



**St. Paul
Lutheran Church**

share • care • grow
La Grange, Texas

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

**Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
July 28, 2024**

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Then Jesus took the loaves,
and when he had given thanks,
he distributed them to those
who were seated; so also the fish,
as much as they wanted.



Next week

Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78: 23-29; Ephesians 4: 1-16

John 6: 24-35

LISTEN TO ST. PAUL SERVICES!

Visit our webpage, 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

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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. 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.

Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

#742

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, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

The First Reading: 2 Kings 4: 42-33

Today's reading is part of a larger section of 2 Kings that describes the miracles of Elisha, the successor to Elijah. Here the prophet gives food to a hungry crowd. Though there is not enough food to go around, Elisha trusts God, who provides enough and even more to satisfy the need.

⁴² A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." ⁴³ But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" ⁴⁴ He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

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

Psalm 145: 10-18

¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

¹² that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁵ **The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD,
and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶ You open wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ **You are righteous in all your ways
and loving in all your works.**

¹⁸ You are near to all who call upon you,
to all who call upon you faithfully.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3: 14-21

We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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: 1-21

In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

¹ Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.

² A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³ Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples.

⁴ Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵ When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left

over, so that nothing may be lost.”¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

¹⁵ When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea,¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing.¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified.²⁰ But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.”²¹ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

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

The congregation may be seated.

Children’s Word

Pastor Stan Larson

Sermon

Pastor Stan Larson

Those who are able, please stand.

Hymn

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

#597

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

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

God of generations, you work in us far more than we can ask or imagine. Bless the church you have called into being across time and space, and fill it with the power of the Spirit for loving service. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of field and forest, streams and seas, you are the fullness of all things. As grains of wheat grow upon the earth and fish swim in the waters, sustain your creation. Protect harvests and give every person food in due season. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God beyond borders, you rule all in all. Bless the work of humanitarians and peacekeepers, shield those who live, work, or serve in harm's way, and bring an end to war and conflict. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We remember any who are sick or suffering, families in our community who endure hunger, those who seek asylum or citizenship, and our beloved for whom death is near. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, you root us and ground us in love. As you inspired our ancestors in this place in their ministry, sustain us also in new endeavors, that your glory may be made known, and your lovingkindness shared anew. In your mercy, **hear 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. In your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for Pastor Stan and Pastor Kris as they prepare to 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. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all, your love in Christ surpasses all knowledge. We give thanks for the departed who have come to know the fullness of your grace. Join our voices with theirs and with musicians Johann Sebastian Bach, Heinrich Schütz, and George Frederick Handel, and all the saints in singing your praises. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

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 *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

Christ, Be Our Light

#715

Dismissal

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

This Weekend: (7/28)

9:00 am USHERS: Donnie Dippel, Tim Knesek,
Rhonda Koether, Lloyd & Sylvia Jewell

LECTOR: Lloyd Jewell

ALTAR GUILD: Jackie Skelton

Fellowship Refreshments: Linda Morrison

FLOWERS: In honor of Linda Morrison for her birthday on
August 3 by Charlene Morrison

Next Weekend: (8/4)

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

LECTOR: Praise Band

ALTAR GUILD: Gloria Raschke

Fellowship Refreshments: Annette Citzler

FLOWERS: In Celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary
on August 3 by David and Patti Ehler.

SUNDAY (7/28): 9:00 am Worship

Children's Ministry Meeting

After services

10:30: Adult Education

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 pm Praise Band

FRIDAY and SATURDAY: Friday @ 6:00
pm and Saturday @ 8:00 am

Property Work Day on play ground

SUNDAY (8/4): 9:00 am Worship

10:30 Adult Education

Reminder—meeting today in the parlor for Children's Ministry concerning programs for the education of the youth of St. Paul. This is an important ministry that needs the input of many to find what is needed by parents, very young children, and school age children. Please consider attending this meeting.

REMINDER—there will be Property Committee Work Day on Friday, August 2 in the evening at 6:00 pm and Saturday, August 3 at 8:00 am to work on the edging around the playground area. Any and all help will be appreciated and no skill levels required, just willing hands.

Reminder—if you have provided food for a funeral service or Sunday snacks, please remember to pick up your empty container from the kitchen.

Next weekend we will welcome Deacon Kinnon Falk from KINDRED, the Houston congregation we recently assisted and Pastor Tracey Breashears Schultz from the Synod office to conduct worship while Pastor Stan is in Peru.