



# St. Paul Lutheran Church

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La Grange, Texas

The Rev. Stan Larson, Interim Pastor

Praise Band

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

June 16, 2024

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost



## Next weekend's readings:

Job 38: 1-11; Psalm 107: 1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13

Mark 4: 35-41

## 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.

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking, it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

## 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, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

### First Reading: Ezekiel 17: 22-24

*Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

<sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of a cedar;  
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one  
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it  
on a high and lofty mountain.

<sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,  
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.

<sup>24</sup>All the trees of the field shall know  
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,

I make high the low tree;  
I dry up the green tree  
and make the dry tree flourish.  
I the LORD have spoken;  
I will accomplish it.

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

## **Psalm 92**

<sup>1</sup>It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;  
<sup>2</sup>**to herald your love in the morning  
and your faithfulness at night;**  
<sup>3</sup>on the psaltery, and on the lyre,  
and to the melody of the harp.  
<sup>4</sup>**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;  
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**  
<sup>12</sup>The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,  
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.  
<sup>13</sup>**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD  
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**  
<sup>14</sup>they shall still bear fruit in old age;  
they shall be green and succulent;  
<sup>15</sup>**that they may show how upright the LORD is,  
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

## **Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 6-17**

*Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.*

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not

commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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. Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **Gospel: Mark 4: 26-34**

*Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.*

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup>He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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.*

## **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**

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

*A brief silence.*

Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Sustain the holy rhythms of creation: days and seasons, hibernation and activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure us of your constancy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. As we anticipate Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry from the hearts of your people and remove the inclination toward anger and violence. Merciful God, **receive our prayers.**

Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises especially Albert Loehr and Ken Diers. Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

As you have loved us, so let us love one another. Empower fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, adoptive fathers, and chosen fathers to embody this gift of love for their children. Where these relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort and peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be with the teacher, volunteers, Lutherhill staff, and children who will be attending the VBS Day Camp this week. Help them to learn, make memories, and grow in their faith. Help all see the “**Real. Wonder.**” Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

With gratitude, we remember the saints who are now at home with you, especially Edwin Votaw. Plant seeds of their wisdom and witness in our hearts, that we grow in faith until we join them in your heavenly dwelling. 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.**

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. **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 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: (6/16)**

**9:00 am USHERS:** Glenn Eilert, Gary Anders,  
Katie Anders, George Eilert

**LECTOR:** Praise Band

**ALTAR GUILD:** JoLene & Gerald Hughes

**Fellowship Refreshments:** Linda Morrison

**FLOWERS:** Open

**Next Weekend: (6/23)**

**9:00 am USHERS:** Michael Mach, Linda Diers,  
Kenny & Patti Weber

**LECTOR:** Caleb Parks

**ALTAR GUILD:** Janet Coronado

**Fellowship Refreshments:** Open

**FLOWERS:** Open

**SUNDAY (6/16):** 9:00 am Worship

Education Program Meeting after service  
in Fellowship Hall

10:30 am Adult Education

**MONDAY THRU FRIDAY:** 8:30-12pm

St. Paul Day Camp

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

**SUNDAY (6/23):** 9:00 am Worship

10:30 Adult Education



**Reminder**—meeting after services today in the Fellowship Hall for all interested 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**—This week is St. Paul Day Camp! It will be an exciting week of learning, fun and making new friends. The Day Camp will be 8:30 until noon Monday thru Friday. Staff from Lutherhill Ministries will be leading the activities.

There will not be a Church Council meeting this week. Council voted to take June off with the Day Camp this week. The next meeting is July 16, 2024.

Deadline for the **JULY 2024** Newsletter will be Monday, June 24, 2024. All articles and information need to be submitted to the Church Office by 3:00 pm. Any information received after that is not guaranteed to be printed in the newsletter. You may email to: [stpaul@cvctx.com](mailto:stpaul@cvctx.com) or call 968-5657.