

ORDER OF SERVICE
November 15, 2020 - Pentecost 24

INTRODUCTION

“For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers on the 24th Sunday of Pentecost. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

Reading the lessons is Joshua Jayakumar. The reflection is offered by Fr. Ajit John. The anthem is performed by David McCartney and Matthew Waterman. And the litany is led by George Coomarasamy.

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:

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world. Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us, and bring us to eternal light and joy; through the power of him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
AMEN.

LESSONS

First Reading

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

Reader: A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Psalm

PSALM 123

READER: From Psalm 78

To you I lift up my eyes, to you enthroned in the heavens.

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

So our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he show us his mercy.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, for we have had more than enough of contempt,

Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, and of the derision of the proud.

Second Reading

MATTHEW 25:14-30

READER: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 25.

Jesus said, "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Litanist: 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 & BLESSING

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.

November is Stewardship Month - a stewardship letter to the parish is being distributed this Sunday. Both the letter and pledge form will be available on the website here:

<https://stpl.ca/give.html>

Thanksgiving Food Drive - ACSA.

Donations to the Thanksgiving Food drive via Outreach amounted to \$1,275. Thank you to all our generous donors. Outreach has topped this up to \$2,500 which we are sending to ACSA this week. The (ACSA) Outreach Committee will be reviewing further donations to all our establishments later this year.

Faithworks

November 22nd has been designated as Faithworks Sunday, so please consider prayerfully if you can make a special effort to donate. This year, the "Matching Challenge Grant" means that for every increased dollar a parish contributes to FaithWorks over last years amount, the generous donor will match it with another dollar up to \$100,000.

By the end of September we had raised \$3,960 for Faithworks. In the same period last year the total was \$5,845. The annual total for 2019 was \$8,164. In October 2020 another \$565 was donated, leaving a target of \$3,640 to match last year! Are we up to this challenge??

Faithworks has requested that we report our to-date amount by December 18th, so that the donor can be informed of approximately how much their contribution will be. Please consider making your donations to Faithworks prior to Dec 18th, if possible.

Order for 2021 Church Calendars

We are now taking advance orders for 2021 Church calendars at @ \$5.00 each. Please email the church office at stpl@stpl.ca or phone 416-499-1545 to reserve your copy, until November 22, 2020. You will be advised when they have arrived.

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

News from S.P.Y. & Sunday School - Friday night's guest speaker, Pastor Brown, talked with our young people about Decisions that Decide Destiny, with these four points:

1. Consider your choices
2. Compare your attitude and actions with God's
3. Commit your life to God's ways
4. Count on God's protection and provisions.

Right now in the Sunday School, a series of lessons begins about the Ten Commandments with crossword puzzles, word scrambles and a cool deciphering activity.

Thank you Sarah. Thank you Leila.

Mustard Seed Grant Awarded to St. Paul's

For the second year, our community youth outreach at St. Paul's has received a generous \$8500 grant from the Mustard Seed Foundation. Director Brian Bakke, who spoke at St. Paul's in February, was generous in his praise of the program, including how we have abided by safety standards during the Covid-19 pandemic, while adapting as quickly and as well as possible. In a hard time, thank you Mustard Seed for their encouragement and support. Well done Sarah and the whole team. And thanks to our church officers keeping things clear and organized in the background.

Outreach Walk-a-thon

This year's annual Outreach Walk-a-thon has finished. Forms and donations are now being received. And if you have a picture of where you walked, send it in (stpl@stpl.ca). We'll create a collection of all the trails our walkers walked.

Most have completed their walks but the pandemic has caused a few interruptions. Late submissions are still welcome and gratefully received. If needed, the sponsorship form is available from the office or online: www.stpl.ca/outreach.html

And be on the watch for our "Virtual Maytime Melodies Concert" of St. Paul's musicians, with proceeds to Outreach. For more information, contact the office or Kathy.

The Doors of St. Paul's Have Re-opened

In a series of careful steps, the doors are re-opening and services and programs are being resumed - starting with Sunday Services. We are working toward the resumption of other services and programs. However, because the virus remains active, safety guidelines are in effect and all online services will continue for the foreseeable future.

Four services are offered in the church. 50 people are allowed in the church at any one time. The hall, kitchen and rooms downstairs remain closed.

Sunday Schedule:

8.00 a.m. (at the church)

10.00 a.m. (at the church)

10.00 a.m. - Sunday School (online - see the church calendar)

10.30 a.m. - English service (online - see the church calendar)

1.00 p.m. (Chinese)

3.45 p.m. (Tamil) - also being streamed.

6.00 p.m. - Evening Prayer (online - see the church calendar)

Morning Prayer will continue to be offered on Zoom, Monday through Saturday, as of September 13th. Sunday School and the Sunday recording will continue to be offered.

Safety Guidelines

St. Paul's is following the safety guidelines issued by the Diocese of Toronto which can be read on the Diocesan website

Other Services, Programs and Meetings - Gradually, we plan to resume other services, programs and meetings, but safely and carefully. Watch for updates and announcements.

Summary - Due to broad cooperation across the country, the safety guidelines ensure that it is relatively safe to come back to church in the same way that it is now relatively safe to go to the grocery store, drug store, or hardware store. We are grateful to the Bishops and Diocese for their guidance. Small steps, but all in the right direction. And, as has been true all along, the situation remains dynamic. We'll do our best to keep everyone updated.

Looking for Work - If you're looking, or know someone who is, here's the national job site: www.jobbank.ca

Friday Night Bible Study - on Zoom - Next Friday, November 6. Revelation 16, Lesson 16.
Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/830877703>
Telephone: 647-374 4685, or 647-558 0588; Meeting ID: 830 877 703

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 - 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). Or, gifts can be made online at our website through CanadaHelps here: www.stpl.ca/give.html. Members who use online banking may now also make E-transfers (contact the office).

Contact

The clergy of St. Paul's are all in the vicinity and can visit again, while observing the safety guidelines of the Diocese of Toronto. If any one of us can be of service, don't hesitate to call or write.

Website: www.stpl.ca

Church phone: 416-499-1545;

Email: stpl@stpl.ca

Fr. Dean Mercer: deanmercercer@hotmail.com

Rectory phone: 416-497-6352.