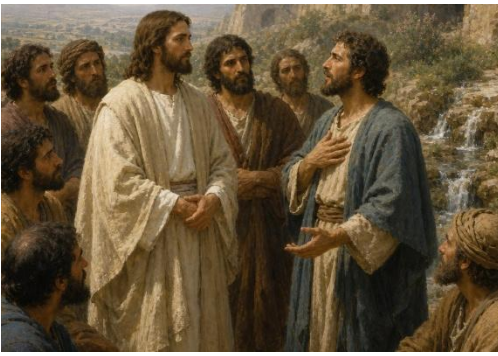




13th Sunday after Pentecost August 23, 2026

WELCOME! We are blessed to worship with you today!
If you are visiting, we are delighted that you're here. If you have any questions, please ask anyone near you. To find out everything going on at St. Paul's, visit www.stpaulsokc.com.

SERVING TODAY:

Reader: Carolyn Lewis
Prayer Leader: Debi Musick
Ushers: Luke Green, Keith Kilpatrick, Patti Spain, Ted Teske & Mike Thompson
Children's Message: Dawn Finnicum
Altar Guild: Lynne Elias
Communion Assistants: Carolyn Behrens, Linda Allison, Carolyn Lewis, Debi & Roger Musick, Ann Caine & Jill Botkin
Video assistant: Mike Lewis
Acolyte & Crucifer: Maisyn & Evie Hardison

PRELUDE: Ron Wallace

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your Holy Name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(Pause for silent reflection)*
Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may serve you in the newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved and in the name of Christ your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: #733 ***Great is Thy Faithfulness***

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. ***Refrain.***

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessing all mine, with ten thousand beside! ***Refrain.***

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Kyrie 3 & 4

Refrain



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Let us pray. O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

51 Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. **2** Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. **3** For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. **4** Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. **5** I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. **6** Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 138

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;

before the gods I will sing your praise.

²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

³When I called, you answered me;

you increased my strength within me.

⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,

when they have heard the words of your mouth.

⁵They will sing of the ways of the LORD,

that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,

perceiving the haughty from afar.

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;

you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁸You will make good your purpose for me;

O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION- *(Please stand)* ***Alleluia!***

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dawn Finnicum

SPECIAL MUSIC

Above All

MESSAGE

Pastor Stefanie Rowinski

Kristin Grubb & Don Lutz

HYMN

#690

He Leadeth Me

He leadeth me! O blessed thought! O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain: He leadeth me, He leadeth me; by His own hand He leadeth me:
His faithful foll'wer I would be, for by His hand He leadeth me.

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine,
content, whatever lot I see, since 'tis thy hand that leadeth me. ***Refrain***

And when my task on earth is done, when, by thy grace, the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God thro; Jordan leadeth me. ***Refrain***

APOSTLE'S 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 again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

(The People may add their own petitions.)

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

(The People may add their own thanksgivings.)

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

COMMUNION

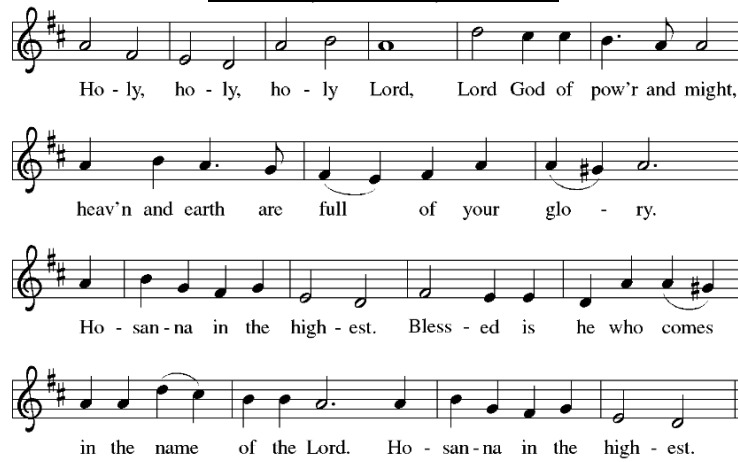
The Lord be with you. ***And also, with you.***

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ our Lord. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to the glory of your Name:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to all of them, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

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

...By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. AMEN

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

Let us pray. ***Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.***

THE BLESSING

May the Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Ron Wallace

SENDING - Go in Peace. Remember the poor. ***Thanks be to God.***

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*Please note there is no offertory during service, our offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary, or you can give online using the link on our website,
www.stpaulsokc.com.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARENT MEETING TODAY AFTER WORSHIP!

Parents of all ages—join us in the sanctuary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER TRAINING – AUG 30

Children and Youth Sunday School Teachers—join us for a Teacher Training after the potluck. RSVP to Pastor Stefanie: pastorstefanie@stpaulsokc.com

5th SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

August 30 – after worship. Bring your favorite sandwiches, salad or sweets!

TRINKETS AND TREASURES

We will have many items for sale on *Sunday, August 30th* in the narthex and in Risa's old office. There will be books & t-shirts from various church activities through the years. There will also be home decorations, school/office supplies and lots of miscellaneous trinkets. Please take what you can use and leave a generous FREE WILL DONATION which will go to the youth at SPLC. Enjoy the treasure hunt!

WHIZ KIDS IS STARTING AGAIN

We partner with Cherokee Hills Baptist Church located at 63rd & MacArthur, where tutoring is held on Wednesdays after school. Training begins on 9/9 at 3p.m. Tutoring begins on 9/16. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Questions: contact Vahla Todd at 405-922-8594.

HARVEST HILLS SUPPLIES NEEDED

We are collecting supplies to help families at Harvest Hills Elementary. They need certain supplies & toiletries. The counselor will hand out the items as needed. Supplies requested: toilet paper, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, dish soap/detergent, paper towels/plates/napkins, toothbrush & toothpaste, soap, shampoo & conditioner and sanitary products. Questions: contact Patti Spain.

YOUTH & FAMILY SURVEY

We are looking at ways we can better serve the children, youth, parents & families in our church. We have a short survey to learn what activities, events, programs & opportunities would be meaningful to our congregation. All questions are optional, so please feel free to share as much or as little as you'd like. Use the following link or QR Code to complete the survey: **Youth & Family Ministry Survey**



RIDES TO CHURCH

We have had ride requests from a couple of Concordia Residents. If you are able to help, please contact Ashley in the office for more information.

UPCOMING DATES

AUGUST

8/23- 9:30- Worship

Youth/Parent Meeting

8/26- 6:30 Choir Rehearsal

8/30- 9:30- Worship

5th Sunday Fellowship

8/31- 9am Canticle Ringers Resumes

SEPTEMBER

9/1- Exec Board Meeting

9/2- 6:30 Choir Rehearsal

9/6- 9:30- Worship

9/7- Labor Day – Office Closed

9/9- Wed. Night Activities Resume

5:45 – Meal

6:30 – Education & Choir Rehearsal

9/13- 9:30- Worship & Education

9/14 - Canticle Ringers

9/16- Wednesday Night Activities

5:45 – Meal

6:30 – Education & Choir Rehearsal

9/17- XYZ

9/20- 9:30- Worship & Education

9/21 - Canticle Ringers

9/22- Twilight Tones Resume

9/23- Wednesday Night Activities

5:45 – Meal

6:30 – Education & Choir Rehearsal

9/27- 9:30- Worship & Education

9/28 - Canticle Ringers

9/29- Twilight Tones

9/30- Wednesday Night Activities

5:45 – Meal

6:30 – Education & Choir Rehearsal