

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.

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 **The Summons** URW 60

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: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Preaching This Week: Judy Cox

Preaching Next Week: Rick McPeak

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

Call To Worship Come, Sing With Joy To God URW 292

Greeting

Glory in God's holy name!

Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

Hymn Of Praise **Holy, Holy, Holy!** 54

Prayer

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites

out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.” But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.”

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm **Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b**

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones. ... Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham. And the LORD made his people very fruitful, and made them stronger than their foes, whose hearts he then turned to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants. He sent his servant Moses, and Aaron whom he had chosen. ... Praise the LORD!

Hymn **In The Lord I'll Ever Be Thankful** **URW 381**

Second Lesson **Romans 12:9-21**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as

it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” No, “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.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

URW 402

Gospel

Matthew 16:21-28

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

From that time on, 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. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But 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.” Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For 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? 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. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

R: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

Prayers Of The People

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 BEGAN TODAY!

Our **preschool and elementary-age (3+) children** are once again warmly invited to join in Godly Play Sundays at **9:45am** on the lower level. Godly Play creatively and imaginatively engages them with the church's stories, rituals and rites, preparing them to join in the worship and life of the church.

GODLY PLAY DOORKEEPER TRAINING

Might you enjoy spending a Sunday morning hour ~ once a month **welcoming our children into the story of God**? You might belong on our **Godly Play** team as a **doorkeeper**! Soon Georgann Kurtz-Shaw will be providing an **evening training session for doorkeepers**; for more information or to register, please email georgann.kurtz-shaw@greenville.edu or stpaulsfmc@gmail.com promptly!

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES NEXT WEEK

Our **Adult/College Sunday School** class resumes next Sunday, September 10, as we begin a multi-week study on Mission led by Dr. Matt Zahniser, emeritus missiology professor. **Youth Sunday School** will also resume on September 10.

MORNING PRAYER CONTINUES

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

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).

HOW YOU CAN HELP HURRICANE VICTIMS

1) Donate financially to our Bishops' Crisis Relief Fund at this website: <http://fmcusa.org/bfund/> This fund will be providing money for area Free Methodist ministries to disperse to those in need.

2) Give specific items to a joint collection effort of GU's MOSAIC, Morningstar Church of East St. Louis, and Gateway Conference. Donations needed include diapers, bottled water, baby wipes, gift cards, stamps, labels and boxes. Please drop off at La Casa Cultural on GU campus (across Elm from Whitlock).

HELP WANTED FOR EDEN'S GLORY

Eden's Glory Social Enterprise teaches work skills to its residents, repurposing recycled t-shirts et al. as products for sale to help raise funds. Recent demand for its **dog/pet toys** brings an urgent need for **volunteers with strong hands** to help replenish inventory. Your clean old **t-shirts (adult M-XXL only, in any colors but black and white)** are needed too!—**no side seams**, please. Contact **Beth Rodgers** at (540)421-9384 if you can help. (Or help Eden's Glory raise money by drinking Prairie Farms milk! Please drop your **Prairie Farms milk caps labeled "Our Caps, Your Cause" in the milk jug** at the back of the sanctuary.)

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY IN BOND CO.

Our local food pantry urgently needs **soups, canned pasta meals, macaroni-n-cheese, and peanut butter and jelly**. Please place your **non-perishable** donations (food and toiletries) in the **box** in the mural room. And did you know that they also gratefully receive and distribute **fresh produce from local gardens**? Please email stpaulsfmc@gmail.com for more direction regarding these **perishable** donations.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!— AND HELP BUILD OUR ONLINE DIRECTORY

Thanks to the gifts 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. Here we have **mobile-friendly** access, online **announcements**, and many more upgrades. Browse around—you'll like what you see! And while you're browsing, **please join 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** (and receive a **print copy of the directory**), please contact Pastor Judy at stpaulsfmc@gmail.com