

ORDER OF SERVICE
July 26, 2020 - Pentecost 8

INTRODUCTION

“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?”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers on the 8th Sunday of Pentecost. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

Reading the lessons is Jacqueline Abel.

The reflection is offered by Fr. Ajit John.

The anthem is performed by David McCartney.

And leading the litany is Michael Reckley.

So let us hear Holy Scripture, reflect and pray together, and open our hearts to the Living Word, Jesus Christ - our risen Saviour and Lord.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

LESSONS

READER: A reading from Romans

Romans 8:26–39 (NRSV)

26 Likewise 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.

27 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.

28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

29 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.

30 And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

32 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?

33 Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.

34 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.

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

39 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: From Psalm 105 **Psalm 105:1–11 (NRSV)**

1 O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

2 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

3 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

4 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.

5 Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,

6 O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

7 He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

8 He is mindful of his covenant forever, of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

9 the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac,

10 which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

11 saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance."

45 that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the LORD!

READER: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 13.

Matthew 13:31–33, 44-52

31 He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;

32 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.”

33 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.”

44 “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.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;

46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind;

48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous

50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.”

52 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.”

LITANY (#7, BAS 116)

Let us pray in faith to God our Father, to his Son Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, saying,
“Lord, hear and have mercy.”

For the Church of the living God throughout the world, let us ask the riches of his grace.
Lord, hear and have mercy.

For all who proclaim the word of truth, let us ask the infinite wisdom of Christ.
Lord, hear and have mercy.

For all who have consecrated their lives to the kingdom of God, and for all struggling to follow the way of Christ, let us ask the gifts of the Spirit.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

For Elizabeth our Queen, for the Prime Minister of this country, and for all who govern the nations, that they may strive for justice and peace, let us ask the strength of God.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

For scholars and research-workers, that their studies may benefit humanity, let us ask the light of the Lord.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

For all who have passed from this life in faith and obedience, let us ask the peace of Christ.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all you have done for us. We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: And now as our Saviour 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Prayers

The parish of St. Paul's is called to prayer this morning at 10.30 a.m.. A short video and handout are available for those who wish to follow along: www.stpl.ca/services.html.

A service is also conducted in Tamil. Please contact Fr. Milton Solomon directly: (solomon.milton@ymail.com).

A Bible study and prayer meeting in Chinese is organized by Pastor Andrew and Kevin Zhang, Saturday evenings at 8.00 pm. To participate, contact Pastor Andrew: shenxunhong@gmail.com

Sunday School every Sunday morning at 10 am

Information about how to connect is available on the Church Calendar: www.stpl.ca/events.html

Evening Prayer on Sundays via Zoom

Evening Prayer is said every Sunday at 6 pm. Information about how to connect is available on the Church Calendar: www.stpl.ca/events.html

Or, directly here:

Computer link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/729301821?pwd=N29KK1JtTXp0RzVvcHZBMzN0ZXpDZz09>

Telephone: 647-374-4685, OR 647-558-0588

Meeting ID: 729 301 821

Password: 010558

York-Scarborough Area Grant

Our sincere thanks to Bishop Kevin Robertson, his secretary Sue Willoughby, and the applications committee for the York-Scarborough Area Grant for making this grant available. And in the parish, our thanks to George Coomasamy for coordinating the application process. Joshua Jayakumar, Timothy, Jeyamanoharan, and Aliyah Knetsch were this year's parish recipients.

The Berthebell Moo & St. Paul's Memorial Academic Scholarships and the St. Paul's Memorial Music Scholarship

Each year bursaries of \$600 each are awarded to St. Paul's youths who are High School graduates and are pursuing post-secondary education at a university, a community college or in an apprenticeship program. The number of bursaries awarded is decided upon receipt of applications. The Bursary Program is also open to students who have already enrolled in the university, college or an apprenticeship program.

Additionally, bursaries of \$600 are awarded to young people who are members of St. Paul's and/or are involved in the St. Paul's youth music program, who show promise in music and are pursuing musical studies.

Dead line for both: August 31.

The bursaries are awarded on Thanksgiving Sunday

Forms available here: <https://stpl.ca/applications-forms--reports.html>

Re-opening - September 13

The Archbishop for the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario and all Bishops in the Province (which includes Toronto), have instructed that churches will re-open for in-person services and programs in September. On Friday, Bishop Asbil announced that churches in Toronto will re-open *September 13*, in accordance with safety guidelines now being released. The Ecclesiastical Province has issued general guidelines. On June 30, the Diocese of Toronto offered specific safety guidelines for the re-opening.

When we re-open, there will be a blend of in-person and online programs because there will still be a sizeable number who will not be participating in group activities, whether it be due to their own hesitation or strict orders from their families. And, as has been true all along, the situation remains dynamic. We'll do our best to keep everyone updated.

ACSA Food Bank

Thanks to Jim Karygiannis for highlighting the needs of the Agincourt Community Services Food Bank. As always, St. Paul's is eager to support ACSA. A monetary gift is the most practical and serves the exact needs of the food bank. Gifts can be given online:

<https://www.agincourtcommunityservices.com/donate>

S.P.Y. - St. Paul's Youth - Friday Nights, 7 p.m. - Resuming in September

Friday fellowships carry on. Information about how to connect is available on the Church Calendar: www.stpl.ca/events.html

Morning Prayer - Now Daily

The regular schedule of Morning Prayer according to the Book of Common Prayer meets Monday to **Sunday** at 7.30 a.m. and will continue throughout the summer. All are welcome and may participate by phone or internet. It's short, simple and quiet, but a proven path and one of the gems in the Anglican tradition. We follow the Book of Common Prayer, beginning on page 6. If you want to look ahead, the lessons from the Old and New Testaments, as well as the Psalm, are taken from The Daily Office Lectionary and can be found here: <https://lectionary.anglican.ca/>.

Here's the link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/397231088>

Here are the phone numbers and ID: 647-374 4685, or 647-558 0588; Meeting ID: 397 231 088

Looking for Work

Slowly, businesses are opening and jobs are resuming, and while some of the employment projections are encouraging, we could also be looking at a lot of lost jobs. If you're looking, or know someone who is, this is the national job site: www.jobbank.ca

Friday Night Bible Study - on Zoom - Resuming in September

On May 22, we began a study of the Book of Revelation, a book that is often avoided due to its coded language and many symbols. But here's from the study guide we will follow: "In fact, Revelation offers one of the clearest and sharpest visions of God's ultimate purpose for the whole creation, and of the way in which the powerful forces of evil, at work in a thousand ways, can be

and are being overthrown through the victory of Jesus the Messiah and the consequent costly victory of his followers.”

Paperback copies or electronic versions of the study guides can be purchased online at Amazon.

Paperback: [Revelation \(N. T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides\) - Paperback](#)

Kindle: [Revelation \(N. T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides\) - Kindle](#)

For those interested, the commentary is also available: [Revelation for Everyone](#)

The study resumes in September.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/830877703>

Telephone: 647-374 4685, or 647-558 0588; Meeting ID: 830 877 703

Church Calendar

We have updated the online Church Calendar to list all the events that are available online - www.stpl.ca/events.html. It includes:

- *Sunday School every Sunday at 10 am, led by Leila and the teachers, with Rob and U3ia.
- *A regular Bible study for the Tamil congregation by Zoom every Wednesday at 7.30 pm for a study of the Gospel of Luke. Pastor Vive is also helping with the study. Please contact Fr. Milton Solomon directly: (solomon.milton@ymail.com).
- *Regular Bible studies and prayer meetings in Chinese organized by Pastor Andrew and Kevin Zhang. To participate, contact Pastor Andrew: shenxunhong@gmail.com
- *The regular Friday Night Small Group and Bible Study.
- *Morning Prayer, Monday to Saturday.

The regular events are being listed on the online church Calendar, including the information about how to phone in or connect by internet.

Extension of the Diocesan Jubilee - Month of June

In light of the Covid-19 outbreak and the large financial strain on the parishes, Bishop Andrew Asbil announced a Jubilee through to the end of May. On Friday, May 22, it was announced that the Jubilee has been extended to include the month of June due to the help of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), in place through to the end of August. During the Jubilee, parishes will not be required to pay their allotment to the Diocese or to pay the costs of clergy remuneration (stipend, housing and associated benefits).

The extension of the Jubilee is closely related to the September 13th re-opening of the churches for in-person Sunday services. As mentioned above, guidelines are being released “for congregations to follow to ensure a safe return.”

The May 22 update from Bishop Asbil and Robert Saffrey (Executive Director) can be found here: www.toronto.anglican.ca/2020/05/22/letter-to-the-diocese-from-bishop-andrew-and-robert-saffrey/

The assistance from the diocese and federal government has relieved parishes of their diocesan assessments and incumbent’s stipend through to the end of June. The CEWS will continue until the end of August and depending on the diocesan application, we may be eligible for some

months of coverage (we already know that not all months will be covered). For this assistance we give thanks, and for the faithfulness and generosity of the parish.

It is important to remember that the situation is in a state of constant flux right now, one of the large unknowns being what we will face when and as the emergency measures are lifted. But these offers of support are of great assistance, and the support of the parish remains strong.

Faithworks Easter Appeal

This year's campaign is a very special effort as a generous donor has offered a \$100,000 matching challenge grant for all new and increased donations. That means for every dollar raised over last year's amount, FaithWorks received an extra dollar. To date, our Easter Appeal has raised over \$60,000 in new or increased donations. THANK YOU to all who have been so generous. However, we will only receive the Matching Challenge Grant of \$100,000 if we raise the full \$100,000 ourselves. We still have a ways to go. So please help us reach our goal by making your donation today at our web site www.faithworks.ca. It's easy to do!

Brother's and Sister's Keepers

If you are willing to be your brother's or sister's keeper by being in regular contact with one or two other persons from the parish, please contact the office or any of the clergy for more information.

Have you moved?

If you have moved recently, kindly notify the office of your new address, phone number and e-mail address. We appreciate your help.

Gifts and Offerings - E-Transfers now Available

The emergency measures and suspension of all church services and programs presents a large challenge to churches and charities dependent on regular gatherings and fundraising events. Your faithful support is as important now as it has ever been.

Church Envelopes can be sent by mail.

Members may wish to sign up for the Pre-Authorized Giving Program (contact the office).

Gifts can now be made by E-Transfer (call or email the church office).

Or, gifts can be made online at our website through CanadaHelps here: www.stpl.ca/give.html

Please note - the church office is closed and the deposit of gifts received is usually once every three to four weeks.

Thank You - through all the ways you've given, the parish has been faithful and the situation has remained steady through the quarantine. Thank you. God bless you.

One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.
(Psalm 145:4)

Staying in Touch

The clergy of St. Paul's are all in the vicinity. If any one of us can be of service, don't hesitate to call or write.

Church website: www.stpl.ca

Church phone: 416-499-1545

Church email: stpl@stpl.ca

Fr. Dean Mercer: deanmercercer@hotmail.com

Rectory phone: 416-497-6352