

## TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

God's Kingdom Is Inclusive

August 16, 19 & 20, 2023

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### AS WE GATHER

There are no outsiders in this place. Whether Jew or Gentile, lifelong worshiper or newcomer, young or old, rich or poor—no matter who you are or where you have come from—the promises of God are for you! As you gather in this place, God offers His grace to you through His living and active Word. Through the shed blood of Jesus, His Son, our gracious Father includes you in His everlasting kingdom. This inclusive kingdom is His Church, the family He has claimed as His own, the people whom He has saved, delivered, and called to Himself in Christ. So don't stand on the outside looking in! The King invites you! Come to the feast!

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### WELCOME

[Jesus said,] I am the vine; you are the branches.

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit,  
for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN #817

“Earth and All Stars”

Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets! Sing to the Lord a new song!

Oh, victory! Loud shouting army! Sing to the Lord a new song!

**Refrain: He has done marvelous things. I too will praise Him with a new song!**

Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm! Sing to the Lord a new song!

Flowers and trees! Loud rustling dry leaves! Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos! Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers! Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers! Sing to the Lord a new song!

**Refrain**

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Thus says the LORD: “Keep justice, and do righteousness,

**People: for soon My salvation will come, and My deliverance be revealed.”**

Pastor: The deliverance of the Lord comes to us today as we gather in this house of prayer, united as one with all people who trust in the name of Jesus. Let us search our hearts and minds, bowing before our gracious Father and confessing our sins to Him.

*(We take a moment of silence for prayer and meditation upon the Word of God.)*

Pastor: Delivering Lord, you invite all people into your holy house of prayer.

**People: We confess that we have not kept justice, choosing to go our own way instead of following your direction. We admit that we have not lived righteously, breaking your commands by what we think, say, and do.**

Pastor: Saving Lord, you invite all people to know your mercy.

**People: At the cross of our Savior, Jesus Christ, you defeated our enemies of sin and death. Help us to live in this victory, trusting in your promises, and gathering with all your people to praise your name forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Deliverance has come to you! Salvation is yours! To both Jews and Gentiles, to those of every nation under heaven, the Good News of Jesus has been given! God has heard your prayer for mercy and has offered you a place in His kingdom. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and by the authority of Jesus, my King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;  
 Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
 We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –  
 Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;  
 O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
 Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,  
 Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
 Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;  
 You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.  
 In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

**SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks and praise to you, O God, for making your house a place of prayer for all peoples.

**People: You have blessed us with your grace and salvation!**

Pastor: Through the Gospel, make us voices of invitation to all people

**People: that with us they may serve you with joy and gladness all our days.**

Pastor: We pray this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

**9:00 ANTHEM****5:00 & 9:00 INSTALLATION AND REDEDICATION OF SCHOOL STAFF**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 56:1, 6–8* (The Lord's salvation comes for all peoples.) Thus says the LORD: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my righteousness be revealed. "And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."<sup>8</sup> The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Romans 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32* (God will reveal His mercy to all people.) I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. <sup>13</sup> Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry <sup>14</sup> in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. <sup>15</sup> For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? <sup>28</sup> As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. <sup>29</sup> For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 15:1-5*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

### CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

#### “Go Into the World” AGPS#101

Go ye, go ye into the world and make disciples of all nations.  
Go ye, go ye into the world and I will be with you there!  
I am the vine, you are the branches, ever the fruit to bear;  
I am the light, you, the reflection everywhere.

#### SERMON HYMN “Jesus, Name Above All Names” AGPS #145

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,  
Emmanuel, God is with us blessed Redeemer, living Word.

Jesus, loving shepherd vine of the branches, Son of God  
Prince of Peace, Wonderful counselor Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

Jesus, Way of salvation, King of kings, Lord of lords,  
the way the truth, and the Life, Mighty creator, My Savior and friend.

### SERMON

(Rise)

### NICENE CREED

**People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made;**

**People: who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

(Be seated)

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, bless this congregation and church. Grant that it may be a house of prayer and we a people of prayer. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, grant that the Church may steadfastly proclaim your irrevocable gifts and calling, that the disobedient may receive mercy and that those who hear would become grafted onto Jesus Christ, the true vine. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, bless our school. Give the teachers the wisdom to guide and lead our students as you would have them. Give our students the hard work and determination to succeed in the classroom. Bless our administrators as they make decisions for our school. Bless parents as they raise their children. Let this year at St. Paul's be one of joy, and connection with you and one another. Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, bless all honest work and occupations, and grant that we may use well the fruits of our labors. Give us generosity for those in need. Bless the tithes and offerings that accompany our sacrifice of praise. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, we thank you that you have led us to call Carole King to be our worship director. We pray that you give her wisdom as she discerns your call, and that we all may have full confidence that it was you who led her to the decision she makes. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, thank you for Pam Akey's relationship with her mother who is celebrating her 80th birthday this week. Thank you for blessing her throughout her life and we pray for many more years of blessing on this earth. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, grant that the government and those who protect us might keep justice and do righteousness for your name's sake and according to your will. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, care for those who cry to you, whether beset with grief, sorrow, pain or trouble especially Janice, Bill, Marga, Nancy, Caitlin, Nadia, Chris, Ardis, Noah, Joyce, Guy, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Tom, Jill, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Helga, Carol, June, Jerry, Shirley and Sarah. Be pleased for Christ's sake to answer them according to your will. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, bless all who are about to receive Christ's body and blood from this altar. Grant that these crumbs from your table may strengthen us in faith and love, united with you and our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: All these things and whatever else you know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

**People: Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**People: 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.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

#### PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

#### AGNUS DEI

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

#### 9:00 ANTHEM

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### HYMN #641 “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

**Refrain:** You satisfy the hungry heart With gift of finest wheat.  
Come give to us, O saving Lord, The bread of life to eat.

As when the shepherd calls his sheep, They know and heed his voice;  
so when you call your fam’ly, Lord, We follow and rejoice. **Refrain**

With joyful lips we sing to you Our praise and gratitude  
That you should count us worthy, Lord, To share this heav’nly food. **Refrain**

Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of Christ outpoured?  
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare Our oneness in the Lord? **Refrain**

The myst’ry of your presence, Lord, No mortal tongue can tell:  
Whom all the world cannot contain Comes in our hearts to dwell. **Refrain**

You give yourself to us, O Lord; Then selfless let us be,  
To serve each other in your name in truth and charity. **Refrain**

### HYMN #629 “What Is This Bread”

What is this bread? Christ’s body risen from the dead:  
This bread we break, This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our release.  
O taste and see the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;  
The cup of grace Brings His embrace Of life and love until I sing!  
O taste and see the Lord is King.

So who am I, That I should live and He should die Under the rod?  
My God, my God, Why have You not forsaken me?  
O taste and see the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,  
In mouth and soul He makes us whole Christ, truly present in this meal.  
O taste and see the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!  
I do believe That I receive His very body and His blood.  
O taste and see the Lord is good.

### HYMN #633 “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

At the Lamb’s high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King.  
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,  
Gives His body for the feast-Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death’s dread angel sheathes the sword:  
Israel’s hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas’chal victim, paschal bread;  
with sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell’s fierce pow’rs beneath You lie;  
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;  
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;  
From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days; Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

## COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**Pastor:** Let us pray. We give thanks to you, our good and gracious King, that you have refreshed us through this sacred Meal, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us and all with whom we are united in Christ so that we may live in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

Pastor: Thus says the LORD: “Keep justice, and do righteousness,

**People: for soon My salvation will come, and My deliverance be revealed.”**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN #837 “Lift High the Cross”

**Refrain Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. *Refrain*

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain*

Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. *Refrain*

So shall our song of triumph ever be;  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

Preacher & Liturgist  
Student Worship Team

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen  
Malachi Allmann, Ryan Allmann, Ainsley Kosek,  
Blake Kosek, Emilia Kosek, Alexander Meeks,  
Brady Romano, Lance Romano, Claire Zimmer, Jaxson Zimmer

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