

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 9-10, 2025

IN THE NAME OF JESUS, WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.; Sunday - 10:00 a.m.



THE ENTRANCE RITE

PRELUDE

Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

Setting: Richard C Resch

WELCOME

ENTRANCE HYMN

Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

LSB 756

1 Why should cross and trial grieve me? Christ is near With His cheer; Never will He leave me. Who can rob me of the heaven That God's Son For me won When His life was given?	3 God gives me my days of gladness, And I will Trust Him still When He sends me sadness. God is good; His love attends me Day by day, Come what may, Guides me and defends me.
2 When life's troubles rise to meet me, Though their weight May be great, They will not defeat me. God, my loving Savior, sends them; He who knows All my woes Knows how best to end them.	4 From God's joy can nothing sever, For I am His dear lamb, He, my Shepherd ever. I am His because He gave me His own blood For my good, By His death to save me.
	5 Now in Christ, death cannot slay me, Though it might, Day and night, Trouble and dismay me. Christ has made my death a portal From the strife Of this life To His joy immortal!

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the **☩** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel. Silence is observed for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,

have mercy upon us. In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Amen.

KYRIE (Stand)

LSB 944

For the peace from above and for our salvation; and for the peace of the whole world and the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

Kyrie Eleison; Christe Eleison; Kyrie Eleison. (*Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy.*)

For the well-being of the Church of God; and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

Kyrie Eleison; Christe Eleison; Kyrie Eleison.

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

Kyrie Eleison; Christe Eleison; Kyrie Eleison.

- 1 Splendor and honor, majesty and power
Are Yours, O Lord God, fount of ev'ry blessing,
For by Your bidding was the whole creation
Called into being.**

- 2 Praised be the true Lamb, slain for our redemption,
By whose self-off'ring we are made God's people:
A priestly kingdom, from all tongues and nations,
Called to God's service.**

- 3 To the Almighty, throned in heav'nly splendor,
And to the Savior, Christ our Lamb and Shepherd,
Be adoration, praise, and glory given,
Now and forever.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God,
**it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant
that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD****FIRST LESSON (Be seated)**

Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number

them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 33:12-22 (Sung responsively)

Blessèd is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

The LORD looks down from heaven;
he sees all the children of man;
from where he sits enthroned he looks out
on all the inhabitants of the earth,
he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.

The king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

The war horse is a false hope for salvation,
and by its great might it cannot rescue.

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
that he may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.

For our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.

Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commanding him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE (Stand)

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

LSB 952

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus] said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON (Be seated)

In the name of Jesus, Amen!

When people make a decision, they may have to set aside other things and choose what they think gives them the most comfort. When you choose between two different jobs, you may choose the one with higher wages that you think will give you comfort and delight your heart, while others may choose the one that gives them longtime job security and career satisfaction. There are many decisions in life that are so big, so important that they will change your future forever. So, how you choose, and by which or for what reasons you make the decision will bring you lasting consequences.

Oftentimes, it's the one that gives you comfort in your heart that eventually leads you to that decision.

Today's Genesis text together with the whole eleventh chapter of Hebrews gives us a list of exemplary men and women of faith in ancient times when they made one of their biggest decisions in their lives that eventually gave them the utmost comfort. Abel chose to make a sacrifice acceptable to God that gave him the comfort of forgiveness of sins rather than a pride of labor that Cain offered. Noah chose to build an ark to give him hope and comfort of saving himself and his family despite hard labors and mockeries from the fellow men. When God called Abraham, he chose to go out of the sinful city of Ur even without knowing where to go but trusting God's leading and His promises of an inheritance. Initially, Abraham thought that Eliezer of Damascus would be his only choice of heir for his house because Abraham continued childless. But when God promised him that he would have his own son and his offspring would be as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore, he chose to believe God. God's Word and promises gave Abraham a comfort of peace of leaving behind sins and evils, a hope of the blessing of a son, and a delight of an inheritance of the promised land which foreshadows a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Men of faith make decisions according to God's Word and His promises for true comfort and everlasting delight.

In our Gospel lesson, Jesus says, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing." When Jesus says this, some people tend to think that Jesus is warning against pride. It's similar to some Chinese sayings. For example, when someone on a diet refuses to eat when the food is right before them on the table, other people may say, "Starving to death is not a crime." There is also a Chinese phrase that describes those girls wearing skirts in the winter as "beautifully frozen". Well, this is certainly true in some sense, but it is not exactly what Jesus is saying here. Jesus is challenging us to think about what is more important, and what gives you ultimate comfort and delight. It's life itself that we should desire. God in Christ Jesus is Life. God feeds the ravens even though they have neither storehouse nor barn. He clothes the lilies with glory that is more than any of king Solomon's clothes. He loves you even more as to give you the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of God is where your heart should be because that's where your true treasure is. So, what does it comfort you

more? A treasure in the heavens incorruptible? Or a treasure on earth that will perish, can be stolen, and eventually will be “burned up and dissolved” (2 Peter 3:10) when the Lord Jesus comes in His glory. So, be careful what you choose. The heavenly one should be your choice.

Why do we choose heavenly treasure instead of earthly ones? Why did men of faith make decisions according to God’s Word and His promises? Because the One who has promised is faithful and God wants his people to respond in faith. Our Hebrews text says, “without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” God was faithful to His promise of forgiveness of sins and eternal life for Abel: even though he died, he still speaks. God was faithful to Noah that He condemned the world of that generation and saved Noah’s household of eight by the ark. God was faithful to Abraham that he not only had his son Issac born through Sarah but also all nations are blessed through the special descendant of Abraham, Jesus Christ, Who faithfully went to the cross for the sins of the whole world and resurrected for our justification. Jesus Christ and the salvation for the whole world accomplished by His blood shed on the Cross was foreshadowed by the blood of Abel that is still speaking today, the sacrifice of Issac on the mountain of Moriah, and the flood water of Baptism foreshadowed by Noah’s ark. God’s faithfulness in Jesus Christ has comforted the men and women of faith then. He still gives you comfort and delight in His Word and Promises now.

“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Because of God’s faithfulness and Christ’s faithful work on the cross, the faithful people of God of all times in all places are given the gift of faith in the suffering Servant who was yet to come and in the Son of God who came in the flesh and shall come again on the last day. That’s why when Abraham believed the LORD, He counted it to him as righteousness. The same thing happens to Abel when the sacrifice he offered “was commended as righteous”. The same thing happens to Noah. After the flood, he “became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith” Our Hebrews text says, “These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.” You may ask, “Why does the text describe these men of faith as ‘not having received the things promised’?” Didn’t Abraham receive the promised child, Issac, and the promised land, Canaan? Didn’t Noah receive the saving promise of the ark

when the flood finally came? Yes. But their eyesight of faith looks afar, even farther than what God promised them in the things on the earth that they can see. They believe heavenly things not seen and in God Himself, who “gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. (Rom. 4:17)” Therefore, they seek a better promise than the earthly one and a better country—the heavenly homeland. For this, the text tells us “God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He Has prepared a city for them.” Yes, God has prepared in Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God! This is really what comforts me, and I hope what comforts you. How do you choose, what do you choose, and by which or for what reasons do you make a decision? Out of Faith in God and His salvation in Jesus Christ, what you choose will make a big difference in the end. You Will find out the value of your decision, whether it be incorruptible, or burned up in the end when the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. I pray that we be ready like “those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes.” For God is faithful and has prepared everything for our heavenly home and for the feast of the Lamb to come.

In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen!

HYMN OF THE DAY (Stand)

O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe

LSB 666

1 O little flock, fear not the foe Who madly seeks your overthrow; Dread not his rage and pow'r. And though your courage sometimes faints, His seeming triumph o'er God's saints Lasts but a little hour.	3 As true as God's own Word is true, Not earth nor hell's satanic crew Against us shall prevail. Their might? A joke, a mere facade! God is with us and we with God— Our vict'ry cannot fail.
2 Be of good cheer; your cause belongs To Him who can avenge your wrongs; Leave it to Him, our Lord. Though hidden yet from mortal eyes, His Gideon shall for you arise, Uphold you and His Word.	4 Amen, Lord Jesus, grant our prayer; Great Captain, now Thine arm make bare, Fight for us once again! So shall Thy saints and martyrs raise A mighty chorus to Thy praise Forevermore. Amen.

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come 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.**

OFFERING

Offerings support the church's mission work – both here and through our many partners. Offerings may be placed in the box at the sanctuary entrance or sent to the church through our website or the mail. Fellowship Cards help us welcome new people and track participation. Please fill one out and place it in the offering box following the service.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
For faith in the wise and gracious will of God, and for power to turn from false belief in our own plans and natural powers, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the proclamation of the Word, that it may prosper through the work of all pastors and church workers in their various callings; for those who are being called to the Lord's service and those preparing for church-work vocations; and for our seminaries and those who teach and learn God's Word therein, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For Christian parents, that with faith like Father Abraham they would prize the gift of their children and work in their lives for the good of generations yet unseen, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our nation and those who lead us, that together we may be endowed with wisdom and a good heart, seeking justice and showing mercy, especially on behalf of the unborn and those least able to defend themselves, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick, that they would be delivered from suffering and know God's grace and the perfect consummation of hope and full healing of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all those on our prayer list, and for those we name in our hearts at this time... that they would be kept in faith amidst their trials and receive help according to God's love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Holy Spirit, that by His grace, those who come to Christ's table this day would be enlightened by the Word and dressed in readiness for the coming of the Son of Man who girds Himself to serve them with His body and blood, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For a steadfast faith in Jesus Christ, a cheerful hope in God's mercy, and a sincere love for the Lord and all our neighbors, that although we are not worthy of the least of His benefits, the Lord would accept our sacrifice of thanks, together with the offerings that we return to Him in faith, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, You worked the salvation of the world through the death of Your dear Son, and You work out Your holy purposes through the deaths of Your saints. Make us faithful unto death and so receive the fulfillment of all Your promises; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY

Create in Me

(LSB 956)

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE (Stand)

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 truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord... Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS

(LSB 961)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd, blessed, blessed is He
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI

(LSB 962)

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
grant us Your peace,
grant us Your peace,
grant us Your peace.**

THE COMMUNION (Be seated)

Those wishing to commune at the foot of the steps should come forward first. Those wishing to commune at the altar rail should come forward after these, front rows first, from both sides of the aisle. After receiving, all should return to their seats. A common dismissal will be given at the end.

- 1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
And His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you!
Allelu, alleluia!**

- 2 Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you,
Allelu, alleluia!**

- 3 Man does not live by bread alone,
But by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord,
Allelu, alleluia!**

NUNC DIMITTIS

(LSB 937)

- 1 Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,
Your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,
This child so long foretold.**

- 2 This is the Savior of the world,
The Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst,
The joy of Israel.**

- 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,
To You we lift our voice;
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest
Be honor, love, and praise.**

PRAYER (Stand)

BENEDICTION

- 1 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*

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!

- 2 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*
- 3 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,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Be seated)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Great is Thy Faithfulness
Setting Ryan Meyer

FELLOWSHIP CONTRIBUTORS: Council Officers

Those serving: 8/9-10

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.:

Greeter: Aaron Siebrass
Comm. assist: Holly Siebrass
Reader: Aaron Siebrass

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.:

Greeter: Bob Juenger
Comm. assist: Jill Hecht
Reader: Michael Chamberlain
Acolyte: Elise Yasher
AV Assistants: Hannes Buuck, Andreas Buuck

Acknowledgments

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7426 IDYLWOOD ROAD
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22043**

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Caring Ministry, Safety Ministry, Leisure Group
Other seasonal and occasional working groups

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Mark Shaltanis, Pastor
The Rev. Xinhong “Chris” Yang, Associate and Chinese Pastor
The. Rev. Wayne Lehrer, Pastor Emeritus

Kantor Aaron Jansen, Director of Parish Music

Jill Cha, Preschool Director

Tawni Harrell, Director of Youth

Norm Williams, Business Manager

Linda Fekete, Parish Secretary

Richard Irwin, Building Manager

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