



# St. Paul Lutheran Church

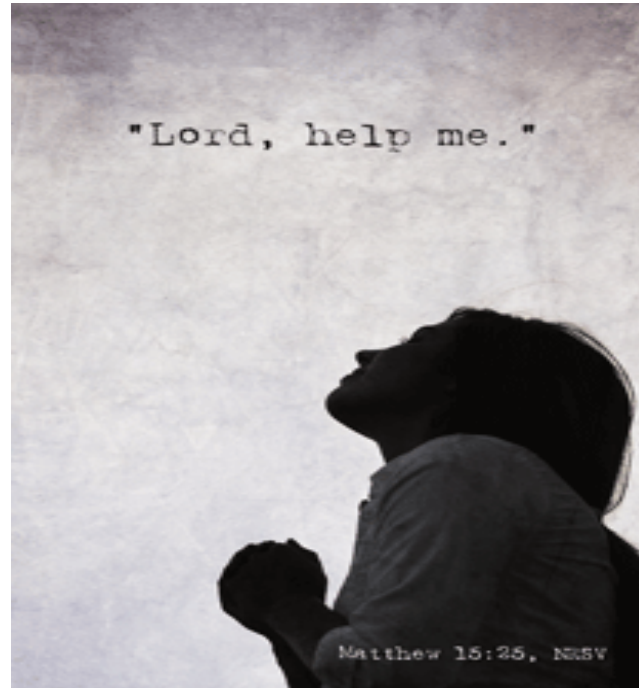
share • care • grow  
La Grange, Texas

*Praise Band Sunday*

Sunday

August 20, 2023

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost



**Next weekend's readings:**

**Isaiah 51: 1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12: 1-8**

**Matthew 16: 13-20**

Visit our webpage, [www.stpaulg.org](http://www.stpaulg.org), and click **"Live Worship"** to hear our services live on your smart phone or computer! You can choose to watch live or listen only. You can also view our bulletin, weekly service video, newsletters and current calendar. Visit our Facebook page to view the service live Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

## **St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

PO Box 567 / 110 W. Walnut Street, La Grange, Texas 78945

Parish Office: 979-968-5657 Fellowship Hall: 979-968-9603

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.; 2 - 5 p.m.

e-mail: [stpaul@cvctx.com](mailto:stpaul@cvctx.com) Web Page: [www.stpaulg.org](http://www.stpaulg.org)

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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.

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

## GATHER

### Prelude

### Announcements

*Stand as able*

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

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**P:** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### Hymn

*(See Overhead Screen)*

## 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.**

## Prayer of the Day

**P:** God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen**

*Sit*

## First Reading: Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8

*The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.*

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

<sup>6</sup>And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—<sup>7</sup>these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. <sup>8</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

## Psalm: Psalm 67

<sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to us and bless us;  
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

<sup>2</sup>**Let your way be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.**

<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup>**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup>**The earth has brought forth its increase;  
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

<sup>7</sup>May God give us blessing,  
**and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.**

## **Second Reading: Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32**

*God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.*

[Paul writes:] <sup>1</sup>I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2a</sup>God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

<sup>29</sup>For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup>Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup>so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup>For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

*Stand as able*

**Gospel Acclamation**

*(See Overhead Screen)*

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

## **The Gospel: Matthew 15: 10-28**

*Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.*

<sup>10</sup>[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:<sup>11</sup>it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." <sup>12</sup>Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" <sup>13</sup>He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup>Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." <sup>15</sup>But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." <sup>16</sup>Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup>Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the

sewer? <sup>18</sup>But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

<sup>21</sup>Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” <sup>24</sup>He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” <sup>26</sup>He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>27</sup>She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

*Sit*

## **Children’s Word**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Bob Bryant**

*Stand as able*

**Hymn**

*(See Overhead Screen)*

## **P: 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**

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good. Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity. Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage, support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans, and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick and injured especially Faye Rau, Delores Bayer, and Bea Rost. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions. Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, and retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry. Safeguard those who travel. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labors especially Bernard of Clairvaux, whom the church commemorates today. Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## The Sharing of the Peace

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

*Sit*

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

*Stand as able*

**Offertory** *(See Overhead Screen)*

## Offering Prayer

**P:** God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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:

*We Remember You*  
*(See Overhead Screen)*

### 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**

## Communion

*All are welcome to the Lord's table. White grape juice is in the center of the tray of cups. If you are physically unable to come forward for communion, please tell an usher and communion will be brought to you. You may also remain in your pew and use a prepackaged kit.*

## Prayer after Communion

**P:** We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### Blessing

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

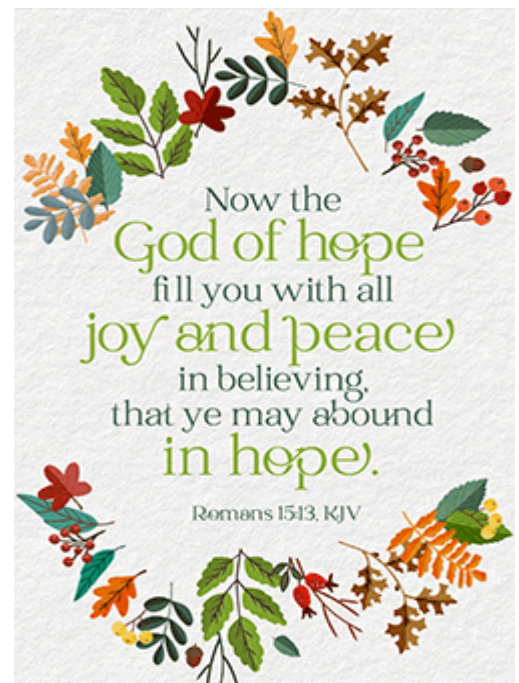
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

**Sending Song**                      *(See overhead screen)*

### Dismissal

**A:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**





**This Weekend: 8/20**

9:00 am **USHERS:** Caleb & Ashleigh Parks

**LECTOR:** Praise Band

**ALTAR GUILD:** Ginger Friemel

**FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS:** Annette Citzler

**FLOWERS:** Given to the Glory of God and in Honor of Jeanette and Atlan Citzler's wedding anniversary

**Next Weekend: 8/27**

9:00 am **USHERS:** Lloyd & Sylvia Jewell

**LECTOR:** Lloyd Jewell

**ALTAR GUILD:** Gloria Raschke/Ginger Muesse

**FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS:** Open

**FLOWERS:** The Family of Melvin & Dorothy Schilling

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| <p><b>SUNDAY:</b> 9:00 am Worship<br/>10:30 am Sunday School</p> <p><b>MONDAY:</b> 9:00 am Quilters</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY:</b> 8:30 am Bible Study<br/>8:00 pm Praise Band</p> <p><b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE @ 3:00 pm</b></p> <p><b>SUNDAY:</b> 9:00 am Worship<br/>10:30 am Sunday School</p> |
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We welcome Pastor Bob Bryant as our supply pastor this weekend and he will be returning next Sunday. Thank you Pastor Bob!

**REMINDER**—deadline for the **SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER** Messenger is Wednesday, August 23 at 3:00 pm for all articles and information. Any information received after that date is not guaranteed to be printed in the combined issue. You may email items to: [stpaul@cvctx.com](mailto:stpaul@cvctx.com) or call the church office at: 979-968-5657 or drop off at the church office in the drop box on the front door or come in to the office to leave with Ruth.

**PLEASE HELP!** The **La Grange Community Blood Drive** is on Wednesday, August 23 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. The Blood Drive is at the KC Hall on 190 South Brown Street; La Grange. You may scan the QR code on the poster in the Narthex to sign up or email Craig at [cwellborn@weareblood.org](mailto:cwellborn@weareblood.org) to get signed up. There is a great need for donors so please consider the opportunity to "Lend a Helping Arm".

**AMEN Food Pantry** is in need of plastic grocery bags and egg cartons. If you have these items please drop off on Monday 8:30—noon or Thursday 10:00—noon at AMEN; 851 S. Reynolds St. La Grange



