



St. Paul
Lutheran Church

share • care • grow
La Grange, Texas

The Rev. Candis O'Meara, *Pastor*
Pianist: Sherise Davis
October 9 & 10, 2021
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



Next weekend's readings:

Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

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

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.
- + Everyone is invited for coffee and conversation in the Fellowship Hall following Sunday morning's service.

The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.

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 669 "Rise Up, O Saints of God" 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

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Sit)

WORD

Children's Word

Psalm 90:12-17

¹²So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

¹³**Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants!**

¹⁴Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**¹⁵Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,
and as many years as we have seen evil.**

¹⁶Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

**¹⁷Let the favor of the LORD our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of
our hands — O prosper the work of our hands!**

Reading Hebrews 4:12-16

We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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 10:17-31

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

Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?"

²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things

are possible.”

²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

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

(Sit)

Sermon

Rev. Candy O’Meara

(Stand if able)

Hymn ELW 705 “God of Grace and God of Glory” *(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.

Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show such compassion and love for their neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Sustain ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, you promise comfort for all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit. Bless all who call your name in distress, especially we pray for all affected by the resurgence of the COVID virus, and for the families of Daniel Pietsch, Dorothy Zunker, Joan Goehring, Leah Tietjen and Mae Dene Zajicek. For Alan, Annette, Annie, Barbara, Beth, Pastor Bill, Blaine, Blair, Brax, Brooke, Cole, Conway, Denise, Don, Donnie, Doris, Earlene, Ed, Edna Mae, Edwin, Elaine, Elva, Enid, Eric, Fay, Frank, Gary, George, 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, Phyllis, Raymond, Sarah, 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.**

Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us part with those things that are no longer beneficial to us and open our hearts to see where new life is budding in this congregation. 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. 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.**



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 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.**

Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Call *(Sunday only)*

Pastor Candis O'Meara, on September 15, 2014, we of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church called you to be pastor in this place: to proclaim God's word, to baptize and teach, to announce God's forgiveness, and to preside at the Lord's table. With the gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.

People of God, members of St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, do you release Pastor Candy from service as your pastor?

We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.

Pastor Candy, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church?

Response: I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

Thanksgiving and Sending *(Sunday only)*

Let us pray. Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service. We give you thanks for the ministry of Pastor Candy among the people of God in this place. You watch over our going out and our coming in: bless this time of ending and beginning. You surround your people in every time and place: keep us close in your love. You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial: prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together; heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us. Help Pastor Candy and all of us to live with courage and gladness in the future you give to us. As she has been a blessing to us, so now send us forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

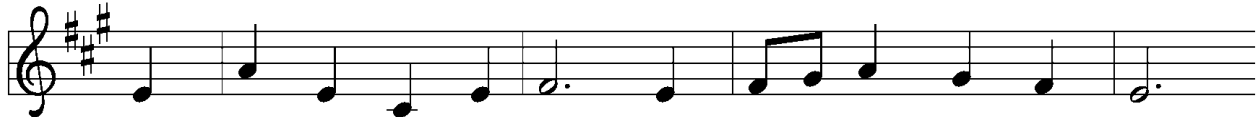
Sending Song ELW 551 "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"

(back of bulletin)

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God. And we will!**

Rise Up, O Saints of God!



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Please come to the
Fellowship Hall
Immediately after the
9 a.m. service to say
Good Luck & Farewell
to Pastor Candy.

SUNDAY: 9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Come & Go honoring Pastor Candy
MONDAY Office Closed
TUESDAY: 7:00 PM Property Cmt. Meeting
WEDNESDAY: 8:30 AM Community Bible Study
6:00 PM Handbell Choir
6:30 PM Agape/WolfPack
7:00 PM Vocal Choir
8:00 PM Praise Band
SATURDAY: 5:00 PM Worship
SUNDAY: 9:00 AM Praise Worship
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School
6:00 PM Confirmation Class

God of Grace and God of Glory



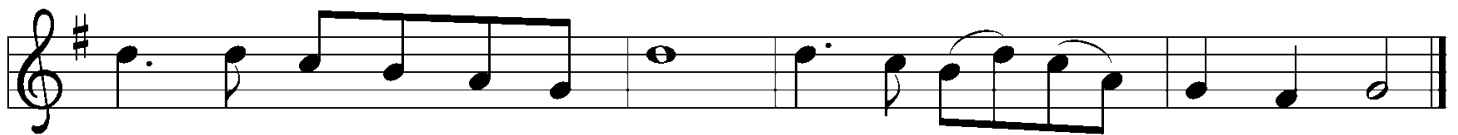
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

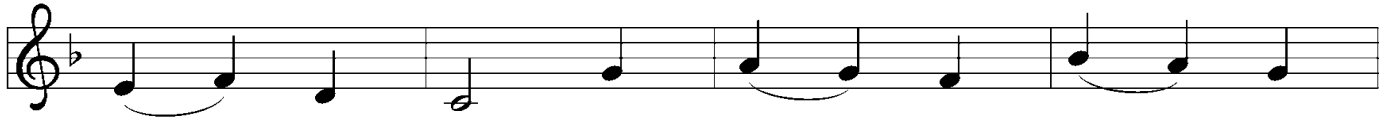


for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
 share a dream and help the blind to see.
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

5 p.m. USHER: Jackie Skelton
READER & ALTAR GUILD: Dennis & Nancy Zbranek
9 a.m. USHERS: Janet Coronado, Faye Bresan;
ALTAR GUILD: Janet Coronado; **READER:** _____

THE FLORAL STAND is given in honor and in celebration of Velrie Prause on her 90th birthday, October 13, by her family.

HOSPITALIZED: Mel Cameron @ St. Mark's

OUR CHRISTIAN CONDOLENCES to the family of Ray & Cindy Goehring on the death of his mother, Joan. Rest eternal grant her, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine on her.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL will not be this Sunday, please come to the Fellowship Hall to wish Pastor Candy good luck instead! Next Sunday, 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.

AMEN DONATIONS: This is the weekend we emphasize AMEN donations! 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: Everyone is required (regardless of vaccination status) to wear a mask while inside the Narthex and Sanctuary at St. Paul. Please join us at the Sunday morning coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall after the 9 a.m. service. Masks are optional in the Fellowship Hall.

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 in volunteering, please let the church office know.