



**St. Paul
Lutheran Church**

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La Grange, Texas

**Rev. Stan Larson, Interim Pastor
Praise Band**

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

September 22, 2024

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

**Whoever wants to be
FIRST
must be
LAST
of all and servant of all.**

Next weekend's readings:

Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19: 7-14; James 5: 13-20

Mark 9: 38-50

LISTEN TO ST. PAUL SERVICES!

Visit our webpage, 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

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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 we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

First Reading: Jeremiah 11: 18-20

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

¹⁸ It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹ But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

²⁰ But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

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

Psalm 54

¹ Save me, O God, by your name;
in your might, defend my cause.

² **Hear my prayer, O God;**
give ear to the words of my mouth.

³ For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,
those who have no regard for God.

⁴ **Behold, God is my helper;**
it is the Lord who sustains my life.

⁵ Render evil to those who spy on me;
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

⁶ **I will offer you a freewill sacrifice
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

⁷ For you have rescued me from every trouble,
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

Second Reading: James 3: 13-4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵ Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

^{4:1} Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ² You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a} Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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 9: 30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

³⁰ [Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to

know it;³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.”³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?”³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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 *(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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer. Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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: Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

P: God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song

(See Overhead Screen)

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

This Weekend: (9/22)

9:00 am USHERS: Scott Toensing, Chuck & Karen
Bellue, James & Sharon Elias

LECTOR: Praise Band

ALTAR GUILD: Gloria Raschke

Fellowship Refreshments: Glenn and Sherise Davis

FLOWERS: In honor of their daughter's birthdays, Jordan Knesek
Ayers and Madison Knesek Mercer by Tim and Susan Knesek

Next Weekend: (9/29)

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

LECTOR: Lloyd Jewell

ALTAR GUILD: Lisa Moellenberndt

Fellowship Refreshments: Cindy Hengst

FLOWERS: Atlan Citzler, Jr.

SUNDAY (9/22): 9:00 am Worship
10:30: Adult Education

MONDAY: 12:00 pm **OCTOBER**
Newsletter deadline

WEDNESDAY: 8:30 am Bible Study
5:00 pm Confirmation
6:00 pm Bells
6:30 pm LYO
7:00 pm Choir
8:00 pm Praise Band

FRIDAY: 3:30pm LGISD Football Meal

SUNDAY (9/29): 9:00 am Worship
10:30 Adult Education

Reminder—deadline for the **OCTOBER** Newsletter will be Monday, September 23 at noon. Please submit all articles and information by that time. Any information received after this date is not guaranteed to be printed in the newsletter. You may email any information to: stpaul@cvctx.com or call the church office at: 979-968-5657. Thank you.

Reminder—the LGISD Varsity Football team will be having a meal and fellowship here at St. Paul on Friday, September 27 at 3:30 pm following the Pep Rally. The meal will be provided by Feed the Need.

