



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

The Rev. Candis O'Meara, *Pastor*
Organist: Jean McHenry (5 p.m.)
Pianist: Sherise Davis (9 a.m.)
October 2 & 3, 2021
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Next weekend's readings:
Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

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.

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

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.

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.

Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

(Stand if able)

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.** Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

God, our comforter, **like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

Hymn ELW 879 "For the Beauty of the Earth" vs. 1, 3, 5 *(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

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Sit)

WORD

Children's Word

Psalm 8

¹⁰LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.

²Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

⁴what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Reading Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God's right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

^{2:5}Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?”

⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor,

⁸subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them,⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

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 10:2-16

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

Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.

²Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ³He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

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

(Sit)

Sermon

Rev. Candy O'Meara

(Stand if able)

Hymn ELW 656 "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" *(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.

Holy One, you have raised up faithful leaders throughout history. Empower those discerning a call to ministry and all seminarians, that they continue to be formed for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You desire for us not to be alone and to live in community with one another. Strengthen relationships between nations and peoples, that we celebrate and support one human family. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You share in our experiences and struggles. Bless all who live with any mental or physical disability. Inspire creative communities, spaces, and environments that are accessible and hospitable. Especially we pray for all affected by the resurgence of the COVID virus, and for the families of Daniel Pietsch, Dorothy Zunker and Mae Dene Zajicek. For Alan, Anita, Annette, Annie, Barbara, Beth, Pastor Bill, Blaine, Blair, Brax, Brooke, Byron, Cole, Conway, Denise, Don, Donnie, Doris, Earlene, Ed, Edna Mae, Edwin, Elaine, Elva, Enid, Eric, Fay, Frank, Gary, Iris, J.C., Jan,

James, Jean, Jenelle, Jennifer, Jerry, JoAnne, Jon, Joy, Juanita, Justin, Kay, Kevin, Larry, Layla, Leon, Lisa, Marjorie, Megan, Mel, Myrtle, Nellie, Nick, Norbert, Oliver, Peggy, Phyllis, Raymond, Sherise, Sherry, Sheryl, Shirley, Pastor Sue, Tami, Tom, Tucker, and for those we name now in the silence of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship with us and remind us of their continued role in this community of faith. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this community of faith, St. Paul, in moments of transition, we pray for your spirit to continue to move over the waters and still the storms.

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.**



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!

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

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, † one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song ELW 835 "All Creatures, Worship God Most High!" vs. 1- 4

(back of bulletin)

Dismissal

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God. And we will!**



LIVESTREAM ASSISTANCE NEEDED!

Would you be willing to learn how to do the livestream on Sunday? Please consider this important ministry, we are happy to teach you! If you have any interest, please let the church office know.

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:



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

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

Blest Be the Tie That Binds



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



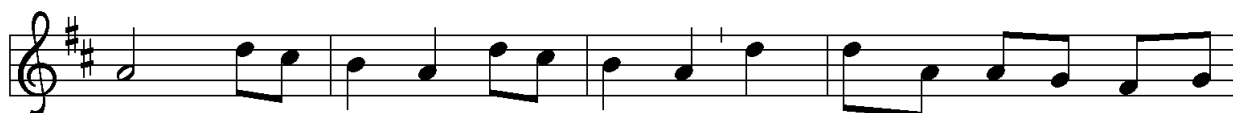
the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



- sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
 grief: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



- bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Alleluia.
- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
 Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
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5 p.m. USHERS: James & Sharon Elias;
READER & ALTAR GUILD: Sharon Elias
9 a.m. USHER & ALTAR GUILD: Gloria Raschke; **READER:** _____

OUR CHRISTIAN CONDOLENCES to the family of Daniel Pietsch, whose services are pending at this time. Rest eternal grant him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine on him.

UPDATE: Juanita Frels is back at home

CHRIST IN OUR HOME devotionals for October-December are on the Narthex counter.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: After communion, children 6th grade and below will gather in the back of the Sanctuary to go to the Friendship Room for Sunday School. Parents can pick their children up at 10:30 a.m. We NEED volunteers to lead Sunday School! All materials are provided, please contact the church office if you are willing to help.

FRIENDS IN FAITH meets Monday, 7 p.m. at Kathy Toensing's home. All women are invited!

AMEN DONATIONS: We collected 195 pounds of groceries in September! Monetary donations to the AMEN Food Pantry are always welcome (mark your envelope AMEN), as well as food donations in the AMEN cart or the green baskets under the drive through on Walnut or the office porch.

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 inside the Narthex and Sanctuary at St. Paul. We will remain in the pews during communion and not pass the offering plate.

Beginning Sunday, we will bring back the Sunday morning coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall after the 9 a.m. service. Masks are optional in the Fellowship Hall.

Letters were mailed on Tuesday announcing Pastor Candy' resignation effective October 12.

We will hold a Come & Go Celebration for Pastor Candy in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 10, immediately following the 9 a.m. service.

If you have any pictures of Pastor Candy in her time here at St. Paul, please bring them to the church office by October 7 so they can be included In the slideshow.

SUNDAY: 9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School
MONDAY: 9:00 AM 2nd Chance Clean Up
7:00 PM Friends in Faith @ Toensing's
WEDNESDAY: 8:30 AM Community Bible Study
6:00 PM Handbell Choir
6:30 PM LYO Wednesday
7:00 PM Vocal Choir
8:00 PM Praise Band
THURSDAY: 1:00 PM LG Area Ministers
SATURDAY: 5:00 PM Worship
SUNDAY: 9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School