THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We are a diverse, inclusive community in the Episcopal Diocese of California, and are welcoming to all who attend in worship.

We’re happy to have you with us today. Our worship follows the order of the Book of Common Prayer 1979 (BCP), Rite II, with music from a variety of musical resources authorized by the Episcopal Church: 1982 Hymnal, Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) and Enriching Our Worship (EOW).

Join the service Live Stream on our Facebook page here.
The Liturgy of the Word

At the sound of the bell, all stand for the entrance of the ministers.

Celebrant  Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People      Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

The following is said

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s 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  God be with you.
People      And also with you.
Celebrant  Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All       Amen.
All sit.

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 28: 10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, “I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place— and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

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

PSALM 139: 1-11, 22-23

Domine, probasti

1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up; 
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; * it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? * where can I flee from your presence?
7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; * if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
8 If I take the wings of the morning * and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
9 Even there your hand will lead me * and your right hand hold me fast.
10 If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, * and the light around me turn to night,”
11 Darkness is not dark to you; * the night is as bright as the day; * darkness and light to you are both alike.
22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; * try me and know my restless thoughts.
23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me * and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

THE SECOND READING Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the
creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

THE GOSPEL    Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

All stand.

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

Another parable Jesus put before the crowds: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at
the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

SERMON The Rev. Izabella Sempari

A period of silence is kept following the sermon.

THE NICENE CREED

All stand.

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 catholic and apostolic Church. We 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.
Sisters and brothers, surely the Lord is in this place! So let us cry out to God, saying, “Abba! Father! Hear our prayer.”

O Great Parent, you have adopted us as your own children. You have made us joint heirs with Christ. You love us. Lead us by your Spirit and strengthen our hope.

The congregation is invited to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence

Abba! Father!

Hear our prayer.

God our King, you have planted us in a complex and often confusing world. Give us patience to live with each other, not judging our neighbors but trusting in your wisdom.

Silence

Abba! Father!

Hear our prayer.

Present God, even creation groans as it waits on you for freedom. Forgive us for the times in which we have subjected it to futility. Give us eyes to see your presence in the heavens, on the earth, and in the seas.

Silence

Abba! Father!

Hear our prayer.

God of Light, darkness is not dark to you. Brighten the places in our city where darkness serves as a cover for crime and violence. Redeem all who are lost.

Silence

Abba! Father!

Hear our prayer.

God of Glory, we wait in hope for the day when we will be set free from the bondage of decay. Even now, free the suffering from pain and the sorrowful from heartache.

The congregation is invited to add their petitions, followed by silence
Abba! Father!

*Hear our prayer.*

Eternal God, may the righteous shine like the sun in your kingdom. We trust that, even in the grave, you are with us. In hope, save the dying and the dead.

*Silence*

Abba! Father!

*Hear our prayer.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.*

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

*The Deacon says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All kneel as are able.*

*Silence.*

*Minister and People*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Priest stands and says*

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.*

**THE PEACE**

*All stand.*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.
THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Communion

Here are ways to contribute to the mission and ministry of the parish:
Text to Give: Text the word “GIVE” to phone number 510-900-7759.
Online giving: Go to https://stpaulsoakland.breezechms.com/give/online or scan this QR Code:

Paypal contribution: scan this QR Code:

All stand as the Celebrant raises the offerings and together sing the Doxology.

THE DOXOLOGY

Hymnal 380, verse 3
Music: Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

E.O.W. Eucharistic Prayer 3

The Celebrant, says
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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds
All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Celebrant and People

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

The people stand or kneel and the Celebrant continues
Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.
We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Presider and People:
Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Paul, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Presider and People
Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant then continues,

THE LORD’S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

People and Celebrant
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 Celebrant breaks the bread.
A period of silence is kept.
Then is said

**THE FRACTION ANTHEM**
Jesus, Lamb of God: *have mercy on us.*
Jesus, bearer of our sins: *have mercy on us.*
Jesus, redeemer of the world: *give us your peace.*

The Celebrant invites all to God’s table saying
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.

*All are welcome at the Lord’s table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. To receive Communion in your pew, please ask an usher to notify the ministers on your behalf. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please ask at the altar rail.*

**THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**
After all have received Communion, people stand or kneel as the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*
Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.
THE BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the people.

All   Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon   Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People   Thanks be to God.
Prayer requests for you or a loved one may be communicated by placing a note in the offering plate. We will include them in our regular prayer concerns. You may also send prayer requests to prayers@stpaulsoakland.org.

Tito Alvarez  
Catherine Ann  
Kathleen Jean Anthony  
Stephanie Azlin-Carr  
Anne Barclay  
Dr. Basdeo Balkissoon  
Aaron A. Benjamin  
Isaac Berry  
Lisa Bishop  
Kate Britton  
Maggie Britton  
Helena Busquets  
Miguel Chamorro  
Cheryl Clausen  
Sister Rose Coleman  
Martika Crawford  
John Ross Devlin  
Victoria Maxine Devlin  
Edwina Devlin  
Brian Faucette  
Jewelle Gibbs  
Alexander Glenn  
Grace Gough  
Larry Gray  
Londell Guffen  
Vincent Hall  
Chrystina Harris  
Michelle Hartmann  
Helen Hokenson  
David Holley  
Sharon Hyde  
Nick Indehar  
Gregory Jackson  
Peter Johnson  
Priscilla Kingston  
Alex Krueger  
Reginald & Theresa Lane  
Natalie Lehman-Buckingham  
Vita Lopata  
Rafael Martin  
Nicole McClain  
James Meredith  
Bryan Patterson  
Garrett Petersen  
Mark Pingree  
David Raskin  
Joel Reyna  
Jessica Rojas  
Manny Smith  
Thomas Spitz  
Paul Sporer  
Ramona Terry  
Cheryl Torranance  
Cary Virtue  
Nancy & William Walker  
Renee Walker-Bolden  
Robert Wright

CLERGY
The Rt. Rev. Marc H. Andrus  
Bishop of California
The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson  
Rector
The Ven. Canon Carolyn Bolton  
Archdeacon
The Rev. Christian Harding  
Assisting Priests
The Rev. Gary England  
Deacon

STAFF
Ben Bachmann  
Music Director
Philip Saunders  
Assistant Music Director
Jackie Kamakate  
Parish Administrator
Joan Clerk  
Bookkeeper
Danislav Nedevski  
Sexton
Elena Nedevska  
Housekeeper

VESTRY
Class of 2023
Frances Dibble  
Maura Lane  
Brian Stanke—Treasurer
Class of 2024
Indira Balkissoon-Sr. Warden  
Irene Plunkett  
Matthew Schooler
Class of 2025
Pam Kruse-Buckingham—Clerk  
Richard Larson—Jr. Warden  
Daniel (Digger) Lauter
LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sundays
8 AM  Spoken Eucharist
10 AM  Choral Eucharist

Fourth Sundays
8 PM  Compline in the Church

First Sundays
4 PM  Evensong in the Church

Wednesdays
12:10 PM  Spoken Eucharist Livestream

Celebrant and Preacher
The Rev. Izabella Sempari

Assisting
The Rev. Christian Harding

Assisting Priest

Deacon
The Ven. Canon Carolyn Bolton

Archdeacon

Altar Guild
Paula Hawthorn, Erica Terry
Derryck, Melanie Blake

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be scheduled with any priest.

Music usage licensing and agreements: Church Hymnal Corporation, New York; OneLicense.net
WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING

Parking is available in the Senior Center/Veteran’s Memorial Building lot (across Bay Place from the church) for Sunday services. Street parking is unrestricted on Sundays, but metered/2-hour limit all other days. Additional paid parking is available at Children’s Fairyland on Grand Ave. and at lots at 155 Grand Ave. and at W 23rd St. & Waverly (behind 180 Grand Ave.). The nearest BART station is the 19th Avenue stop, a .7 mile walk.

Event Notification: If you would like to receive information on St. Paul’s events and ministries, or receive a call from clergy, please fill out the welcome cards in the pews and place in the collection plate or sign the visitor book in the Narthex. To join our email list, sign up on our website, www.stpaulsoakland.org

Parishioner Directories are available in either printed or digital form. To request your copy please call or email (510.834.4314 Ext. 501/admin@stpaulsoakland.org).

The Restroom

There are two restrooms available during worship: one at the back of the church in the Mustard Seeds Room, and one in the ambulatory (front of the church) on the epistle (right side facing the altar, through the doorway) side. If you require an accessible restroom please ask an usher for assistance.

Questions?

Don’t hesitate to ask an usher for help if you require any assistance.

Our Vision

St. Paul’s dares to be an open embracing community; discovering, celebrating, and sharing the Love of Christ.

Our Mission

St. Paul’s invites you to a spiritual journey: to love God and your neighbors near and far; to worship, pray and serve joyfully in our community; to strive to become more Christ-like in living out the promises of our baptism that all may know Christ’s healing love.

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