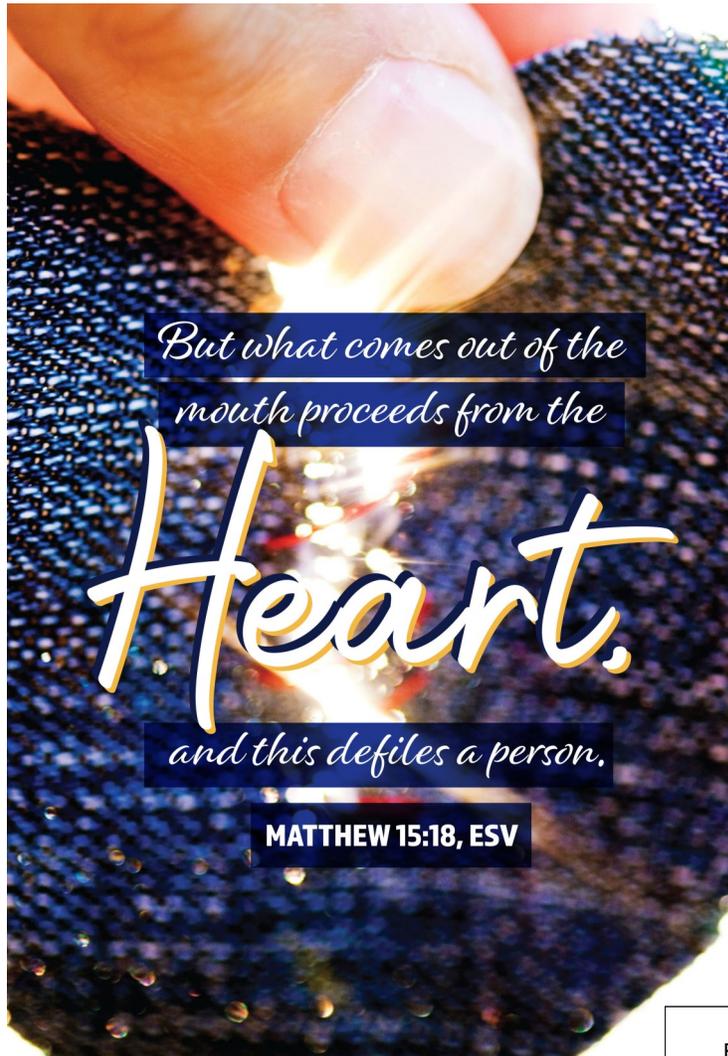




**St. Paul  
Lutheran Church**

share • care • grow  
La Grange, Texas

The Rev. Candis O'Meara, Pastor  
**Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost**  
**August 16, 2020**



**Next weekend's readings:**  
Exodus 1:8—2:10; Matthew 16:13-20

**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 view the service live Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

**Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

POB 567 / 110 W. Walnut Street, La Grange, Texas 78945

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Office Hours: Monday 1 - 5 p.m.; Tuesday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 1 - 5 p.m.;  
Friday 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

e-mail: [stpaul@cvctx.com](mailto:stpaul@cvctx.com) Web Page: [www.stpaulg.org](http://www.stpaulg.org)

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## Welcome!

- + Welcome to FB live worship!
- + Offerings may be mailed to P O Box 567, LG; placed in the mail slot in the office door, or as always, you may give online. Thank you for supporting the ministries at St Paul!
- + We will celebrate Holy Communion this morning. You are invited to use whatever bread or crackers and wine or juice you have on hand. We believe that Christ is truly present as we share whatever elements we have available.
- + The 9 a.m. service will be on Facebook live and livestreamed on our webpage, [www.stpaullg.org](http://www.stpaullg.org). It will also be posted on our webpage and on our Facebook page after the service. You may also listen to last week's service on KBUK 104.9 FM on Sundays at 10 am.

The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

## GATHERING

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.** Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Reconciling God, **we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Children's Word by Caleb Parks

## WORD

### Reading: Genesis 45:1-15

*Moved to tears by Judah's plea on behalf of Benjamin, Joseph declares, "I am Joseph!" and asks, "Is my father still alive?" Despite the brothers' evil intent, God used Joseph to preserve many lives at a time of famine.*

[After Judah offered himself in place of his brother Benjamin,] <sup>1</sup>Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup>And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup>Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup>You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you

and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' <sup>12</sup>And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup>You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." <sup>14</sup>Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

## Holy Gospel Matthew 15:10-28

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

*Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.*

<sup>10</sup>[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:<sup>11</sup>it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." <sup>12</sup>Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" <sup>13</sup>He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup>Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." <sup>15</sup>But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." <sup>16</sup>Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup>Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup>But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

<sup>21</sup>Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." <sup>24</sup>He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." <sup>26</sup>He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>27</sup>She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

This is the gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

## Sermon

Rev. Candis O'Meara

### Hymn of the Day "Your Grace is Sufficient for Me"

Your grace is sufficient for me Your strength is made perfect when I am weak  
All that I cling to I lay at Your feet Your grace is sufficient for me  
Your grace is sufficient for me Your strength is made perfect when I am weak  
All that I cling to I lay at Your feet Your grace is sufficient for me  
I'm no longer striving to merit Your love, I rest in Your promise to me  
That all of my sins have been washed in Your blood Your mercy is all that I need

Your grace is sufficient for me Your strength is made perfect when I am weak  
All that I cling to I lay at Your feet Your grace is sufficient for me  
You see me as righteous because of the blood that made the atonement for me  
Your mercy has triumphed where I should be judged so now, by Your grace I am free  
Your grace is sufficient for me Your strength is made perfect when I am weak  
All that I cling to I lay at Your feet Your grace is sufficient for me

## 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

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Lord, you gather the church to be part of your mission as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. As Jesus acknowledged the great faith of a woman from outside his people, help your church discover and find blessing in the faith of people we might reject. We pray for the ministries of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Collique, Peru. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call the nations to be glad and sing for joy. Let your way be known among all the nations of the world, now divided by competing interests, contending alliances, and consumed by enormous worry. Bless us and make your face shine upon all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You show unexpected mercy, kindness, and generosity. We pray for those who do not have enough, for outcasts in our villages, cities, and town, and for those who need your healing. We pray especially for all affected by the COVID virus and for the families of Earnest Knesek, Richard Gerik, Tara Kanady, Jimmie Schielack, and Allen Green; Albert, Annie, Barbara, Beth, Pastor Bill, Bonnie, Brooke, Calvin, Chantel, Clarence, Darren, David, Diane, Don, Donald, Doris, Ed, Edna Mae, Elva, Emmaus, Enid, Gaby, Glenn, J.C., Jamie, Jenelle, Jerry, Juanita, Kay, Kaycee, Leon, Lisa, London, Marjatta, Mark, Megan, Mel, Milroy, Oliver, Richard, Rose, Sherry, Tami, \_\_\_\_\_ and for those we name now in the silence of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In you we live and move and have our being. Grant our congregation at St. Paul grace to find our life refreshed in you. Accompany us in the rhythms of late summer. Give us rest and renewal, and strengthen us for mission in your name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Offering

### Offering Prayer

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

## MEAL

### The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

### 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. **Amen.**

### 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.**

*(At this time, eat the Bread, drink the juice)*

### Communion Blessing

### Prayer after Communion

God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

# SENDING

## Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

## Sending Song “My Redeemer Lives”

I know He rescued my soul His blood covered my sin I believe, I believe  
My shame He’s taken away; my pain is healed in His name I believe, I believe  
I’ll raise a banner ‘cause my Lord has conquered the grave  
My redeemer lives, My redeemer lives, My redeemer lives, My redeemer lives, (Repeat all)  
You lift my burden, I rise with you  
I’m dancing on this mountaintop to see your kingdom come  
My redeemer lives, My redeemer lives, My redeemer lives, My redeemer lives

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God. And we will!**

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**UPDATE:** Glenn Heinecke at Houston Rehab

**ALL PRAYER CONCERNS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS** must be given to the church office by 5 p.m. on Wednesday to be included in the weekend’s bulletin.

**HOLY COMMUNION:** We will celebrate Holy Communion. You are invited to use whatever bread or crackers and wine or juice you have on hand. We believe that Christ is truly present as we share whatever elements we have available. Three things make a sacrament: an earthly element (bread, wine, water, etc.), a promise from God (take and eat/drink . . . for the forgiveness of sins), and a commandment from God (do this in remembrance of me).

**OFFERINGS** can be mailed to St. Paul, PO Box 567, La Grange, Texas, 78945 or brought to the church office, 427 S Washington St. A new “drop box” was installed recently in the office door. It does not have a slot - you have to open a little door to drop your offering in! You may also donate online by going to our home page ([www.stpaulig.org](http://www.stpaulig.org)) and clicking “Donate Now.” You will be directed to MyEofferings where you can register to give online. You choose the frequency of giving - you may make a one time offering or schedule when you prefer. Thank you for supporting St. Paul.

**BLOOD DRIVE** is Tuesday, August 25, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the KC Hall. Make your appointment online at [weareblood.org](http://weareblood.org) and use **Group Code** D031 or call Craig at 512-206-1316. In an effort to maintain social distancing, walk-ins are not accepted.

**NOTES TO OUR NURSING & ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY RESIDENTS:** If you have time, please consider mailing a card or note to our members in the nursing and/or assisted living facilities. We have members in Jefferson Place, Care Inn, Monument Hill, Bastrop, Columbus, Giddings, and Schulenburg. Call the church office if you need names and addresses.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:** We are at the office during the week, but are limiting office traffic to keep us all safe. If you must come in, please call us and let us know when to expect you. Masks are required, any correspondence can be put in the drawer in the office door. Thank you!

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YEARS	FAMINE	LIVING	BENJAMIN	BROTHER
SON	FATHER	JOSEPH	EGYPT	ANGRY
KISSED	WEEPING	LAND	EMBRACE	PHARAOH

**Lutheran World Relief School Kits**

St. Paul Lutheran Church Ladies are accepting donations for school kits! You may donate by giving \$7 (or any amount you choose) and marking it "School kits". The ladies will purchase the school supplies and assemble the kits.

*Thank you for helping give children the opportunity to attend school!*

***Blessing of Teachers, Students and Backpacks***

***Wednesday, August 19, 6:30 p.m. in parking lot***

We will gather in the shady part of the parking lot on Walnut Street, wearing masks and observing social distancing.

All School employees and students are invited. Students are encouraged to bring their backpacks for a blessing.