



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

We follow Jesus, welcome all and nurture ministries.



Online Bulletin

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 19 Year A

September 13, 2020 streaming live at 10:15 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Welcome from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Ventura, California. Today we offer an online worship service for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The words in bold are the ones we will all say together.

Be sure to read our Email Newsletter to keep up with the news of the church, find ways to connect with others, and get updates on the plans to return to church as soon as it's safe enough. If you don't receive our newsletter, please contact us at office@saintpaulsventura.org.

Again, welcome! We're glad to know that you're worshipping with us. If there's anything we can do to help, please let us know. Meanwhile, know that you are in our prayers. We wish you all a very safe and blessed week.

Holy Eucharist

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Instrumental

Opening Salutation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355

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

***People* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 356

Celebrant and people say together

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

As Episcopalians, our custom is to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest Holy Scripture. You are invited to do so right here in your bulletin.

First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

Psalm 103:1-13

The response appointed for today is from Psalm 103. We will read it responsively, breaking at the asterisk.

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

- 5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Liz Williams

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic¹ and apostolic² Church. We

¹ universal; all embracing

acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

O God, your unfailing love has been
the source of our strength.
Because of your faithful love and mercy,
we bring our concerns to you, O God.

Let us pray for this world God so loves, saying,
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the church—
that it would be an instrument of your love,
forgiveness, and grace.
Let us pray for our clergy;
Michael, our Presiding Bishop
John and Diane, our Diocesan Bishops
Dick, Liz and Susan, our clergy
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the global community—
that we would learn to live for each other
in peace and cooperation, and share
collective responsibility.
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our local community
For our leaders and essential workers.
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer in their minds, bodies, or souls and
those who are battling the Coronavirus or
have lost their lives to the Coronavirus;
wrap your arms around them in love
and help us, the church, be what they need.
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the silent intentions we hold in our hearts.
[A time of silence is kept.]
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Glory be to the Father,
and to Jesus Christ the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

Celebrant

God of promises, you have brought us a long way and have kept us safe in our journey to you. Hear us now, and answer our prayers with delight. Teach us to run to you for all we need. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. **Amen.**

² relating to the Apostles; following their teachings

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor
A period of silence is observed.

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.

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 Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Please post a comment, as a sign of your love and your wish that we all be blessed with God’s peace—which is beyond understanding—until we can be together again.

Announcements

Prayers for birthdays and anniversaries.

Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Sentence

Thank you for your donation. Your generosity is appreciated. We look forward to doing great things in the name of Christ with whatever you are able to give.

Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:15,16

Offertory Anthem

Instrumental

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A - BCP p 361

The people remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God 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.

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 proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People say together

**Holy, holy holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest,
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 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:

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. During this time of separation, O God, out of love for you and for our neighbors, we will not gather in our church. But we ask you to sanctify us, that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament in the form of Spiritual Communion, that we may serve in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day join with all the saints in the joy of God's eternal kingdom.

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.

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Spiritual Communion

Please join us in praying.

Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and we desire to offer you thanks and praise as we proclaim your resurrection. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we cannot be together in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and help us to be mindful that, though we are separate from one another, you are always present and will never leave us. Bless each of us and our entire congregation, as well as all of our neighbors throughout the world. Fill us all with your light and nourish us with your word and Spirit until we can be together again. Amen.

Communion Music *Instrumental*

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

May God bless you, so that you can be a blessing to others.
May Christ bless you, so that you can be healers of a world that is hurting.
May the Holy Spirit bless you, so that you can spread hope that only the Triune God + can inspire and give to the world. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Postlude

Instrumental

Acknowledgements and Copyright Information

Prayers of the People and Blessing: *Modified from Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Year A, Volume 2.*
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Officiants: The Rev. Susan Bek and The Rev. Liz Williams
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ASL Interpreter: Nadia Talley
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Organist: Sara Edwards * Cantor: Reid Edwards
Music Minister and Piano: Felix Eisenhauer
Assistant Music Minister and Soloist: Tara Eisenhauer
With technical support from St. Paul's Digital Disciples:
Drew Darby, Rose Hayden-Smith, Bonnie Rubrecht and Jon Bek

Prayer Intentions for the Week of September 13th

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop
John Taylor, Bishop Diocesan
Diane Jardine Bruce, Bishop Suffragan

Our Clergy: Susan Bek, Liz Williams, Dick Swanson
President Donald Trump, Congress, Federal Courts
Governor Gavin Newsom, Legislature, State Courts

HEALING IN BODY, MIND & SPIRIT:

Vicki, Kay, Christopher, Paulette, Adele, Brenda, James, Jacob, Carolyn, Teresa, Duncan, Steven, Frank, Julie, Bruce, Briana, Charly, Paul, Kathie, Tom, William and everyone who is battling COVID-19.

THOSE ENDURING A LONG TERM ILLNESS:

Virginia, Wayne, Margery, Sheila, Carrie, Brian, Linda, Judy, Liz, Michelle, Kevin, Mary, Kathy, Amelia, Carol, Stacie, Rachel, Mary, Kim

FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON:

- + The ministry of prayer, study and service of St. Paul's Men's Group, the Daughters of the King, Bible & study groups
- + U.S. Armed services personnel serving around the world and wounded warriors cared for in medical centers and those returned home

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- + Our partners in the Diocese of Los Angeles Deanery One in Santa Barbara County: *St. Mary's, Lompoc; St. Mark's, Los Olivos; All Saints', Christ the King, Trinity, Santa Barbara; St. Peter's, Santa Maria; St. Michael's Mission & Campus Ministry at UCSB in Isla Vista, Mount Calvary Monastery & Retreat House, Santa Barbara*
- + Our World Mission Companions: *the Cathedral Church of the Ascension, in the Diocese of Wiawso, Ghana*
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *Church of the Foothills, First Christian Church, Church of Christ*

IN MEMORIAM

Judy MacGregor, Isabella Kress, and everyone who has died during the ongoing pandemic.

Parish prayers for healing are listed for one calendar month. Contact the office with your request which may be added at any time. You may email us at office@saintpaulsventura.org.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff

The Rev. Susan Bek, Rector
The Rev. Liz Williams, Associate Rector
The Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson, Assisting
Bonnie Rubrecht, Parish Administrator
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Announcements for September 13, 2020
Thank you for joining us today! We'll continue to hold you in our prayers.
Please contact the church office for more information.
God bless you!
We invite you to join us again!

	<p>Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom - Join us today after our Livestream Service Friends, family, kids and pets are all welcome! Join us to chat, catch up on what's happening in each other's lives, say hello to Rev. Susan and Rev. Liz. Share requests for prayer. Stay for as long or as little as you are able. Click below to join us on Sunday and say hi! We'd love to see you and all are welcome! https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98526311219</p>
	<p>SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST Diocese-wide Service next Sunday, Sept. 20th Bishop Taylor and Canon Kathy O'Connor will offer a diocese-wide virtual worship service on Sunday, Sept. 20. The service, in English and Spanish, will be live-streamed from St. Paul's Commons with the support of Provost Frank Alton and the altar guild of St. Athanasius' Church. Bishop Taylor notes that issues that caused the diocesan website to crash during the last all-diocese service have been addressed.</p>
	<p>Are you new to St. Paul's or visiting us? A warm welcome to you! We're so glad you came. We are a friendly and welcoming congregation. Please introduce yourself online via email or a comment to our clergy, as they're looking forward to meeting you—albeit remotely! We invite you to join us again in the future! You can access more information about St. Paul's by visiting our website at www.saintpaulsventura.org or checking out our Facebook page or YouTube channel. If you have prayer requests or other needs, please feel free to message us on Facebook or email our office at office@saintpaulsventura.org.</p>
	<p>ST. PAUL'S CHOIR OPEN MIC NIGHT You are personally invited to come listen to St. Paul's Choir Open Mic Night this Thursday, September 17th, 7:00pm on Zoom (Meeting ID: 984 7448 6223). The choir will individually present some favorites from many genres! Tune in and enjoy the show! Hosted by our own kooky Minister of Music, Dr. Felix Eisenhauer.</p>
	<p>ST. PAUL'S IS LEARNING SIGN LANGUAGE: Why? Because all are welcome here. In each ASL Minute we learn a few signs together. If you would like to see past ASL Minute videos, go to St. Paul's Ventura on YouTube or Facebook and click the "Learning Sign Language" playlist. If you like it, share it. Help spread the word that St. Paul's has a wonderful new Deaf ministry. Thanks!</p>
	<p>Are you Celebrating a Birthday, Anniversary or Special Occasion? We'd like to celebrate with you. Please email us by noon on Wednesday to be included in the online service for the coming Sunday. Send a photo if you like--it will help people put a face with your name, and our parishioners love seeing you! Email requests to office@saintpaulsventura.org.</p>

	<p>Would you like to have a Pandemic Pen Pal?</p> <p>If so, we'd be glad to help you connect with someone. Do you prefer to communicate the old-fashioned way, through the Post Office, or do you enjoy a good email or text? Please reach out to us and let us know! We have parishioners that would love to receive mail and others that would love to send you a card or a note or a txt message to say hello. Email our office for more details.</p>
	<p><i>The Daughters of the King invite you to join us...</i></p> <p>FIRST MONDAY BOOK CLUB – Join us October 5, 5:30pm via Zoom</p> <p>This month's selection is <i>The Vanishing Half</i> by Brit Bennett. Please join us to discuss this fascinating book that has received critical acclaim. Zoom Meeting ID: 751 8208 5503 / Password: 7Tt0EF</p> <p><i>All are welcome. We'd love to see you there!</i></p>
 <p>This QR Code takes you straight to our Giving Page</p>	<p><i>"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7</i></p> <p>Thank you for your generosity!</p> <p>Donations may be made by cash, check, PayPal, or text <i>StPaulsVentura</i> to 73256. You can also arrange online payments, click the "Give" button at www.saintpaulsventura.org or use this QR code. Members give of their time and share their talents through lots of volunteer opportunities and ministries. Please contact our clergy if you'd like to get involved in something new. Thank you for all the ways you give of yourself! We look forward to doing great things with whatever you are able to share.</p> <p>Thank you so much! It is great to have you with us on this faith journey.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Upcoming Meetings at St. Paul's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, September 16th – Finance Committee meeting via Zoom at 6pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, September 17th – Buildings & Grounds Committee via Zoom, 8:30am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, September 23rd – Vestry Meeting via Zoom at 6:30pm</p>