



# St. Paul Lutheran Church

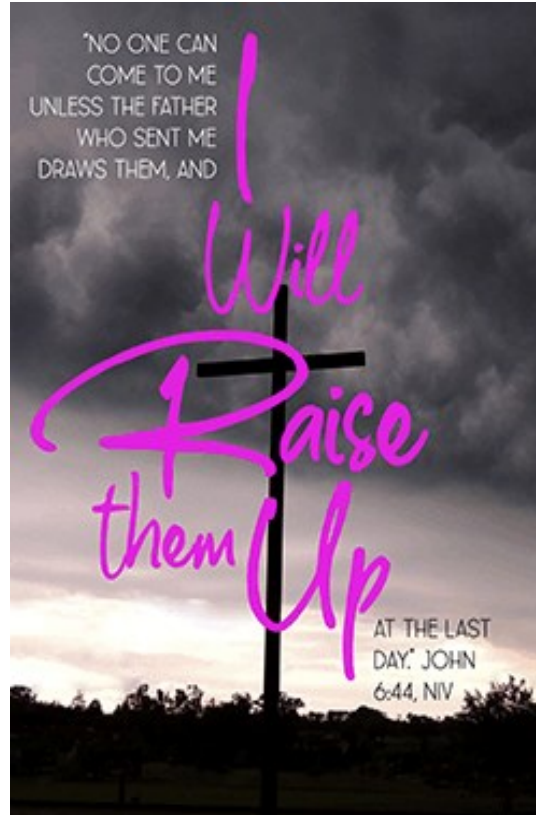
share • care • grow  
La Grange, Texas

The Rev. Stan Larson, Interim Pastor  
Organist: Sherise Davis

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

August 11, 2024

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost



## Next week

Proverbs 9: 1-6; Psalm 34: 9-14; Ephesians 5: 15-20

John 6: 51-58

## LISTEN TO ST. PAUL SERVICES!

Visit our webpage, [www.stpaulg.org](http://www.stpaulg.org), and click "**Listen**" to hear our services live on your smart phone or computer! You can also view our bulletin, weekly service video, newsletters and current calendar. Visit our Facebook page to

## St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Rev. Stan Larson, Interim Pastor

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## Welcome!

- + Welcome to worship! All are welcome at the table of grace. We believe that Christ is truly present as we share the bread and wine. Those at home are invited to participate with appropriate elements.
- + The 9 a.m. service will be on Facebook live & audio streamed on our webpage, [www.stpaullg.org](http://www.stpaullg.org). It will also be posted on our Facebook page. You may listen to last week's service on KBUK 104.9 FM on Sundays at 10 am.
- + Everyone is invited for coffee and snacks in the Fellowship Hall following Sunday morning's service.

Jesus says that the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. In Ephesians Paul tells us what this life Jesus gives us looks like, this life we live as those marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. The whole purpose of life is giving ourselves for others.

## GATHER

### Prelude

### Announcements

*Those who are able, please stand.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**God, our provider, help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**Amen.**

### HYMN

*Spirit of Gentleness*

#396

## Greeting

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **Kyrie** *page 138*

**A:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord. **Amen.**

## **Canticle of Praise** *pages 139-140*

**A:** 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.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## The First Reading: 1 Kings 19: 4-8

*First Kings chapter 18 describes the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The contest proves that the LORD is God, and afterward Elijah orders the killing of the Baal prophets. Angered by the deaths of her prophets, Queen Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah. This reading finds Elijah fleeing, fatigued, and in utter despair.*

<sup>4</sup> [Elijah] went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."<sup>5</sup> Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat."<sup>6</sup> He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again.<sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you."<sup>8</sup> He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks **be to God**.

## Psalm 34: 1-8

<sup>1</sup> I will bless the LORD at all times;  
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

<sup>2</sup> **I will glory in the LORD;**  
**let the lowly hear and rejoice.**

<sup>3</sup> Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;  
let us exalt God's name together.

<sup>4</sup> **I sought the LORD, who answered me**  
**and delivered me from all my terrors.**

<sup>5</sup> Look upon the LORD and be radiant,  
and let not your faces be ashamed.

<sup>6</sup> **I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me**  
**and saved me from all my troubles.**

<sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD  
and delivers them.

<sup>8</sup> **Taste and see that the LORD is good;**  
**happy are they who take refuge in God!**

## Second Reading: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

*Christians are called to be imitators of God. This does not mean Christians are perfect. Rather, the Spirit is at work in our lives so that our actions and attitudes genuinely reflect the love and forgiveness we have received through Christ and his death.*

<sup>25</sup> So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup> Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the

needy.<sup>29</sup> Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.<sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption.<sup>31</sup> Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice,<sup>32</sup> and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.<sup>5:1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,<sup>2</sup> and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Those who are able, please stand.*

**Gospel Acclamation** *ELW 142*

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: John 6: 35, 41-51**

*After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them regarding the true significance of this remarkable sign.*

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to [the crowd,] “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

<sup>41</sup> Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup> They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup> No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup> Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup> Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The congregation may be seated.

**Children’s Word**

**Pastor Jerry Wirtley**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Jerry Wirtley**

*Those who are able, please stand.*

## Hymn

*Day by Day*

#790

## Apostles Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Reignite the prayer of the church. By your Spirit, and remembering Clare of San Damiano, who was known for her powerful prayer, root your church around the globe in prayer and spiritual practices. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We rely on the goodness of your creation in everything we do. We pray for trees that offer shade and for our fellow creatures that depend on the trees for shelter and food. Sustain the work of all who advocate for forests and wilderness areas. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Guide our leaders and nations with a spirit of justice and mercy. Let no evil come out of our mouths, but rather let us extend grace. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain feeding ministries and organizations such as ELCA World Hunger, KINDRED Lutheran food ministry, our local food pantry AMEN, and the Feed the Need Food Truck. We work and pray for a day when hunger is no more. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation and for all who are gathered. Be present among anyone who cannot be with us today. Be with all who are hurting, grieving, or ill. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for our companion synods—the Lutheran Churches of Central African Republic and Peru. May we with them continue to spread the gospel and the love of God. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for Pastor Stan and Pastor Kris as they visit our companion synod in Peru. We pray for their growth in ministry to our fellow Christians, their spirit of adventure to explore, and their safe return. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We remember the saints who have gone before us in faith. Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we find hope in your communion of saints of all times and all places. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

## **The Sharing of the Peace**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Congregation shares the peace and may then be seated.*

**Offering** *The offering plates will be passed.*

*Those who are able, please stand.*

## **Offering Song** *ELW 181*

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

## **Offering Prayer**

**P:** Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

# MEAL

## **The Great Thanksgiving** *ELW 144*

**P:** The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

## **Words of Institution**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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 forever and ever. Amen**

*The congregation may be seated.*

**Agnus Dei** *page 146*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**



## **Communion**

*All are welcome to the Lord's table. We will be communing by intinction. You will be given a wafer, then proceed to dip the wafer in the offered wine or white grape juice before ingesting the dipped wafer. If you are physically unable to come forward for communion, please tell an usher and communion will be brought to you.*

*Those who are able, please stand.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

**P:** Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

## SENDING

## **Blessing**

**P:** The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✝ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Sending Song**

*On Eagle's Wings*

#787

## **Dismissal**

**P:** Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**This Weekend: (8/11)**

**9:00 am USHERS:** Dianne Lude, Ginger Muesse,  
Faye Bresan, Janet Coronado, Wendy McCredie

**LECTOR:** Dianne Lude

**ALTAR GUILD:** Janet Coronado

**Fellowship Refreshments:** Glenn And Sherise Davis

**FLOWERS:** In memory of Wyatt Stewart-Skelton by Jackie  
Skelton and Family

**Next Weekend: (8/18)**

**9:00 am USHERS:** Atlan Citzler, David & Patti Ehler,  
Don Koether, Bradley Loehr

**LECTOR:** David Ehler

**ALTAR GUILD:** Ginger Muesse

**Fellowship Refreshments:** Open

**FLOWERS:** Annette Citzler

**SUNDAY (8/11):** 9:00 am Worship

10:30: Adult Education

**TUESDAY:** 5:30 pm Worship Committee

**WEDNESDAY:** 7:00 pm Praise Band

**THURSDAY:** LGISD Classes begin

**SUNDAY (8/18):** 9:00 am Worship

Blessing of Backpacks during service

We welcome Pastor Jerry Wirtley with Treehouse Ministries in College Station this morning. Thank you Pastor Jerry for being here while Pastor Stan is in Peru.

**Reminder**—work to resurface the large parking lot will start on Monday, 8/12. Please be aware of extra vehicles, machinery around the area, and workers for the company.

**Reminder**—Worship Committee meets on Tuesday, 8/13 at 5:30 pm in the Friendship Room.

**Reminder**—La Grange ISD classes begin on Thursday 8/15. Please be aware of children and increased traffic in school zones.

**Calling all Students**—St. Paul will have a Blessing of the Backpacks during services on Sunday, August 18. All students are encouraged to bring their backpack to services and come forward for a blessing.

