



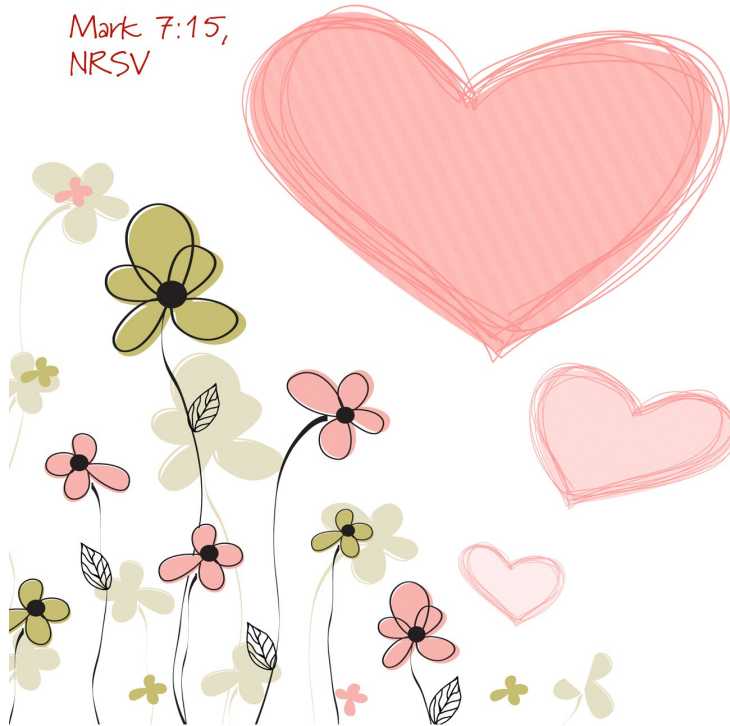
St. Paul Lutheran Church

share • care • grow
La Grange, Texas

The Rev. Candis O'Meara, *Pastor*
Organist: Jean McHenry
August 28 & 29, 2021
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

There is nothing outside a
person that by going in can
defile, but the things that
come out are what defile.

Mark 7:15,
NRSV



Next weekend's readings:
Psalm 146; James 2:1-13; Mark 7:24-37

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.

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 Web Page: www.stpaulg.org

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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 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 & audio streamed on our webpage, www.stpaullg.org. It will also be posted on our Facebook page. You may also listen to last week's service on KBUK 104.9 FM on Sundays at 10 am.

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

(Stand if able)

Confession and Forgiveness

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 ELW 824 "This is My Father's World" *(back of bulletin)*

Greeting

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

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Sit)

Children's Word

The children may remain in front of church after the Children's Word. We have clipboards with coloring pages & colors to occupy the children so their parents are able to focus more on worship. There will be an adult watching the kids.

WORD

Psalm 15

¹0 LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

²**Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;**

³who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

⁴**in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honor those who fear the LORD;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**

⁵who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Second Reading James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

(Stand if able)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is,

without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?”

⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand:

¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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

(Sit)

Sermon

Rev. Candy O’Meara

(Stand if able)

Hymn ELW 772 “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” *(back of bulletin)*

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

Made children and heirs of God’s promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. We pray for all churches in transition, especially Shared Lutheran Ministries and St. James Episcopal, and for all congregations struggling in this troubled age. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for individuals in positions of authority. Raise up wise and discerning leaders in federal, state, and local governments and guide them to seek the benefit of every person. We pray for our President, Governor, Mayor and City Council. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need. Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. Especially we pray for all affected by the resurgence of the COVID virus and for the families of Louis Schwertner and Tammy Eilert; Alan, Anita, Annette, Annie, Atlan, Barbara, Beth, Pastor Bill, Blair, Brooke, Byron, Cole, Conway, Denise, Don, Donnie, Doris, Dorothy, Earlene, Ed, Edna Mae, Edwin, Elva, Enid, Eric, Fay, Frank, Gary, Iris, J.C., Jan, Jean, Jenelle, Jerry, JoAnne, Joy, Juanita, Justin, Kay, Kevin, Larry, Layla, Leon, Mae Dene, Marjorie, Megan, Myrtle, Nellie, Nick,

Oliver, Peggy, Phyllis, Sherise, Sherry, Sheryl, Shirley, Tami, Ted, Tom, and for those we name now in the silence of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, especially those beginning a new school year. Empower teachers and school administrators. Guide students in their learning and development. Accompany parents, foster parents, and caregivers who provide encouragement and love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(Sit)



Offering

Please place your offering in the offering plate in the Narthex as you enter or exit the Sanctuary. Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul, PO Box 567, La Grange, Texas, 78945; brought to the church office, 427 S Washington St.; You may donate now by scanning the QR Code which will take you will to myEoffering 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!

(Stand if able)

Offering Song

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Offering Prayer

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

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to

all. 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **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.

Communion Instructions

We will remain in the pews for communion. We receive the bread and wine/juice together as one community gathered.

If you did not receive a prepackaged communion kit before entering the Sanctuary, ask one of the ushers for one. Pastor will give verbal instructions to lead us.

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

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

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song ELW 879 "For the Beauty of the Earth" *(back of bulletin)*

Dismissal

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

National Domestic Abuse Hotline number (1-800-799-7233)

This Is My Father's World



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres.
morn-ing light, the lil-y white, de-clare their mak-er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul-er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won-ders wrought.
rus-tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav-en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901

Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat-utes still!
2 Or-der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin-cere;
3 As-sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict-er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light-ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do-min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.
and should I e'er for-get your way, re-store your wan-d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of-fend a-gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Refrain
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

5 p.m. USHERS: Gloria Raschke & Ginger Muesse
9 a.m. USHERS: David & Patty Ehler; **READER:** Dana Peschke
ALTAR GUILD: Gloria Raschke & Ginger Muesse

CONGRATULATIONS to Steven and Kaci Eilert on the birth of their daughter, Rylan Renae, who was born August 24, 2021. George & Irma Eilert are Rylan's proud grandparents.

UPDATED COVID PROTOCOLS: After prayerful consideration and consultation with local experts, the Council has made the decision to require everyone (regardless of vaccination status) to wear a mask while indoors at St. Paul.

We will also remain in the pews during communion and not pass the offering plate. Council discussed these protocols at their regular meeting Tuesday, August 24 and decided to keep them in place.

7th & 8th GRADE PARENTS: Please meet with Pastor Candy in the Friendship Room at 10 a.m. to discuss the 2021-22 Confirmation year.

BLESSING OF TEACHERS, STUDENTS & BACKPACKS will be Sunday, September 19, 10 a.m. We will gather in the shade near the playground, weather permitting.

ATTENTION 2nd & 3rd GRADE PARENTS: Please contact the office if your child has not received their Spark Bible and/or wishes to begin communion instruction.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School will be the 2nd & 3rd Sundays each month for children PreK4-6th. Our goal is to hold Sunday School weekly, but we need teachers! All materials are provided, please contact Caleb if you are willing to help.

SUNDAY: 9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School
10:00 AM Confirmation Parents/Students meeting in Friendship Room
WEDNESDAY: 8:30 AM Community Bible Study
THURSDAY: 1:00 PM LG Area Ministers
SATURDAY: 5:00 PM Worship
SUNDAY: 9:00 AM Praise Worship
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School

C A B P B U A T Z E G M I J O
 I P H A R I S E E S A R V W M
 G E Y L D L N V Z A A T O L Z
 R U N C L E A N Z N C C I V I
 D K L Y S E L Z T E F H S N J
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 F A Y W A S H S M S R E K M S
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LAW
 HANDS
 RULES

WORSHIP
 HEARTS
 EATING

UNCLEAN
 PHARISEES
 LIPS

FOOD
 HYPOCRITES
 HONOR

TEACHERS
 DISCIPLES
 WASH