

ORDER OF SERVICE
November 22, 2020 - The Feast of The Reign of Christ

INTRODUCTION

“I pray that [God] . . . may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you.”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers on the Feast of Christ the King and the 179th anniversary Sunday of St. Paul, L’Amoreaux. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

Reading the lessons is Veriann Chalmers. The anthem is performed by David McCartney. And the litany is led by Cliff Seenan.

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 and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things win your well-beloved Son, our Lord and King, grant that the peoples of the earth, now divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his gentle and loving rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

LESSONS

First Reading

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

Reader: A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Psalm

PSALM 100

READER: Psalm 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and call upon his name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Second Reading

MATTHEW 25:31-46

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

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Litanist: Let us offer our prayers to God the Good Shepherd who cares for all the flock.

For those in leadership roles in the Church, that they may show the kindness of the Good Shepherd. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For leaders of governments and nations, that they may work for justice and truth. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who visit us as strangers that we may learn to give a warm welcome to refugees and immigrants. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our brothers and sisters in prison, that we may not forget our duty to care for them and their families. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have passed beyond this world, that they may dwell in the Lord's house for ever. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the people we love — particularly those in need of support at this time, whom we now remember. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, our good shepherd, you watch over your people at all times; Hear the prayers we make, in trust and faith in you, through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

COLLECT - THE 179TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARISH OF ST. PAUL, L'AMOREAUX
O MOST glorious God, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain: Graciously accept the renewed dedication of this place to your service; and grant that all who shall call upon you here, may worship you in spirit and in truth, and may in their lives show forth your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. 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>

New Safety Guidelines

On Friday (November 20), it was announced that church services in Toronto are now limited to ten (10) people maximum for the next 28 days, beginning Monday, November 23, a limit with which the bishops have asked us to comply. For now, the Sunday schedule will remain the same, but those planning to attend will need to register. The registration site also indicates if a service is full. As always, all are encouraged to take advantage of the Zoom and online services available.

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 over the next few weeks. 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. As of November 29, 10 (10) people are allowed in the church proper - main floor and balcony - 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. Sunday School by Zoom and the Sunday recording continue.

Christmas Schedule

Subject to the Diocesan safety guidelines, we will be offering the following in-person Christmas services:

Christmas Eve - 6 & 11pm

Christmas Day - 8am (Tamil) & 10:30am

Faithworks Sunday

Today 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 until December 18th. Please consider making your donations to Faithworks prior to that date, if possible.

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.

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; deadline for orders is TODAY. You will be advised when they have arrived.

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). Late submissions are still welcome and gratefully received.

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

Friday Night Bible Study - on Zoom - Next Friday, November 27. Revelation 19, Lesson 19.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/830877703>

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

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 visiting in homes again, abiding by diocesan safety guidelines. If any one of us can be of service, don't hesitate to call or write.

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