



St. Paul
Lutheran Church

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La Grange, Texas

The Rev. Candis O'Meara, Pastor
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
August 30, 2020

**“Truly, I say to you,
there are some standing here
who will not taste death
until they see the
Son of Man
coming in
his kingdom.”**

Matthew 16:28, ESV

Next weekend's readings:
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

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

**ST. PAUL IN-PERSON SERVICES
RESUME SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2020**

Saturday @ 5 p.m.

Sunday @ 9 a.m.

At their monthly meeting on August 25, Council voted to return to in-person services at St. Paul beginning Saturday, September 12 @ 5 p.m. and Sunday, September 13 @ 9 a.m. We will practice social distancing at services and everyone will be required to wear a face covering.

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. 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.

When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

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

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Children's Word by Caleb Parks

WORD

Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Holy Gospel Matthew 16:21-28

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

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

²⁴From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

Sermon

Rev. Candis O’Meara

Hymn of the Day “You Are My All in All”

You are my strength When I am weak You are the treasure That I seek
You are my all in all Seeking You as a precious jew’l Lord to give up I’d be a fool
You are my all in all

Chorus: Jesus Lamb of God Worthy is Your name Jesus Lamb of God Worthy is Your name

Taking my sin My cross my shame Rising again I bless Your name You are my all in all
When I fall down You pick me up When I am dry You fill my cup You are my all in all *CHORUS*

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.

God of faithfulness, you bid your people to follow Jesus. Set the mind of your church on divine things. Grant us trust in you, that we lose our lives for the sake of Christ and thereby discover joy in life through him. We pray for the ministries of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Collique, Peru. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth is yours and all that is in it. Heal your creation and give us eyes to see the world as you do. As the seasons change, pattern the rhythm of our lives in harmony with all creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all nations, you call us to live peaceably with all. Give us ears to hear one another, even those we name as enemies. Fill all leaders with mercy and understanding, that they advocate and genuinely care for those who are poor and most vulnerable in their communities. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of salvation, you promise to deliver us. Give those who suffer a strong sense of your presence and love. Accompany those who are uncertain, raise the spirits of those who are despairing, and heal the sick. We pray especially for all affected by the COVID virus and for the families of Wyatt Stewart-Skelton, Tara Kanady, Jimmie Schielack, Allen Green and Calvin Roensch; Albert, Allen, Annie, Barbara, Beth, Pastor Bill, Bonnie, Brooke, Calvin, Chantel, Clarence, David, Diane, Don, Donald, Doris, Ed, Edna Mae, Edwin, Elva, Emmaus, Enid, Gaby, Glenn, J.C.,

Jamie, Jenelle, Jerry, Juanita, Kay, Kaycee, Leon, Linda, Lisa, London, Marjatta, Mark, Megan, Mel, Milroy, Oliver, Richard, Rosalinda, Rose, Sarah, Shelby, Sherry, Tami, _____ and for those we name now in the silence of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, you call us to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer. Make our congregation a workshop of your love. When we quarrel, bring reconciliation. Help us overcome evil with good. 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 ELW 821 "Shout to the Lord"

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you. All of my days I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love. My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength; let ev'ry breath, all that I am never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands; forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Dismissal

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO Collin and Corrie Dwigans on the birth of their son, Colson James Dwigans, born August 19, 2020. Colson's proud great-grandparents are Jim and Carolyn Buchanek.

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.

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.stpaulg.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.

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!

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!

Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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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.

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Web Page: www.stpaulg.org

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