

*Celebrating Christ's Presence
In a Changing World*

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



*The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 26, 2021*

10:30 am

Prelude: *We Gather Together*

Jacob B. Weber (1988-)

Opening Hymn **Worship & Rejoice Hymnal #81**
We Gather Together

Welcome by the Rev. Sarah Hurlbert

The people stand as they are able,

Celebrant Blessed be God: + Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Song of Praise

"For the Beauty of the Earth"
(*Worship & Rejoice Hymnal #40 v.3*)

**For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,**

Refrain:

**Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

The Lessons

First Reading

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

A Reading from the Book of Esther:

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated. Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
People **Thanks be to God**

Remain seated.

Psalm 124

- 1 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the LORD! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

Second Reading

James 5:13-20

A Reading from the letter of James :

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will

raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

People **Thanks be to God**

All stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn **Worship & Rejoice Hymnal #628**

We Cannot Measure How You Heal

(Led by Rev. Sarah, congregation to join in)

Gospel

Mark 9:38-50

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes

you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. “For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon The Rev. Sarah Hurlbert

(All stand)

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.

Prayers of the People

Intercessor As we pray for ourselves and the world, please respond to the phrase “God of love” with “grant our prayer.”

Intercessor We pray for the church, for all Christians everywhere, for Bonnie our bishop, for Sarah, Melissa and Jadon our clergy, and for our vestry and leaders.
(all pause for silent prayer)

Intercessor Gracious God may your Spirit give strength to all your people as they work and witness in your world. Unite us in your truth and love and help us to show your love to others. God of love,
People **grant our prayer**

Intercessor We pray for all people, for places where there is war or famine, especially Haiti, Afghanistan and all affected by Hurricane Ida.
(all pause for silent prayer)

Intercessor God our creator, help everyone to share all the good gifts that you have given to us. May those who lead the nations of the world be given wisdom. Especially we pray for our President, our Governor and our Mayor. God of love,
People **grant our prayer**

Intercessor We pray for our community and for all who live and work in this area.
(all pause for silent prayer)

Intercessor God our friend, we pray for our families and friends. May we be able to help each other just as you love and help us. Especially we pray for all first responders and all teachers.
God of love,
People **grant our prayer**

Intercessor We pray for those in need, for sick people, for those in hospital, and for those with any other problems.
(all pause for silent prayer)

Intercessor Compassionate God, give your strength and healing to all those who are sad, lonely, or sick. And bless all those who try and help them. (Especially we pray for...)

Intercessor God of love,
People **grant our prayer**

Intercessor We remember all those who have died.
(all pause for silent prayer)

Intercessor God of hope, we thank you that not even death can separate us from your love. We pray for all who mourn, that they may feel your care for them.

Intercessor God of love,
People **grant our prayer**

Intercessor We pray for ourselves – all that we will do this week, and all those we will meet. *(all pause for silent prayer)*

Intercessor Loving God we give this week into your hands. Be with us in all that we will do, may we enjoy this week and learn and grow in it.

Intercessor God of love,
People **grant our prayer.**

Celebrant Those things, O God, that your servants have prayed for, give us grace to work for; and in the purpose of your love answer our prayers and fulfil our hopes for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

Celebrant We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.
(silence is kept)

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Celebrant,
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Presider says,

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

-Ephesians 5:2

Meditation: “Jesus Loves Me” *-by Romelle Frey, flautist, Arr. Jayne Cool*
Offered in Honor of a new year of Christian Education for our children, youth, and their teachers.

(please kneel or stand as you are able)

The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

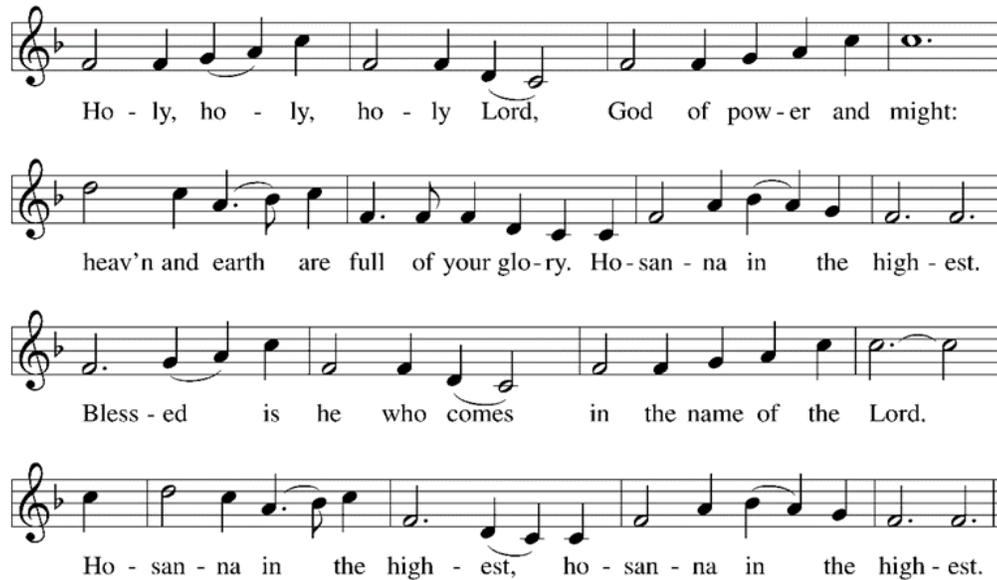
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Promising God, at Christmas you gave us your presence, at Easter you dismantled sin and death, and at Pentecost you empowered us to bear your image and spread your grace.

In mission, you equip us to go to the four corners of the earth, to rediscover what your Spirit is doing, and meet you in the face of the stranger.

In ministries, you share with us the abundance of your love in sacrament, in story, and in prayer, in reconciliation and in bringing your world home to you.

And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, declaring your unending praise.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues,

Fulfilling God, in Jesus' dying and rising you show us the extent of your mission, and the cost of our ministries. +

Send your Holy Spirit, that your people may be filled with love, joy, and peace, and that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Revealing God, as you take bread and wine and make them the bearers of your Son's risen life, take our flesh and blood and make us channels of your peace.

Transform your church that it may resemble the generosity, joy, and abundance of your Trinity. Raise up those whose gifts have been suppressed, neglected, ignored, or rejected. Renew your people through humble service and prophetic witness, that your name may be known in the face of injustice, poverty, and tyranny.

Shower your people with your love, until the day comes when every eye beholds you, full of grace and truth, ever one God, world without end. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread:

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

The Presider says,

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymns

Worship & Rejoice Hymnal #476

I Need Thee Every Hour

Worship & Rejoice Hymnal #486

Have Thine Own Way, Lord!

After Communion, the Celebrant says,

Let us pray.

We pray with those worshipping with us online and here with us:

Celebrant and People,

Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Celebrant blesses the people, saying,

Life is short, and we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind...and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. **Amen**

Closing Hymn: **Worship & Rejoice Hymnal #372**
I Then Shall Live

Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

ALTAR FLOWERS for today are given IN THANKSGIVING for the ministries of St. Paul's Church by Robert & Barbara Duke; and IN LOVING MEMORY of my husband The Rev. Dr. Dick Wilds by Peggy Wilds.

Announcements

- Christian education for K-12 at St. Paul's continues to be in person on Sundays from 9:15-10:15AM and the nursery is open. Please check the St. Paul's Children and Youth Facebook page for events and updates.
- The next meeting of The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church (ECW) will be on **Saturday, October 9th** with the social time beginning at 10:30 am and program at 11:00. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board with more info. A \$5 donation is requested to cover food.
- ECW's annual Nut sale fundraiser is currently underway. We are again doing pre-orders only. Order forms are available on the table opposite the office and also in the October newsletter. Deadline for orders is October 10.
- The annual St. Francis Blessing of the pets will be on **Sunday, October 10th** at 4 pm in Horace Blackman Park, downtown. Please join us and share the event with friends and family. A special offering will be collected and donated to the Jackson County Animal Shelter.

- We are still looking for one additional church schoolteacher to be on call as a substitute if one of our regular teachers needs to be away. Classes will be from 9:15-10:15AM on Sundays. If it becomes necessary to go to an online version, we will use Zoom and meet from 6:30-7:30PM on Sunday evenings. For more information, please contact Pastor Melissa.
- Calling teachers of all kinds, past and present! We are looking for volunteers to spruce up the Christian Education area upstairs and could use some help with decorating and bulletin boards. All materials will be provided, and we could use some creative teacher prowess to make it a wonderful learning environment for our kids this school year. If you are interested let Pastor Melissa know and we will find a time for this important ministry.
- Please join us in Holy Spirit Hall after the 10:30am service for light refreshments and community building. AND... for our young parishioners, St. Paul's coffee hour is getting a facelift for kids! Starting Sept. 26th. Pastor Melissa will be hosting games and activities. Come and see what the game of the day is!

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Worship Ministers:

*The Rev. Sarah Hurlbert; The Rev. Melissa Congleton
Julie Baglien, Organist; Christy Randall & Wayne Frey, vocalists
Tom Holsinger-Friesen, 1st Reader & LEM;
Leah Holsinger-Friesen, 2nd Reader & Acolyte;
Samuel Holsinger-Friesen, Intercessor & Acolyte
Barney Rudolph, Floyd & Barb Covey, Ushers*

Special thanks again go to our tech team - for their faithfulness & expertise!

St. Paul's Weekly Calendar

9/26/2021 – 10/3/2021

Day	Activity	Time	Location
SUNDAY	Holy Eucharist Church School Adult Forum Holy Eucharist Coffee Hour/Worship Committee	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Sanctuary Upstairs Classrooms Sm. Dining Room Sanctuary Holy Spirit Hall
MONDAY			
TUESDAY	Clergy Meeting Toastmasters	4:30 pm 6:00 pm	Sm. Dining Room
WEDNESDAY	Bible Study Holy Eucharist FB Live Compline Service	10:30 am 12:15 pm 8:00 pm	Sm. Dining Room Chapel Facebook
THURSDAY	Big Bros/Big Sis. JXN	5:00 pm	Holy Spirit Hall
FRIDAY			
SATURDAY			
SUNDAY	Holy Eucharist Church School Adult Forum Holy Eucharist Coffee Hour	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Sanctuary Upstairs Classrooms Sm. Dining Room Sanctuary Holy Spirit Hall

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81 We Gather Together

C F/C C Dm7 C/E Dm7 G C

1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
 2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
 3 We all do ex - tol thee, our lead - er tri - um - phant,

C G/B Am7 D7 G Am7/C D7 G

he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;
 or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;
 and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be;

G G/F C/E Dm7 G7 C

the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing,
 so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
 let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;

C F/A C/G F G/B C Dm G7 C

sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.
 thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glo - ry be thine!
 thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

Worship & Rejoice Hymnal #628
We Cannot Measure How You Heal
(Led by Rev. Sarah, congregation to join in)

1 We cannot measure how You heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.

2 The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.

3 So some have come who need Your help
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let Your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain
and make Your broken people whole.

Words: John L. Bell, 1949-
Music: YE BANKS AND BRAES/Arranger: John L. Bell, 1949-

I Need Thee Every Hour



1 I need thee ev - 'ry hour, most gra - cious Lord;
 2 I need thee ev - 'ry hour, stay thou near by;
 3 I need thee ev - 'ry hour, in joy or pain;
 4 I need thee ev - 'ry hour, teach me thy will;
 5 I need thee ev - 'ry hour, most Ho - ly One,



no ten - der voice like thine can peace af - ford.
 temp - ta - tions lose their pow'r when thou art nigh.
 come quick - ly and a - bide, or life is vain.
 and thy rich prom - is - es in me ful - fill.
 oh, make me thine in - deed, thou bless - ed Son.

Refrain



I need thee, oh, I need thee, ev - 'ry hour I need thee;



oh, bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come to thee.

Text: Annie Sherwood Hawks, 1835–1918, stanzas.; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain
 Music: LOWRY, Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Have Thine Own Way, Lord



1 Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way. Thou art the
 2 Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way. Search me and
 3 Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way. Wound - ed and
 4 Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way. Hold o'er my



pot - ter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me af - ter thy
 try me, Mas - ter, to - day. Pur - er than snow, Lord, wash me just
 wea - ry, help me, I pray. Pow - er, all pow - er sure - ly is
 be - ing ab - so - lute sway. Fill with thy Spir - it till all shall



will, while I am wait - ing, yield - ed and still.
 now, as in thy pres - ence hum - bly I bow.
 thine. Touch me and heal me, Sav - ior di - vine.
 see Christ on - ly, al - ways, liv - ing in me.

Text: Adelaide A. Pollard, 1862–1934
 Music: ADELAIDE, George C. Stebbins, 1846–1945

Worship & Rejoice Hymnal #372

I Then Shall Live

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven.
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.
I know my name is clear before my Father;
I am His child and I am not afraid.
So, greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother;
The law of love I gladly will obey.

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion.
I've been so loved, that I'll risk loving too.
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;
I'll dare to see another's point of view.
And when relationships demand commitment,
Then I'll be there to care and follow through.

Your Kingdom come around and through and in me;
Your power and glory, let them shine through me.
Your Hallowed Name, O may I bear with honor,
And may Your living Kingdom come in me.
The Bread of Life, O may I share with honor,
And may You feed a hungry world through me.

Words: Gloria Gaither (1942-)

Music: Finlandia