

## Doxology

### Great Thanksgiving

The peace of 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 thanks and praise.**

### Communion

pages 496 and 497

*This Sunday we again offer healing prayer, anointing, and laying on of hands for healing. You may also ask to be anointed on behalf of another who needs healing or is troubled.*

### Prayer After Communion

**God of mercy, God of grace, we bless and praise you for nourishing us with this Easter feast of redemption. Fill us with your Spirit, and make us living signs of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Community Sharing

### Offering

Hymn Of Response      **We Give Thee But Thine Own**      360

Hymn Of Dismissal      **For The Fruit Of All Creation**      URW 193

### Dismissal With Blessing

Go in peace, to love and serve God and your neighbor. And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Next Week's Readings:** Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**Preaching This Week:** Christina Smerick

**Preaching Next Week:** Tori Paulin

## St. Paul's Free Methodist Church Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Call To Worship      **Christians, We Have Met To Worship**      Insert

### Greeting

Come, let us sing to the LORD;

**Let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation!**

Hymn Of Praise      **For Your Generous Providing**      URW 82

### Prayer

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

### First Lesson

**Genesis 25:19-34**

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and

drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

**R:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*Psalm* *Psalm 119:105-112*

**Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances. I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word. Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances. I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.**

Hymn *Lead Me, Lord* 561

*Second Lesson* *Romans 8:1-11*

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**R:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Alleluia* URW 402

*Gospel* *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

**R:** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

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

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! ... Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

**R:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

Prayers Of The People

The Peace

By dying, Christ destroyed our death; in rising, he restores our life; in giving us his Spirit, he grants us peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us take a few moments to greet each other with signs of peace and reconciliation.

## **THEOLOGY OF PREACHING AT ST. PAUL'S**

St. Paul's submits to the authority of Christian Scripture. We preach from the lectionary, which means we attend to the full witness of the Bible. In our preaching, we practice a "rotating pulpit" approach because we believe diverse Christian perspectives and voices are gifts from God. In hearing God's word preached by pastors and lay people, students and professors, old and young, women and men, we become the people of God. We celebrate the ways in which the Holy Spirit challenges, comforts, surprises, confronts, and embraces us through the sermon. Our faithful response to what God is saying to us requires honesty, humility, and courage. Even in our human and feeble efforts to speak on God's behalf, God proves faithful in addressing us, helping us become the reconciled and restored people of God in our time and place.

## **TOWARD A THEOLOGY OF HEALING, BRIEFLY**

*Healing is a feature of full salvation; like salvation, it results from God and God's church working together. Healing is the work of the church, and takes place under God's sovereignty in the church's life and worship.* The church supports the healing ministry of family, friends, and medical professionals in prayer and by visiting the sick. It provides regular services of healing following the pattern in James 5: "[The] sick ... 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." Under God's sovereign care will every prayer be answered as we request, every time, right away?—probably not. Some will be healed by medicine, some by rest, recuperation and care, and others by better habits and new information. And some will be healed by the working together of the sovereign action of God through the engagement of the faith of the church and the laying on of hands. Some will not be healed in this life; all can be saved.

**"God heals sometimes, God saves always."** (Sam Wells)

## **GODLY PLAY TRAINING**

Might YOU enjoy spending an hour Sunday mornings **sharing the stories of God and the traditions of the Church with our children?** You might belong on our Godly Play team! **Godly Play Training (required of volunteers)** will be offered in **Lawrence, KS, from Friday, July 28 (1:00pm) to Sunday, July 30 (4:30pm).** **St. Paul's pays all costs**—meals, registration, lodging, and transportation. For more information please contact Pastor Judy **this week** at [stpaulsfmc@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsfmc@gmail.com)

## **HELP FEED THE HUNGRY IN BOND CO.**

Right now our local food pantry urgently needs **soups, canned pasta meals, macaroni-n-cheese, and peanut butter and jelly.** Please place your donations of food (or toiletries) in the **box** in the mural room.

## **READING LINK PROGRAM "REBOOTS"**

Would you be interested in **volunteering as a reading tutor 2 hours a week**, to help adults (17 and older) learn to read or improve their existing skills? Kaskaskia College's Reading Link program offers free training and the opportunity to give back to our community. For more information please call The Reading Link at 1-800-642-0853 Ext. 3115 OR 545-3119

## **OPT IN TO "REMIND" NOTIFICATIONS**

To receive one-way notifications from St. Paul's (**potluck** reminders, weather closings, etc.), you must opt in by one of two methods; you may **text the message @eb9aa** to the number **81010**, OR you may send an **e-mail** to **eb9aa@mail.remind.com** (leaving both subject line and body of e-mail blank).

## **GODLY PLAY PAUSES FOR THE SUMMER**

Our Godly Play volunteers are taking a well-deserved break for the summer. **Godly Play will resume** in the fall.

## **ADULT AND YOUTH SS PAUSE ALSO**

Our **Youth** and **Adult/College Sunday School** classes are also taking a summer break. Stay tuned for information on the fall schedule.

## **MORNING PRAYER CONTINUES**

Join us in the sanctuary **Monday-Friday 7:30-8:00am** for prayer, Scripture and Communion.