



15th Sunday after Pentacost September 10, 2023

Welcome to St Paul's Lutheran Church!

*If you are visiting today, we are delighted that you're here to share in the Good News!
If you have any questions, please ask anyone near you.*

SERVING TODAY:

Reader:	Joyce Martin
Ushers:	Garrett Purdum, Phil Crissup, Rod Randall & Jerry Wagner
Children's Message:	Michelle Swedlow
Altar Guild:	Joyce Martin
Communion Assistants:	Joyce Martin, Carolyn Behrens, NEED 1
Video assistant:	Steve Powell
Acolyte & Crucifer:	NEEDED

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 live and 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. In the name of Christ your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN:

Rejoice the Lord is King

Ron Wallace, organ; Niki Higgins, piano; Twilight Tones, bells & SPLC Adult Choir

Opening Refrain: Bells/Piano/Organ/Choir

Verse 1: All Musicians AND Congregation

Rejoice the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!

Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore!

Lift up your heart. Lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I Say.....I say rejoice!

Refrain/Verse 2/Refrain: Bells/Keyboards/Choir

Verse 3: All Musicians AND Congregation

Rejoice in glorious hope for Christ the Judge shall come

To gather all his saints to their eternal home.

Lift up your heart. Lift up your voice! Rejoice again I say.....re.....joice.

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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **AMEN.**

FIRST READING **Ezekiel 33:7-11**

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

Psalms 119: 33-40

³³Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, ***and I will observe it to the end.***

³⁴Give me understanding, that I may keep your law ***and observe it with my whole heart.***

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments, ***for I delight in it.***

³⁶Turn my heart to your decrees ***and not to selfish gain.***

³⁷Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; ***be gracious to me according to your word.***

³⁸Confirm to your servant your promise, ***which is for those who fear you.***

³⁹Turn away the disgrace that I dread, ***for your ordinances are good.***

⁴⁰See, I have longed for your precepts; ***in your righteousness be gracious to me.***

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

GOSPEL RESPONSE



GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. ***Glory to you, O Lord***

¹⁵"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Michelle Swedlow

SPECIAL MUSIC

On Wings of Song and Prayer

SPLC Adult Choir

MESSAGE

Stefanie Rowinski

HYMN

#654 The Church's One Foundation vs 1, 4 and 5

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

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

RECOGNITION OF NANCY KRAUSE'S 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of unity and peace, you give each of us grace through the gift of Christ. We give you thanks for associates in ministry, Nancy, Risa, Ron and Ashely, through whom your people are equipped for the work of ministry and for building up the body of Christ. With your Holy Spirit empower your servants in their calling, so that together we come to the unity of the faith and to the measure of the full stature of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

O God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship: Pour out your Spirit on your servants who, with the gift of music, enliven our praises and proclaim your word with power. Through this ministry give us new awareness of your beauty and grace, and join our voices with all the choirs of heaven, both now and forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart; that the barriers dividing us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time to make our common prayer to you, and you have promised through your Son that where two or three are gathered together in his name, you will be in the midst of them. Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us, granting us, in this world, knowledge of your truth and, in the age to come, life everlasting. **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 for by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

...All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Prayer

Canticle Ringers

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

*Please note there are gluten free wafers available, and the cups in the center of the trays are grape juice.

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.***

SEP
TEM
BER
2023

August 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

October 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 Worship 9:30a	4 Labor Day	5 Twilight Tones 6:30p	6 Choir practice 6:30p	7	8	9
10 Grandparents Day Worship 9:30a - Nancy Krause SPLC 30th anniversary Family Movie Night 5-7	11 Canticle Ringers 9 am	12 Twilight Tones 6:30p	13 5:30 Children's handbells 6:00 Wed. Night Meal 6:30 Education Classes Choir practice	14	15	16
17 9:30 Worship Bible Blessings 10:30 Education classes	18 Canticle Ringers 9 am	19 Twilight Tones 6:30p	20 5:30 Children's handbells 6:00 Wed. Night Meal 6:30 Education Classes Choir practice	21 1 p XYZ	22	23
24 9:30 Worship 10:30 Education Classes 4pm Gene Lothes Memorial	25 Canticle Ringers 9 am	26 Twilight Tones 6:30p	27 5:30 Children's handbells 6:00 Wed. Night Meal 6:30 Education Classes Choir practice	28	29	30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT SUNDAY CLASSES

Classes begin Sunday, Sept. 17th. The subject is "God In Disguise" led by Ted Teske. Please join us!

OKC HOMELESS ALLIANCE - OUTREACH BOARD SEPTEMBER MISSION PROJECT

Items needed are **Clothes** (jeans, shorts, belts & sweatpants, adult-size sneakers & work boots, adult-size underwear (new only)). **Hygiene items** (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, wipes, combs, brushes, cotton balls & swabs, lice shampoo, nail clippers, razors, shaving cream, tooth care, Vaseline, soap, denture cream, Kleenex, etc.) **First Aid/sun care** items (sunscreen, Chapstick with SPF, bug spray, Ace bandages, peroxide, cough drops). **Pet supplies** (Dog food, leashes, harnesses, collars). Rain ponchos, thermal underwear, handwarmers, blankets & sleeping bags. Please place items in the shopping cart in the narthex throughout September! Bless You!

DIRECTORY UPDATES

We are updating our directory! A copy of the information we currently have will be emailed with the bulletin as well as on a spreadsheet on the information table in the narthex. Please confirm/update your information (and any others you know) by correcting in red on the physical copy or emailing Ashley at articles@stpaulsokc.com with "Directory update" in the subject line. Deadline is **9/17!**

BLUFF CREEK MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

Russ Bainbridge is working on building a beginner friendly mountain bike trail at Bluff Creek Mountain Bike Trails and needs help with building some features. The trail is also accepting donations for materials to build those features. For more information, please contact Russ at TriRussell@gmail.com.

XYZ- SEPTEMBER 21ST

The XYZ (Extra Years of Zest) group for adults 55+ years will resume meeting at 1 pm in the Activity Center. Diane Ackerman will be hosting. Please join us for desserts and the card game, kings corners! Sign-up sheet is in narthex!

COVID TESTS

A surplus of Covid tests have been donated to SPLC. If you or someone you know has a need for them, you are welcome to take them for your use. They are located on the information table in the Narthex.

WEBSITE UPDATES

Please send your pictures of SPLC groups and/or activities (WOW, mission trips, choir/bell performances, youth nights etc.) to articles@stpaulsokc.com for our website.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We would love to involve as many people as possible in the roles of worship leadership and teachers for Sunday education classes.

Contact Risa if you are interested in teaching Sunday mornings.

To volunteer to serve as a reader, communion assistant, usher or altar guild, go to: [Sign up! \(stpaulsokc.com\)](http://stpaulsokc.com) or use the QR code below. Make your Sunday experience more meaningful by serving in worship. If you need help navigating Sign up Genius, contact Susi Laflin 405-202-7065. New or unsure how you could best help? Just ask Pastor Stefanie, Nancy Krause or Jill Botkin, Lay Ministry Board Chair. We'll help get you plugged in.

