



# St. Paul Lutheran Church

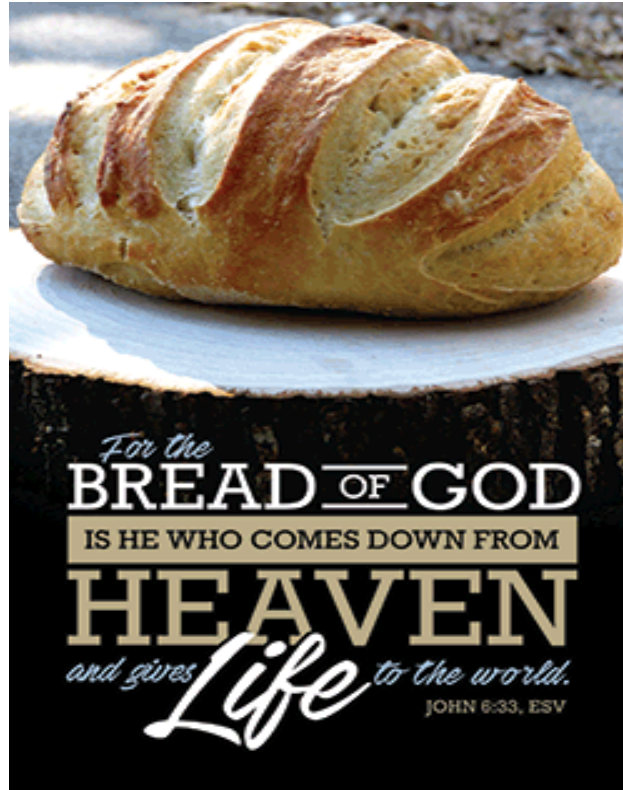
share • care • grow  
La Grange, Texas

The Rev. Stan Larson, Interim Pastor  
Praise Band

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

August 4, 2024

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost



### Next weekend's readings:

1 Kings 19: 4-8; Psalm 34: 1-8; Ephesians 4: 25-5:2

John 6: 35, 41-51

### LISTEN TO ST. PAUL SERVICES!

Visit our webpage, [www.stpaullg.org](http://www.stpaullg.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.

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

## 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

*(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:** O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## First Reading: Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15

*A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.*

<sup>2</sup> The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

<sup>4</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not."

<sup>9</sup> Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" <sup>10</sup> And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. <sup>11</sup> The Lord spoke to Moses and said, <sup>12</sup> "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'" "

<sup>13</sup> In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. <sup>14</sup> When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

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

## Psalm 78: 23-29

<sup>23</sup> So God commanded the clouds above  
and opened the doors of heaven,  
<sup>24</sup> **raining down manna upon them to eat  
and giving them grain from heaven.**  
<sup>25</sup> So mortals ate the bread of angels;  
God provided for them food enough.  
<sup>26</sup> **The LORD caused the east wind to blow in the heavens  
and powerfully led out the south wind,**  
<sup>27</sup> raining down flesh upon them like dust  
and flying birds like the sand of the seas,  
<sup>28</sup> **letting them fall in the midst of the camp  
and round about the dwellings.**  
<sup>29</sup> So the people ate and were well filled,  
**for God gave them what they craved.**

## Second Reading: Ephesians 4: 1-16

*Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ's one body.*

<sup>1</sup> I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

<sup>7</sup> But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." <sup>9</sup> (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also

descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.)

<sup>11</sup> The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. <sup>14</sup> We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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

*Those who are able, please stand.*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*(See Overhead Screen)*

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

### **Gospel: John 6: 24-35**

*Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.*

<sup>24</sup> When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

<sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” <sup>28</sup> Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” <sup>30</sup> So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?” <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” <sup>32</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” <sup>34</sup> They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

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

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

**Children’s Word**

**Deacon Kinnon Falk**

**Sermon**

**Deacon Kinnon Falk**

*Those who are able, please stand.*

**Hymn**

*(See Overhead Screen)*

## 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.*

O Wise One, your wisdom has been present in this world since its beginning. Pour out your wisdom into the hearts of the whole church, especially the newly baptized, lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God of all creation, you are the source of all life. Where the sun blazes hard and strong, bring a gentle breeze. In the places experiencing the cold of winter, bring your warmth.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, help government leaders of this world unite for peace and justice.

Humble all who hold authority, that power is directed toward a more just society. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Bread of life from heaven, you feed us. Fill all who hunger with needed nutrition and open our hearts to eliminate hunger in this world. May we see a day when all are fed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O Wisdom of truth, help us to understand your will for the church. Be with congregations experiencing transition, redevelopment, and the exciting yet frightening path of newness. May your wisdom be found at every step. 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.**

Redeeming God, we give you thanks for the lives and witness of your saints now departed. Bring your beloved into eternal glory, opening wide the gates to the heavenly banquet. 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.**

*The congregation shares the peace and may then be seated.*

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

*Those who are able, please stand.*

## **Offertory**

*(See Overhead Screen)*

## **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:

*(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**

*The Congregation may be seated*

## **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**

*(See Overhead Screen)*

## **Dismissal**

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



**This Weekend: (8/4)**

**9:00 am USHERS:** John Acosta, Lynnette Boyd,  
John D. Marburger, Billy & Christy Nitsche

**LECTOR:** Praise Band

**ALTAR GUILD:** Gloria Raschke

**Fellowship Refreshments:** Annette Citzler

**FLOWERS:** David and Patti Ehler celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on August 3 by their children and grandchildren.

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

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

**LECTOR:** Dianne Lude

**ALTAR GUILD:** Janet Coronado

**Fellowship Refreshments:** Open

**FLOWERS:** Jackie Skelton

**SUNDAY (8/4):** 9:00 am Worship  
10:30: Adult Education

**MONDAY:** 8:30 am St Paul @ AMEN

**WEDNESDAY:** 7pm Praise Band

**THURSDAY:** 10:00 am St Paul @ AMEN

**SATURDAY:** 6:30 pm LYO Stock Holder  
Appreciation Dinner

**SUNDAY (8/11):** 9:00 am Worship  
10:30 Adult Education

This morning we welcome Pastor Tracey Breashears Schultz with the Gulf Coast Synod and Deacon Kinnon Falk with KINDRED. Thank you for coming to St. Paul this morning while Pastor Stan is in Peru.

**REMINDER**—St Paul will be at AMEN on Monday, August 5 at 8:30 am then again Thursday, August 8 at 10 am to accept food donations only.

**REMINDER**—St. Paul LYO will have their Stock Holder Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, August 10 in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:30 pm. After the meal, the youth will tell of their recent adventures on the LYO Summer Trip to Table Rock Lake in Missouri.

**REMINDER**—there will be a Worship Committee meeting on Tuesday, August 13 at 5:30 in the Friendship Room. If you are interested in helping plan services the next several months, please make plans to attend.

We will welcome Pastor Scott Cigich on Sunday, August 11, 2024 who will lead the services while Pastor Stan is in Peru.