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PURPOSE

LET GOD LEAD

August 6, 7, and 10, 2022

When it comes to living out God's purpose for our lives, how often aren't we our own worst enemies? Selfishness, lack of focus, distraction — there are so many ways that we get in the way. Lord, give us the wisdom and strength we need to get out of the way so that we're doing your thing and not ours.



WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S

Thank you for joining us in worship. Please complete a Connection Card so we can provide God's people here at St. Paul's with the best spiritual care. You can also fill out the card online by scanning the QR Code on the left.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN SING

OPENING HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

HOLY BAPTISM (*Sunday 9:30 am*)

Kinsley Michele Allen

Daughter of Benjamin and Jamie (nee Anderson) Allen, born January 2, 2022

M The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Brothers and sisters in Christ, as our Lord Jesus taught God's truth, he said it is not enough for his followers just to say, "Lord, Lord," to him.

C **We will be judged, instead, by the fruit we bear in our lives.**

M These are the words of the law. They are meant to show us that we fall far short of the mark of perfection God requires of all people. These words fill us with fear. They remind us that we deserve God's wrath and eternal punishment. But God has been merciful to us. He has sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, let us confess our sin to him and be assured of his love and forgiveness.

All **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C **Amen.**

High King of heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, your Word is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

C **Guide our footsteps by the light of your Word. Open our eyes to the many ways that we get in the way of your will for our lives, and then give us the desire and the strength to get out of your way.**

M We pray in Jesus' name. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:1-11, Bible page 737

The Lord's thoughts and ways are so different from those of sinful human beings. May the Lord renew our hearts and minds that they may be more in sync with his own.

VERSE OF THE DAY



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

John 7:1-18, Bible page 1070

Throughout his ministry, Jesus came face to face with many who were pushing their own personal agendas. Jesus reminds us that the individual who "speaks on his own" is all about self-glorification. But the person who seeks to glorify God is a person of truth.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY 435, vv. 1-3

The Will of God Is Always Best

The will of God is always best And shall be done forever.
And they who trust in him are blest; He will forsake them never.
He helps indeed In time of need;
He chastens with forebearing.
They who depend On God, their friend,
Shall not be left despairing.

God is my comfort and my trust, My hope and life abiding,
And to his counsel, wise and just, I yield, in him confiding.
The very hairs, His Word declares,
Upon my head he numbers.
By night and day God is my stay;
He never sleeps nor slumbers.

Lord, this I ask; oh, hear my plea -- Deny me not this favor:
When Satan sorely troubles me, Then do not let me waver.
Keep watch and ward, O gracious Lord;
Fulfill your faithful saying:
All who believe By grace receive
An answer to their praying.

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

**When life's brief course on earth is run And I this world am leaving,
Grant me to say, "Your will be done," Your faithful Word believing.
My heav'nly Friend, I now commend
My soul into your keeping,
O'er sin and hell And death as well
Through you the vict'ry reaping.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Great God and Lord, we praise your name this day that in this congregation you are keeping the "main thing" the "main thing."

C **May the gospel of Jesus Christ always be the heart of this congregation. May the gospel of Jesus Christ always be the joy of this congregation. May the gospel of Jesus Christ always be the focus of this congregation.**

M Send us whatever struggles we need that "your power may be made perfect in our weakness."

C **May your grace always be enough for us!**

M O Triune God--Father, Son and Holy Spirit—thank you for our pastors, Peter Panitzke and David Kuehl, and for their 40 years of faithful service to your Church. Thank you for the gift of 24 years for Pastor Panitzke and 32 years for Pastor Kuehl of lovingly shepherding the souls of our church family.

C **Thank you for their faithful service Sunday after Sunday, each and every day, proclaiming to us Jesus and his gift of forgiveness and eternal life.**

M Grant to our shepherds, heavenly Father, continued health of body, mind and spirit for joyful service still in your Kingdom. Jesus, continue to be their personal strength and joy.

C **Holy Spirit, continue to fill our shepherds with the counsel of your Word, that we and our children may stand prepared to meet our God with joy on the last day, and inspired to live for you every day.**

M Thank you for Joni and for Susan who continue to support their husbands in this soul-changing work. Thank you for their families who continue to share their fathers and grandfathers with this family of God.

C **Bless St. Paul's with love for your Word, and with deep appreciation for these men who bring your Word into the moments of our lives.**

Special prayer and intercessions.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M To you, oh Lord, we bring our thanks and our requests.

C **Hear our prayers for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 414, vv. 1, 2, 4

I Leave All Things to God's Direction

I leave all things to God's direction;
He loves me both in wealth and woe.
His will is good, sure his affection;
His tender love is true, I know.
My fortress and my rock is he:
What pleases God, that pleases me.

God knows what must be done to save me;
His love for me will never cease.
Upon his hands he did engrave me
With purest gold of loving grace.
His will supreme must ever be:
What pleases God, that pleases me.

My God has all things in his keeping;
He is my ever-faithful friend.
He gives me laughter after weeping,
And all his ways in blessings end.
His love endures eternally:
What pleases God, that pleases me.

CLOSING PRAYER

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS