
Worship & Holy Communion
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 3, 2023 9:30 a.m.



The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

In God's Service

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jane Harris
Ministers:	All Baptized People of God
Music:	Joe Chodur
Reader:	Dennis Marsh
Ushers	Dennis & Nancy Marsh

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have special prayer requests, you would like included in the Prayers of the Church, please write them on a purple slip from the table by the offering plate in the Narthex. The prayers will be brought forward during the Offertory.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✝ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✝ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW 879



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Change My Heart, O God



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953
Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Jeremiah 15:15-21

God fortifies the prophet against opposition

Psalms 26:1-8

Your love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

Romans 12:9-21

Live in harmony

Matthew 16:21-28

The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter

A reading from Jeremiah:

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: (PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY.)

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

²Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,

⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.

A reading from Romans:

[⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I

will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*

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

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny

themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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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 (*PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY*)

P: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors. *A brief silence.* God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church.

C: **Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble.**

P: God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation.

C: **Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world.**

P: God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good.

C: **Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict.**

P: God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain.

C: **Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments.**

P: God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges.

C: **Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities.**

P: God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor.

C: **Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song.**

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

We Give Thee but Thine Own

vs 1



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

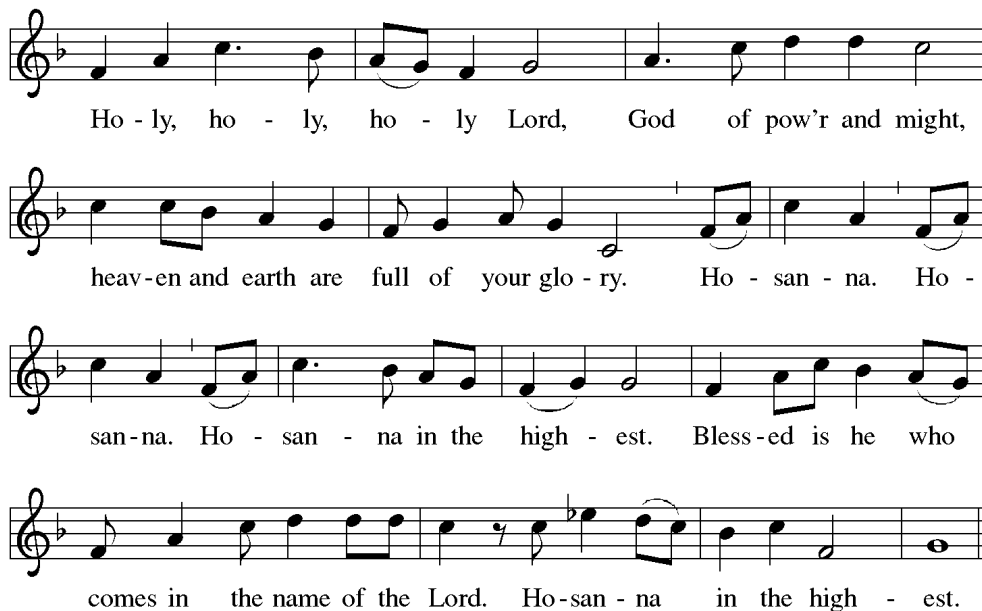
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Each side will be ushered forward down the center aisle. Those on the pulpit side will kneel at the communion rail at the front and fill into the back. Those on the lector side will kneel at the communion rail at the back and fill in to the front. Pastor will distribute the elements from the pulpit front and around the back. Communion is continual. Return your cups to the trays by the pews.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *The assembly stands.*

Let us pray.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of glory, ✝ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

Amen.



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

Calendar

This Week:

Sunday, Sept. 3

9:30 am Worship/Communion @ SP

10:30 am Fellowship

Monday, Sept. 4

Labor Day Offices Closed SP & OS

No Quilters

No Hand Chime Practice

Tuesday, Sept 5

Noon Worship Planning SP

5:15 Council Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 6

9:30 am M & M's/WELCA

Next Week:

Sunday, Sept. 10

9:30 am Gospel Worship

Communion @ OS

10:30 am Fellowship, Assemble
school kits after coffee

3:00 pm Gospel Concert OS

2:00 pm 2/4 Stitchers SP

Monday, Sept. 11

9:00 am Quilters OS

9:30 am Quilters SP

5:00 Hand Chime Practice

Wednesday, Sept. 13

9:30 am M&M's SP

Announcements

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 17th to participate in "God's work, Our hands." We will have our usual worship service here at St. Paul at 9:30, enjoy a little fellowship time afterwards, and then head over to "Freedom Inn His Grace," 410 N. Washington, Mason City, to help with various projects needed to begin operations at the Beacon Low Barrier Warming Shelter. There will be something for everyone to participate in regardless of age or physical ability. And there will be Pizza for lunch! Join us!

Assembling school kits for LWR at OS-we invite you to grab some coffee or tea after worship next Sunday, Sept. 10 and then join us in the fellowship hall and help assemble all the school items you have been donating into school bags. Many hands make light work as we do "God's Work. Our Hands."

The first performance by the chime choir has been moved from October 1 to October 15 during the St. Paul Sunday service.

A **Gospel Worship Service** at Our Saviour's will be held next Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 am at Our Saviour's. The Klassen family will lead our worship in word and song. There will be a free will donation. Coffee and fellowship following. They will also have a concert at Our Saviour's that Sunday afternoon (Sept. 3) at 3 p.m. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors.

Proposed Handbell Purchase

Dear Congregations,

A unique opportunity has been offered to our congregations that will enhance our worship experience! First Christian Church is looking to divest itself of the items they will no longer be using. As a small, aging congregation they know they will be closing the doors within a few years.

They have a used 3-octave Malmark handbell set, along with 3 tables, performance gloves, tables with foam and material to cover the tables appropriately, handbell music and bell stands. Representatives from St. Paul and Our Saviour's, along with Chris VanDeventer and Pr. Jane, visited First Christian and viewed the bells and accompanying equipment. First Congregation would let us purchase the entire group of items for \$5000.

When I researched online what 3-octaves of used Malmark handbells were listed for, I found that bells alone ranged from \$6000, \$7000 and up. (Brand new 3-octave set of Malmark handbells are \$15,595-\$17,595.) Not only that, but most handbell music is around \$3.95 per copy and a hand chime or handbell choir requires a minimum of 9 copies of each piece. So their library of pieces would be very helpful in giving us music to play. The foam pads for tables (4" minimum) costs from \$800 + \$48 S/H, cloth covers for the foam adds even more to the cost. We will need to purchase new gloves to supplement what they have with their set (at about \$4.75 per pair). At some point we may need to purchase mallets for playing as well.

But the whole point is that what they are asking is a VERY reasonable price for the whole package. The bells will need polishing, but when I rang a few of them, they still maintain their good sound. There was perhaps one that might need some adjustment or repair that I heard. Though they do have another church from out-of-state interested, they would prefer that the handbells be played in our community area. Their main goal is to have the bells again be used to praise God and enhance a worship setting.

There is already \$2500 pledged toward this purchase by anonymous donors, so each congregation would only need to provide \$1025 to complete the purchase. The alcove off the east side of the sanctuary would make a good playing area, if all those pews could be removed. The area behind the altar and communion rails has also been suggested, though that might be less ideal.

I will commit to a minimum of five years as a volunteer director as long as there are interested ringers. Our hand chime ringers are willing and enthusiastic about playing bells as well. I love music and know that the addition of handbells to the hand chime choir will so enhance our worship experience!

I would encourage each congregation to prayerfully consider this opportunity and work to make it happen during this month of September.

Sincerely,
Chris VanDeventer

St Paul Lutheran Church

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