



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

*Polka Praise Band Service*

*Sunday  
October 29, 2023  
Reformation Sunday*



**REFORMATION**  
**Sunday**

**Next weekend's readings:**

**Revelation 7: 9-17; Psalm 34: 1-10,22; 1 John 3: 1-3**

**Matthew 5: 1-12**

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.

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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.

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

## 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:** Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

*Sit*

## First Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

## Psalm: Psalm 46

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam,

and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.

<sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup>**“Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
**the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

## **Second Reading: Romans 3: 19-28**

*Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

*Stand as able*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*(See Overhead Screen)*

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

### **The Gospel: John 8: 31-36**

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

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

*Sit*

**Children's Word**

**Pastor Jerry Wirtley**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Jerry Wirtley**

*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

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the church's many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness. Renew the face of the earth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict especially the Middle East. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer from illness or injury, especially Myrtle Friemel, Mary Ann Butler, Faye Rau, Delores Bayer, and Ruth Poncik. Be their rest and comfort. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our reformer, you make all things new. Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future. We pray for young people in confirmation classes as they prepare for affirmation of their baptism. With them, stir in us a desire for your wisdom. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace. We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and for all whose example has brought us closer to you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through 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 power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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**

## 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:** Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

## Blessing

**P:** The God of glory, Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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

## Dismissal

**A:** Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

We welcome Pastor Jerry Wirtley with the Treehouse Ministries in College Station this weekend. Thank You Pastor Jerry!

The following weeks we will have these Supply Pastors:

November 5—Pastor Pat Dietrich

November 12—Pastor Wes Cain



**This Weekend: 10/29**

9:00 am **USHERS:** Tim & Susan Knesek

**LECTOR:** Praise Band

**ALTAR GUILD:** Lisa Moellenberndt

**FLOWERS:** In Memory of Arthur Friemel for his birthday (11/2) by Russ & Debbie Friemel and Ardie & Jerry Holsiinger.

**Next Weekend: 11/5**

9:00 am **USHERS:** George Eilert, Gary Anders  
Chuck & Karen Bellue

**LECTOR:** Praise Band

**ALTAR GUILD:** Faye Bresan

**FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS:** Open

**FLOWERS:** In God's Glory for All Saints Day

**SUNDAY:** 10:00 am Worship  
11:00 am Catered Meal in  
Fellowship Hall

**WEDNESDAY:** 8:30 am Bible Study  
6:00 pm Handbells  
6:30 pm LYO  
7:00 pm Choir  
8:00 pm Praise Band

**FRIDAY:** 2:30pm LGISD Football  
Team Meal

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

**REMINDER**—LGISD varsity football team will be meeting at St. Paul on the afternoon of their home game on this Friday, 11/3. The First Baptist Church will be providing the meal.

**GOTCHA TAMALE?** LYO has started their annual Tamale sale. The tamales are \$12.00 per dozen and choice of spicy or mild for the Pork tamales. Orders can be placed until Sunday, November 5 and payment will be collected at order time. The tamales will be picked up on November 21, 2023. More information will be published in the November Messenger. Contact an **LYO** member or call **Ashleigh Parks at 409-201-5489** or **Caleb Parks 512-944-7859** to place orders.

**REMINDER**— *it's time to set your clocks **BACK** one hour on Saturday, November 4th before you go to bed.*

**Daylight savings time ends at 2 am on 11/**



