to abate.*

*He clothes thee with his love,
upholds thee with his truth;
and like the eagle he renews
the vigor of thy youth!*

Prayer Over the Offering: All things come of thee, O Lord, **and of thine own have we given thee.**

The Eucharist

Eucharistic Prayer C, Inclusive Language

May God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift our hearts to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Source and Sustainer of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of your creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word, born of your servant Mary, to fulfill your Law, opening for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate Christ's death and resurrection as we await the day of his coming.

Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior. Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.
Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

God of our ancestors; Redeemer and Mother of Israel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only and not for strength; for pardon only and not for renewal. Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.
AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

These are the gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Please be seated. Follow the directions of the ushers. If you need gluten-free wafers, please say "gluten free" to the priest. If you prefer not to receive communion, you may still come forward for a blessing; please cross your arms over your chest. Let an usher know if you would like communion brought to you in your seat.

The Post-Communion Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray. (*Pause for silent prayer.*) Eternal God, **heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The priest gives a final blessing to which we respond, **Amen.**

The Recessional

Hymn #48 "O Day of Radiant Gladness"

*O day of rest and gladness,
O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness,
most beautiful, most bright;
on thee the high and lowly,
through ages joined in tune,
sing "Holy, holy, holy,"
to the great God Triune.*

*This day, God's people meeting,
His Holy Scripture hear;
His living presence greeting,
through Bread and Wine made near.
We journey on, believing,
renewed with heavenly might,
from grace more grace receiving
on this blest day of light.*

*On thee, at the creation,
the light first had its birth;
on thee, for our salvation,
Christ rose from depths of earth;
on thee, our Lord victorious,
the Spirit sent from heav'n;
and thus on thee, most glorious,
a triple light was given.*

*New graces ever gaining
from this our day of rest,
we reach the rest remaining
to spirits of the blest;
to Holy Ghost be praises,
to Father, and to Son;
the church her voice upraises
to Thee, blest Three in One.*

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!**

Permission to reprint, perform and stream the music in this service has been obtained from RiteSong, CCLI #2874630.
Biblical interpretation from the New Revised Standard Version.

Flowers Given In Celebration of Alex Papadako's Birthday

Thank you, Peter and Barbara Papadacos!

Announcements

Welcome to St. Paul's We're so glad you joined us! You're invited to the coffee hour after the service in the parish hall, which is down the hallway from the narthex (entryway) and to the left. If you're new here, please fill out a yellow Connect Card. We would love to get to know you. You can place the card in the offering plate as it goes by, or hand it to an usher. Welcome!

Ben's Cyber Security Class Stay after church today for a cyber security talk by our musician, Ben Gallagher, who doubles as a cyber security engineer. He'll provide practical tips and even make it fun! This takes place the same day as our monthly Eco-palians meeting, but it will happen right after church, 11:15am - 11:45am.

Eco-Palians Meeting Join us today, 11:45am - 12:45pm, in the Choir Room as we explore ways to care for God's creation through education, advocacy, practical action, and community. Together we'll share ideas, plan future projects and events, and support St. Paul's efforts to grow in environmental stewardship and sustainability. All are welcome. Meets the second Sunday of every month. For more information, contact Robin Towne at 775-432-8574.

Interested in Baptism? Baptism is the sacrament by which we officially join the Body of Christ and begin a lifelong journey of faith. If you, your child or grandchild are interested, Mother Hannah will offer a baptism preparation class in October for adults, parents, and sponsors. If you are considering baptism or would simply like to learn more, please contact Mother Hannah: rector@stpaulssparks.org. We would be delighted to walk with you as you explore this important step in the Christian life.

Sunday School and Nursery Do you have a heart for nurturing young minds? We are looking for joyful volunteers to join our Sunday School team including the nursery. Join us on Sunday July 19, after church to meet with Nancy Lightfoot, Mother Hannah and the team of Sunday school teachers.

Join the Choir! If you love to sing, you are welcome in our choir. We're always in need of more voices. We meet before the worship service on Sunday mornings at 8:45am to practice. All are welcome. Contact Alissa Kirk to learn more: ateachout86@gmail.com

Kairos Prison Ministry Do you have a calling to minister to people in prison? St. Paul's has an active ministry to and with people who are incarcerated. Contact Mike Margerum for information about how to get involved: 775-229-2695.

Signup for Diocesan News Did you know St. Paul's is part of a larger community? We are one of 28 churches in the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada. We have a bishop, the Rt. Rev. Elizabeth Gardner, and she has a weekly newsletter full of photos, interesting articles, and helpful information for keeping abreast of what's going on around our diocese (geographic region). To sign up, email Holly: office@EpiscopalNevada.org and ask to be put on the newsletter list.

New Instagram Account! St. Paul's is now on Instagram! Check us out and follow us: @st.paulssparks