



Happy Pride!

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 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

*1 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.*

*Chorus: All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

*2 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground*

"All Are Welcome"

*where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.
(Chorus)*

*3 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger. (Chorus)*

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 Gloria

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,*

Hymn #S-280

*you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most
High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the
glory of God the Father, Amen*

Let us pray. *(A moment of silence for prayer.)* O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through 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 from the book of Genesis (50:15-21)

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

The Psalm

Psalm 103:1-13

We will sing the Psalm all together to the tune of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Bless the Lord, my soul, let all that is within me bless His name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, forget not all His mercies to proclaim.

He forgives all your transgressions; He heals all disease you face.

He redeems your life forever from the pit with love and grace.

He with good does satisfy you; renews youth like eagle's flight

He works righteousness and justice for those in oppression's plight.

He made known His ways to Moses, deeds to Isr'el from above.

The Lord's gracious with compassion, slow to anger, rich in love.

He will not accuse forever, nor keep anger in reserve;

He does not repay us as our sins and wickedness deserve.

High as heav'ns above the earth, so great His love for all who fear;

Far as east is from the west, He's cast our sin and drawn us near.

The Second Lesson

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (14:1-12)

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor

of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

The Gospel Acclamation

"Celtic Alleluia"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening
Speak your words of wisdom,
For the words you speak are everlasting life!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (18:21-35)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Acclamation Continued

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
The word of the Lord lasts forever
What is the word that is living?
It is brought to us through God's son: Jesus Christ!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Anglican Church of Aotearoa (ow-teh-ah-ROH-ah), New Zealand and Polynesia. O Lord, **Hear our prayer.**

In our diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for St. Christopher in Boulder City. 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 those experiencing homelessness, Connie Swain, Joyce Stoffey, Kyndale Pease, and those we now name (*pause*). Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for those who have left this mortal life. We pray especially for Daniel Coppa, Jim Burns, Lynne Snell and those we now name (*pause*). 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

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself, an offering and sacrifice to God.

The Offertory

“Rain Down”

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

“Doxology”

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below*

*Praise God above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

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.

Communion Music

*When Jesus set his table, no one was turned away.
That table was a promise of blessing and of grace
So set the table fully. Invite the whole world in.
If we would share love's welcome,
then here's where we begin.*

*No race, no creed, no nation, no love of heart and
vow. No gender is rejected. The table's waiting
now
So set the table fully. Invite the whole world in.
If we would share love's welcome,
then here's where we begin.*

*1 Beautiful ground on which we tread,
Beautiful heaven above our head,
Beautiful flowers and beautiful trees,
Beautiful land and beautiful seas;
Beautiful sun that shines so bright,
Beautiful stars with glitt'ring light,
Beautiful summer, beautiful spring,
Beautiful birds that merrily sing.*

*2 Beautiful lambs that frisk and play,
Beautiful night and beautiful day,
Beautiful lily, beautiful rose,
Beautiful every flower that grows;*

"When Jesus Set His Table" by Amanda Udis-Kessler

*Whoever we find troubling & seek to keep outside,
that is the very neighbor who must not be denied.
So set the table fully. Invite the whole world in.
If we would share love's welcome,
then here's where we begin.*

*When Jesus set his table, no one was turned away.
That table is our promise. It's ours to tend today
So set the table fully. Invite the whole world in.
If we would share love's welcome,
then here's where we begin.*

"Beautiful Things"

*Beautiful drops of pearly dew,
Beautiful hills and vales to view,
Beautiful herbs that scent the air,
Beautiful things grow every where.*

*3 Beautiful ev'rything around,
Beautiful grass to deck the ground,
Beautiful fields and woods so green,
Beautiful buds and blossoms seen;
Beautiful flower and shady leaf,
Beautiful world, tho' full of grief,
Beautiful every tiny blade,
Beautiful all the Lord hath made.*

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 #493 "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

*O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!*

*He speaks; and, listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.*

*Jesus! the Name that charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.*

*Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven!*

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 to the Glory of God in Celebration of the Towne's Wedding Anniversary

by Roger and Robin Towne

Flowers Given to the Glory of God in Celebration of the Birthdays of Jennifer Bouzek & Mother Hannah

by Margaret Bouzek

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!

Celebration of Life for Lynn Snell Saturday, October 17 at 11:00am. All are welcome to remember a beloved member of our parish with the Snell family. A reception with more storytelling to follow in the parish hall.

Parish Picnic at Galena Creek Park Join us for a fun time of fellowship and enjoying God's creation on Saturday, September 19 at Galena Creek Park. Questions? Contact Dr. Jon Mittelstadt: jon.mittel@gmail.com.