

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

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

Closing Hymn **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God** (*vss. 1-2, 4*) 377

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: Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Preaching This Week: Ruth Huston

Preaching Next Week: Maci Sepp

St. Paul's Free Methodist Church Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Greeting

The unfolding of Your words gives light, it imparts understanding:

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Hymn Of Praise **Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise** 3

Prayer

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson

1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 119:129-136

Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments. Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name. Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me. Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts. Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes. My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.

Hymn

Lead Me, Lord

561

Second Lesson

Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

URW 402

Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. ... The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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.

GODLY PLAY PAUSES FOR THE SUMMER

Our Godly Play volunteers are taking a well-deserved break for the summer. **Godly Play for children ages 3+ 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.

HELP UNLOAD—AND MEET—PASTOR NIQUI

Can you help Niqui and Jordan Hohm unload their moving van tomorrow evening (**Monday, July 31**)? We'll meet at **1316 Killarney at 8pm** to greet and unload them.

GODLY PLAY DOORKEEPER TRAINING

Might you enjoy spending a Sunday morning hour about once a month **welcoming our children into the story of God**? You might belong on our **Godly Play** team as a **doorkeeper**! Georgann Kurtz-Shaw will offer an **evening training session** in early to mid-September; please email georgann.kurtz-shaw@greenville.edu or stpaulsfmc@gmail.com for more info or to indicate interest.

BAKER WANTED

Might you be interested in **baking fresh bread regularly for our Sunday Communion**? Please contact Judy at stpaulsfmc@gmail.com for information (and recipes).

DATE CHANGE FOR OUR AUGUST POTLUCK

In order to welcome Pastor Niqui and Jordan in our favorite St. Paul's style, we will **delay our August potluck** from "Second Sunday" to her first official **Sunday, August 20**—when she'll be preaching!

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.

SUPPORT EDEN'S GLORY

Through the program "**Our Caps Your Cause**," you can help Eden's Glory raise money simply by drinking Prairie Farms milk! You may drop your **Prairie Farms milk caps in the milk jug** at the back of the sanctuary.

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).

INTRODUCING OUR NEW WEBSITE AND ONLINE DIRECTORY

Thanks to the professional and pro bono work of **Meg File**, we have a new website! Take a look at yourselves at:

stpaulsfmc.org

Our desire with this new site is to strengthen our sense of community with better communication and resources. At this new domain name (also thanks to Meg) we have **mobile-friendly** access, complete with **church calendar**, online **announcements**, and many more upgrades. Browse around—we think you'll like what you see!

And while you're browsing, please help us populate our new **online church directory**, currently under construction. Note on the homepage, at the top right, the heading **MORE...**; when you hover over it, a box labeled **Congregation Area** pops up. (On your phone, Congregation Area is the last of the menu options.) Click on that, and you'll be prompted to enter our password, which is: **stpfamily**

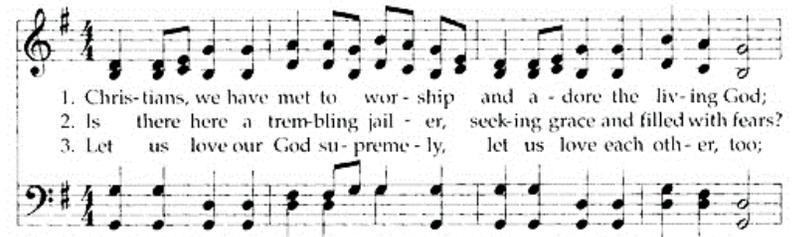
This password gives you access to the **St. Paul's Private Congregation Area**. Clicking on the **Directory Survey** button (inside the box in the upper left corner entitled **New Church Online Directory**, or first item on your phone) will take you to a simple form to fill out, in as much detail as you choose. (The only required information is your name and preferred mode of contact.) **This directory information WILL NOT be publicly available** on the church's new website, **but will remain password-protected in the Congregation (only) Area**. Please complete this survey for EACH family member separately, including children.

Making this a photo directory will help us all put names with faces! So please, when you've filled out your form(s), **email photo(s) of each family member** to us at **stpaulsfmc@gmail.com** or **file.meg@gmail.com**

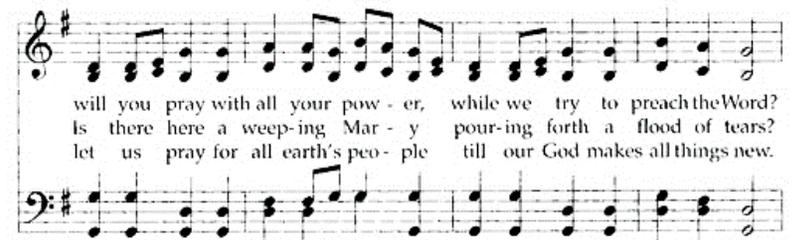
If you'd rather **submit your directory information on a paper form**, please contact Pastor Judy at (618)514-7457, or **stpaulsfmc@gmail.com**

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

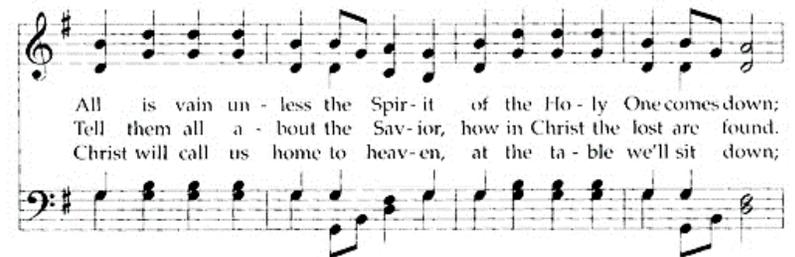
277 Christians, We Have Met to Worship



1. Chris-tians, we have met to wor-ship and a-dore the liv-ing God;
2. Is there here a trem-bling jail-er, seek-ing grace and filled with fears?
3. Let us love our God su-preme-ly, let us love each oth-er, too;



will you pray with all your pow-er, while we try to preach the Word?
Is there here a weep-ing Mar-y pour-ing forth a flood of tears?
let us pray for all earth's peo-ple till our God makes all things new.



All is vain un-less the Spir-it of the Ho-ly One comes down;
Tell them all a-bout the Sav-ior, how in Christ the lost are found.
Christ will call us home to heav-en, at the ta-ble we'll sit down;



Chris-tians, pray, and ho-ly man-na will be show-ered all a-round.
Pray, oh pray, and ho-ly man-na will be scat-tered all a-round.
Christ will wel-come us and serve us liv-ing man-na all a-round.

WORDS: Attr. George Atkins (19th century); alt.
MUSIC: *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

HOLY MANNA
87.87D