St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
7th Sunday after Pentecost
July 8, 2018

There is no greater self confidence than that gained through faith in the power, the glory and the grace of the Supreme.

- Radhanath Swami

Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Mike Tessman, Assistant Minister
Dale Tessman, Lay Reader

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Gathering
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the between: between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN (ELW p. 579) Lord, You Give the Great Commission

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
full of compassion and mercy,
abounding in steadfast love.
Amen.

Trusting God’s promise of forgiveness,
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Eternal God our creator,
in you we live and move and have our being.
Look upon us, your children,
the work of your hands.
Forgive us all our offenses,
and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.
By your grace draw us near to you,
our refuge and our strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
God’s love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit given to us.
In the mercy of almighty God,
Christ died for us while we still were sinners;
and for his sake, God + forgives you all your sins.
Amen.
KYRIE

1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow’r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;

Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav’n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God’s right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther’s splen - dor bright.

Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Oremos. Dios de la Alianza, en nuestro bautismo nos llamas para proclamar la venida de tu reino. Danos el coraje que diste a los apóstoles, para que podamos testimoniar fielmente tu amor y paz en todas las circunstancias de la vida, en el nombre de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor. amén.

The assembly is seated.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:1-5

In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today’s reading recounts God’s commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God’s word to a people unwilling to hear.

1 [A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. 2 And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. 3 He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. 4 The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord God.” 5 Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 123

R: Our eyes look to you, O God, until you show us your mercy.

1 To you I lift up my eyes, to you enthroned in the heavens.
2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to you, O Lord our God, until you show us your mercy. R
3 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, for we have had more than enough of contempt,
4 too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, and of the derision of the proud. R
SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ’s grace is sufficient for us.

2 I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. 3 And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. 4 On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. 5 But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, 6 even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. 7 Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, 8 but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 9 Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.
Glory to You, O Lord!

At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God’s word and relieve affliction.

1[Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 2On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! 3Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. 4Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” 5And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. 6And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. 7He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. 8He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; 9but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. 10He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. 11If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” 12So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. 13They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

The assembly is seated.

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 576) We All Are One in Mission

APOSTLES’ 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

Growing in faith and discipleship, we give thanks for God’s merciful compassion as we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Lord God, equip all your faithful people for the work of mission. When we are empty-handed, give us partners in ministry. Help us to speak boldly of your promises without reservation or fear. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord God, you breathe life into the dust of the earth. Bless the land and all who work it. Bring relief to areas of drought and famine. Send healing rains and cooling breezes to places scorched by sun and heat. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord God, when the nations are rebellious, raise up prophets and leaders to proclaim your way of justice. Provide for the needs of refugees, immigrants, asylum seekers, and exiles. We pray especially for those asylum seekers that are known to some among us – David, Sadat, Moma, and Moma’s family that are still in a Nigerian refugee camp. Protect all who live in areas of war and conflict. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord God, your grace is sufficient to bring wholeness to human weakness. Restore hope to those suffering hardships, persecutions, and calamities. Strengthen all who are fragile in body, mind, or spirit, especially David, Elvira, Bobby, Alex, James, Lorain, Pauline, Pastor Tom, Mitch, Shane, Linda, Norma, Laquita, Helen, Linda, Jack, Michael, Raymond, Alva, Steve, Evalina, Francis, Ella, Khloe, Kenneth, Charles, Eddie, Pastor Wally, Yvonne, Anyemarie, Mark, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, Linda, Norma, Laquita, Helen, Linda, Jack, Michael, Raymond, Alva, Steve, Evalina, Francis, Ella, Khloe, Kenneth, Charles, Eddie, Pastor Wally, Yvonne, Anyemarie, Mark, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, Linda, Norma, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts… Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord God, renew our commitment to the work of hospitality. Help us to offer a caring welcome to visitors and to those returning to the church. Help us to be living examples of your grace and your generosity. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord God, you equip disciples throughout the ages to proclaim your kingdom. Lead us by faith until every weakness of this world has been made perfect in the power of your everlasting glory. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

As we sow Seeds of Hope, we pray for St. John Lutheran in Westhoff. Guide them to new opportunities and abilities to draw younger people into the congregation. We pray also for St. Peter’s in Elgin that they may have vision, direction, and that God would use them as an instrument of grace in their community. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we lift to you these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, trusting in your everlasting love and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you
Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

The assembly stands.

OFFERING HYMN (ELW p. 186) Create in Me a Clean Heart

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. 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.

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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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 Lord, God of power and might,
heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.

Following Communion, the assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

Amen.
 Sending
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

 BLESSING
May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN (ELW p. 396)    Spirit of Gentleness

 DISMISSAL
Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.
Thanks be to God.

DOXOLOGY (ELW p. 884)  Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

 Welcome!
We have all come to St. Paul’s by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul’s. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us.

If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance, please signal an usher.

 For Prayerful Consideration

 Ill or Injured:  David Anaba, Elvira Boehm, Bobby Busselman, Alex Caballero, James Castillo, Lorain Chandler, Pauline Davidson, Rev. Tom Dietzel, Mitch Dorn, Shane Edens, Linda Franke, Norma Foreman, Laquita Gibbens, Helen Grimm, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Michael Janysek, Raymond Jenkins, Alva Jonas, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Ella Manka, Khloe Martinez, Kenneth Matthews, Charles Pierce, Eddie Salas, Rev. Wally Schievelbein, Yvonne Watkins, Anyemarie, Mark Witte, Mary Ruth Witte, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiontz, and Norma Zamzow
For those in the military: Nick Adams, Anthony Alvarez, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Jon Wayne Schulz, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva

Birthdays:
Alton Lane (July 9), Ann Franke (July 13), Lorene Buehring, Debra Buehring (July 16)

ST. PAUL’S YOUTH ATTENDED THE 2018 YOUTH GATHERING IN HOUSTON LAST WEEK.

Thank you! Thank You! Your support and prayers mean everything to us! The Youth are back from Houston, and are preparing a slide show and presentation. They’ll be sharing it before and after church one Sunday in the near future.

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Love God. Love People. No Limits