



**St. Paul  
Lutheran Church**  
share • care • grow  
La Grange, Texas

The Rev. William J. Sappenfield, *Interim Pastor*  
*Organist:* Sherise Davis — Saturday and Sunday

**Saturday & Sunday**  
**February 11 & 12, 2023**  
**Sixth Sunday of Epiphany**



**Next weekend's readings:**  
**Exodus 24: 12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1: 16-21**  
**Matthew 17: 1-9**

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*

Rev. William J. Sappenfield, 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.

In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

## GATHER

### Prelude

### Announcements

**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.**

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

*O Master, Let Me Walk With You*

#818

### 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*

**P:** 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***

**P:** 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:** O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

### **The First Reading: Deuteronomy 30: 15-20**

*The LORD sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God's presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.*

[Moses said to the people:] <sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your

descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

### **Psalm: Psalm 119: 1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose way is blameless,  
who follow the teaching of the LORD!

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they who observe your decrees  
and seek you with all their hearts,**

<sup>3</sup>who never do any wrong,  
but always walk in your ways.

<sup>4</sup>**You laid down your commandments,  
that we should fully keep them.**

<sup>5</sup>Oh, that my ways were made so direct  
that I might keep your statutes!

<sup>6</sup>**Then I should not be put to shame,  
when I regard all your commandments.**

<sup>7</sup>I will thank you with a true heart,  
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

<sup>8</sup>**I will keep your statutes;  
do not utterly forsake me.**

### **The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9**

*Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are coworkers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.*

<sup>1</sup>Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, <sup>3</sup>for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

<sup>5</sup>What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. <sup>9</sup>For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

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

## **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. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **The Gospel: Matthew 5: 21-37**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>21</sup>“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup>But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. <sup>23</sup>So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. <sup>27</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

<sup>31</sup>“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ <sup>32</sup>But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

<sup>33</sup>“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ <sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

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

# Children's Word

## Sermon

### Hymn

*Oh, That The Lord Would Guide My Ways*

#772

## 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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. From the exploration of faith with children and new believers to missionaries and bishops, shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change. Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions where reconciliation seems impossible, especially in the Ukraine, empower peacemakers with your Spirit. Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nurture all in need. Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Give courage to those struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation. Sustain all who work for restoration. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and keep us from quarrelling. Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be lifegiving for all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Thanks be to you for the lives of all who have died in Christ. Teach us to follow them in your ways and gather us with them into the promise of eternal life with you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**Amen.**

## **The Sharing of the Peace**

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

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

*The offering plates will be passed.*

**Offering Song** *ELW 186*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

## **Offering Prayer**

**P:** God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

## 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.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
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**



**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. 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:** God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our 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**

*Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling*

#582

**Dismissal**

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

**THIS Weekend:**

5:00 pm **USHERS:** Don Koether/Jackie Skelton  
**LECTOR:** Jackie Skelton  
**ALTAR GUILD:** JoLene & Gerald Hughes  
9:00 am **USHERS:** Lloyd & Sylvia Jewell  
**LECTOR:** Sylvia Jewell  
**ALTAR GUILD:** JoLene & Gerald Hughes  
**FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS:** Davis Family  
**FLOWERS:** In memory of Arthur & Nollie  
Friemel by Russ & Debbie Friemel and Ardie & Jerry  
Holsinger

**NEXT Weekend: 2/18 & 2/19**

5:00 pm **USHERS:** John D. & Kay Marburger  
**LECTOR:** John D. Marburger  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Jackie Skelton  
9:00 am **USHERS:** Rhonda Koether/Bonnie Sladek  
**LECTOR:** Praise Band  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Ashleigh Parks  
**FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS :** OPEN  
**FLOWERS:** Open

**SATURDAY:** 5:00 pm Worship

**SUNDAY:** 9:00 am Worship  
10:30 am Sunday School

**MONDAY:** 9:00 am Quilters  
6:30 pm Fishers of Men

**TUESDAY:** 9:00 am St. Paul @  
Second Chance thru 2/20

**WEDNESDAY:** 6:00 pm Hand Bells  
7:00 pm Choir  
8:00 pm Praise Band  
6:30 pm LYO

**SATURDAY:** 5:00 pm Worship

**SUNDAY:** 9:00 am Worship  
10:30 am Sunday School

**WELCOME**—please welcome retired Pastor Phil Fenton from the Brenham area who is filling in this weekend while Pastor Bill is on medical Leave

**FISHERS OF MEN**—meets Monday, 2/13 at 6:30 pm at the home of Weldon and LeeAnn Hartmann; 5324 Sand Rock Rd., La Grange. Hosts are Weldon and Kyle Hartmann, Caleb Parks, and Carlos Guevera.

**SECOND CHANCE**—this is St. Paul's week to work at Second Chance, Tuesday thru Saturday and then next Monday. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please call Linda Morrison at: 979-249-6328.

**STOCK SALE**—the LYO Annual Stock Sale begins on 2/15/2023. The funds raised support the LYO in their local service work, activities, and summer trip. More information will be coming soon from the LYO group.

**REMINDER** - Ash Wednesday services will be at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, 2/22/23. There will be no morning services this Lenten season.