

The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed . . .

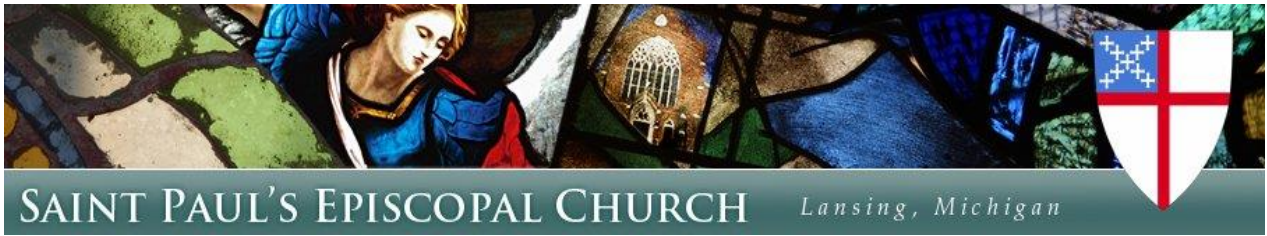
*Which indeed is the least of all seeds
but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs*

Matthew 13:31-32

**Morning Prayer Rite II
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - July 26, 2020**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
www.stpaulslansing.org

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St. Paul's Staff: The Rev. Karen C. Lewis, Rector; Ms. Stephanie Gewirtz, Minister of Music; Ms. Theresa Milne, Parish Administrator; Ms. Jackie Womble, Christian Formation Director; Ms. Ciera Wilson, Nursery Attendant; Ms. Kathy Vogel, Wedding Coordinator.

St. Paul's Vestry: Maria Wawro, Sr. Warden; Sue LeDuc, Jr. Warden; Jack Baker, Jane Bryce, Michael Hart, Jennifer Humphries, Bob Merriman, Dave Parks, Libby Richardson, Margaret Schulte, Gloria Sutton, Jeff Irwin, Treasurer, Sally Boron, Secretary.

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER

During the summer, we will be using a supplemental liturgical text entitled *Enriching Our Worship* for Morning Prayer. The Episcopal Church initiated the development of supplemental worship texts in response to the need to be more inclusive in language and scripture readings; and to reflect the diversity of the Church. Morning Prayer was the first such service to be provided in 1998. Changes included many new canticles (particularly those voices of women in the Hebrew Scriptures (such as the Song of Hannah); and the use of inclusive language (non-gender).

In creating the supplemental texts, the commission was guided by the following:

“All liturgical texts are rich in what they say about God but also what they say about ourselves in relationship with God. This is at the heart of any theological reflection upon the experience of liturgical prayer. Who does the text say God is, who does it say we are, and—most importantly—what does this mean for us? These questions form the basis upon which the community can explore how these prayers speak in the hearts, minds, and spirit of the community of faith.

The task for the Church is not merely to translate but to find the voice of prayer in the heart, spirit and mind of the people praying.

It is the hope that the whole Church will begin to have prayers which expand the breadth and depth of the Church's prayer life.”

MORNING PRAYER RITE II – PROPER 12

eighth SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – JULY 26, 2020

Saint Paul reminds us that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39). For the time being, we are physically separated from one another; yet, our community will continue to strive to be loving, joyous and inclusive. All you need to participate in this time of prayer is found in this bulletin.

OPENING SENTENCE

God is Spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and in truth. *John 4:24*

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Officiant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept. Officiant and People say together

**God of all mercy
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

The Officiant says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Officiant O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People **And your glory all the day long.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Then follows an Invitatory Psalm, the Officiant and People saying together

VENITE

Psalm 95:1-7

Antiphon

Day by day we bless you; **we praise your name for ever.**

**Come, let us sing to the Lord,*
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving*
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God,*
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,*
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,*
and his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,*
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.*
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Antiphon

Day by day we bless you; **we praise your name for ever..**

Then follows the appointed Psalm. The People sit for the psalm.

PSALM 105:1-11, 45b

1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;*
make known his deeds among the peoples,
2 Sing to him, sing praises to him,*
and speak of all his marvelous works.
3 Glory in his holy Name;*
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
4 Search for the Lord and his strength,*
continually seek his face.
5 Remember the marvels he has done,*
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
6 O offspring of Abraham his servant,*
O children of Jacob his chosen.
7 He is the Lord our God;*
his judgments prevail in all the world.
8 He has always been mindful of his covenant,*
the promise he made for a thousand generations:
9 The covenant he made with Abraham,*
the oath that he swore to Isaac,
10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob,*
an everlasting covenant for Israel,
11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan*
to be your allotted inheritance.
45b Hallelujah!

At the end of the Psalm is said by all

**Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 29:15-28

Reader A reading from the book of Genesis

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country – giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand. The following Canticle is said by all

A SONG OF JUDITH

Judith 16:13-16

**I will sing a new song to my God,*
for you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.
Let the whole creation serve you,*
for you spoke and all things came into being.
You sent your breath and it formed them,*
no one is able to resist your voice.
Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths,*
rocks melt like wax at your presence.
But to those who fear you,*
you continue to show mercy.
No sacrifice, however fragrant, can please you,*
but whoever fears the Lord shall stand in your sight for ever.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:26-39

Reader A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The following Canticle is said by all

A SONG OF GOD'S LOVE

1 John 4:7-11

**Beloved, let us love one another,*
for love is of God.
Whoever does not love does not know God,*
for God is Love.
In this the love of God was revealed among us,*
that God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through Jesus Christ.
In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us*
and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.
Beloved, since God loved us so much,*
we ought also to love one another.
For if we love one another, God abides in us,*
and God's love will be perfected in us.**

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Reader A reading from the gospel of Matthew

Jesus 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."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

The following is said by all

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant Hear our cry, O God.
People **And listen to our prayer.**
Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People pray together

**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.**

SUFFRAGES

V. Help us, O God our Savior;
R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.
V. Look upon your congregation;
R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.
V. Declare your glory among the nations;
R. And your wonders among all peoples.
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
R. Never forget the lives of your poor.
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

THE COLLECTS

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

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With Solomon and the great sages of our lineage, let us now turn our hearts to God and seek true wisdom, saying: O God, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of religious communities and parishes throughout the earth, especially Michael our presiding bishop, and Bonnie, our bishop; as they journey towards truth and clarity, we pray for God's wisdom: **O God, hear our prayer.**

For local, state and national government officials, especially our President and congressional leaders, that they may discern what is best for our country, we pray for God's wisdom: **O God, hear our prayer.**

For the sick especially those on our parish prayer list; those battling COVID-19, and those we now name either silently or aloud _____, and for those who minister to them, we pray for God's wisdom: **O God, hear our prayer.**

For the youth of our age in their search for the pearl of identity, we pray for God's wisdom: **O God, hear our prayer.**

For all mothers and fathers who are unemployed, and for those who awake today without food for their children, we pray for God's wisdom: **O God, hear our prayer.**

For those who seek and never find, for those who travel without purpose, for those who must bear injustices and for those blind to the needs of others, we pray for God's wisdom: **O God, hear our prayer.**

For those who have died and for those who mourn, we pray for God's wisdom: **O God, hear our prayer.**

For those who give generously of their time to St. Paul's and its ministries, we give thanks for God's wisdom: **O God, hear our prayer.**

The Officiant concludes the prayers by saying the following

Astonish us once again, O God, and bring forth from the storeroom of your heart the abundance of wisdom. May all who ask for our prayers know your love, and may we give testimony to your grace in our lives of compassion. In the name of Christ we pray. **Amen.**

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Officiant and People say together

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages.
Amen.**

Then the Officiant says

Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Officiant concludes with the following

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between

 preserving their health or making their rent

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those

 who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,

 let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbor.

Amen.

Author unknown



**We bless you and we praise you,
Lord Christ, for commanding us
to love one another. Let this mask
be a sign of your love, and let my
behavior be filled with love for
my neighbor. Amen.**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER

July 26, 2020

We pray for those who have ongoing needs for healing prayers: Margaret (Peggy) Richardson, Mason Hill, Marsha Macholz, Sebastian Cuesta, Clint Hogue, John & Grace Hawkins, Julie, Van Anderson, Marian Boulus, Nancy Rudd, Meadow Rawlins, Thomasina Canty, Anna Hayward, Harvey Clark & Mary Armstrong, Michelle Levenick, Norma Lindholm, Audrey & David, Pat Bellinger, Joanne Boulton, Claudia Hamlin, Ronda Peters, Erica, Marta & Venancio, Mike Jacobs, Rick Wendorf, Chris Krupka, Paul Doersam, Jason Thomas, Robert Madrigal, Joy Brewer, William Gabel, Pat Seger-Krawczynski, April Cruz, Karlene Bach, Sally Boron, Pam & John Irwin, Kate Johnson, Doug, Jeff Waters, David Hemingway, Max Pierce, Michael Crouch, Terry Bryce, Sherry Sutton, Danielle Laurion, Michael O'Toole, Penny, Peggy, Karen Clarke, Eric, Amy Crabtree, Judy Manson, Patricia McMartin, Doug Boor, Craig, Odie, Leonard, Sarah, Lyn Zynda, Larry Gut, Delaine Counsellor, Ellie Doersam, Gail & Bill Kendall, and Lynn Dayton.

We pray and remember those in the Military, and those who are serving in dangerous areas: Brendan Moody, Zachariah Reeves, Zachary Bellinger, Conrad Laurion, Alex Van Koevering, Tyson Carter, Amy Peryea, Suzette Bauman, John Bellinger, Doug Laurion, Erika Harkness Wilson, and McKenzie Counsellor.

We pray this week for those who have died: Especially Erna Hassell, a long-time member of St. Paul's. There will be a visitation at Gorsline-Runciman in East Lansing on August 7, 2020 from 10am-noon with burial following at Eastlawn cemetery in Okemos. Erna was 103 years old.

We pray this week for the following St. Paul's members & family:
Ron & Pam Anderson, Theda Assiff-MacGriff, Mary Ann Austin, and Karlene Bach.

We pray this week for the following community service agency: Lansing Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St, Lansing, MI 48906

We pray for our worshipping communities: Canterbury House/UofM, Ann Arbor; St. Cornelius, Cabarete, DR; and St. James', Dexter.

We pray for those in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Lambeth Conference and for the bishops gathered in Canterbury, Kent

We pray for: Michael Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church; Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Bonnie A. Perry, our bishop; Karen C. Lewis, our rector; our worship ministers, and staff at St. Paul's.

