

# 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost September 1, 2024

**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](http://www.stpaulsokc.com).

## **Serving Today:**

Lay Readers: Bailey Hanes  
Children's Message: Dawn Finnicum  
Altar Guild: Donna Jantz  
Communion Assistants: Carolyn Behrens  
Sound & Video: Tracy Caine  
Ushers: Ron Jantz, Allen Baker, Will Koski, Mark Mitchell & Bob Pirog  
Acolyte & Crucifer: Bali Botkin & 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:**

#556 ***Morning Has Broken***  
Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

The Lord be with you.

***And also, with you.***

## This Is the Feast

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and




strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

*Refrain*

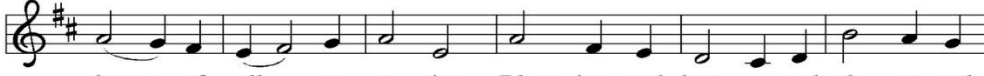


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Let us pray. O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

**4**“So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. **2**You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

**6**You must observe them and perform them, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!’ **7**For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? **8**And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

**9**“But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 15**

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

***Who may abide upon your holy hill?***

<sup>2</sup>Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,

***who speak the truth from their heart;***

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;

***they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.***

<sup>4</sup>In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.

***They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.***

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

***Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.***

## **SECOND READING: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8**

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and knowledgeable among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be arrogant and lie about the truth. <sup>15</sup>This is not wisdom that comes down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

<sup>4</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it, so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it, so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Word of God, Word of Life. ***Thanks be to God.***

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Alleluia!***

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

The Holy Gospel according to **Mark 7:1-8. 14-15, 21-23**

***Glory to you, O Lord***

<sup>7</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?" <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.'<sup>8</sup>"You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

<sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ***

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Dawn Finnicum**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: Prayer**

Maisyn Hardison

**MESSAGE: Pastor Stefanie Rowinski**

## HYMN:

### *Deep Within*

**Refrain:** Deep within I will plant my law,  
not on stone, but in your heart.  
Follow me, I will bring you back,  
you will be my own, and I will be your God.

I will give you a new heart, a new spirit within you, for I will be your strength.

### **Refrain**

Seek my face, and see your God, for I will be your hope.

### **Refrain**

Return to me; with all your heart, and I will bring you back.

### **Refrain**

## THE 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

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with your people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will; and give to us all a pride in what we do, and a just return for our labor; Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

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 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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

...Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;**

...And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

***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, for ever and ever. Amen.***

### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS**

*(Please note, there are gluten free wafers available if you need them. The cups in the center of the trays are juice, and the outer rings are wine.)*

### **BENEDICTION**

May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE: Ron Wallace**

**SENDING: Go in peace! Remember the poor! *Thanks be to God!***

*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 following QR code:*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HHELP (HARVEST HILLS ELEMENTARY LUTHERAN PARTNERSHIP) MINISTRY**  
CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS WHO LOVE CHILDREN! Our HHELP Ministry is recruiting folks to serve in a variety of roles at our neighborhood elementary school, Harvest Hills Elementary, located across the street in the Harvest Hills neighborhood. For about 8 years we have served by reading with younger students & struggling readers, tutoring struggling math students, helping in the library, adopt a teacher by helping with various tasks and sending notes of encouragement to students & teachers. Sign up at the visitor's booth in the narthex. Questions? See Nancy Krause.

### SEPTEMBER OUTREACH MISSION

We will be collecting items for the Pine Pantry for our September mission project. Feel free to take donations directly to 1 of the 6 locations or items can be left in the cart in the narthex of the church. Questions: contact an outreach board member, Nola Pirog, Carolyn Behrens, Erin Harrington, Betty Schmeichel or Debi Musick.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT VOLUNTEERS

We still need volunteers on **October 2, 9 & 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Please sign up at the visitor's center in the narthex. Whether you can help once or multiple times, we will gladly use your help!

### HOT DOG MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please consider signing up using the link on our website ([www.stpaulsokc.com](http://www.stpaulsokc.com)), then choosing the "activities" drop down menu, then "hot dog ministry"). We need volunteers to prep and hand out each Wednesday from 2-4pm. Please reach out to Misty Veit with any questions/ideas/comments.

### SOUND/VIDEO HELP NEEDED

We are looking for more volunteers to run the sound/audio during services. If you are interested, please contact Tracy Caine, [tdcaine3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tdcaine3@sbcglobal.net).

### WHIZ KIDS

We will be recruiting Whiz Kids Tutors starting 8-18. Please consider volunteering for this worthwhile Christian Children's Reading Program. There will be a signup sheet in the narthex. Questions, contact Vahla Todd at 405-922-8594.

## SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

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| <b>9/1- Worship</b>                              | <b>9/22- Worship (Blackwelder Brass)</b>         |
| <b>9/2- Labor Day – Office closed</b>            | <b>&amp; Education</b>                           |
| <b>9/3- 6:30 Twilight Tones resume</b>           | <i>Blackwelder Brass</i>                         |
| <b>9/4- 6:30 Choir Practice</b>                  | <b>9/25- 5:30 Children's Bell Choir Practice</b> |
| <b>9/8- Worship (Bible Blessings)</b>            | 5:45 Wed. Night Meal                             |
| <b>&amp; Education Resumes</b>                   | 6:30 Education & Choir Practice                  |
| <b>9/10- 7:00 Executive Board Meeting</b>        | <b>9/29- Worship – No Education</b>              |
| <b>9/11- 5:30 Children's Bell Choir Practice</b> | <i>New Member Reception &amp;</i>                |
| 5:45 Wed. Night Meal                             | <i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship</i>          |
| 6:30 Education & Choir Practice                  |  |
| <b>9/15- Worship &amp; Education</b>             |  |
| <b>9/18- 5:30 Children's Bell Choir Practice</b> |  |
| 5:45 Wed. Night Meal                             |  |
| 6:30 Education & Choir Practice                  |  |
| <b>9/19- XYZ</b>                                 |  |