



St. Paul Lutheran Church

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La Grange, Texas

The Rev. Candis O'Meara, Pastor
Organists: Jean McHenry (5 p.m.);
Sherise Davis (9 a.m.)

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 19-20, 2020



“He told them,
‘You also
go and
work
in my
vineyard,
and I will pay you
whatever is right.”

MATTHEW 20:4, NIV

Next weekend's readings:
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

SUNDAY: 9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School
TUESDAY: 8:30 AM Tacky Tuesday
10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study
6:00 PM Council Meeting
WEDNESDAY: 6:30 PM LYO Wednesday
SATURDAY: 5:00 PM Worship
SUNDAY: 9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School

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

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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!
- + Offerings may be placed in the lock box as you leave; 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!
- + 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 and audio streamed on our webpage, www.stpaullg.org. It will also be posted on our webpage and on our Facebook page. You may also listen to last week's service on KBUK 104.9 FM on Sundays at 10 am.

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

(Stand if able)

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Faithful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Sit)

Children's Word by Caleb Parks

WORD

Reading Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

(Stand if able)

Holy Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

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

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

(Sit)

Sermon

Rev. Candis O'Meara

(Stand if able)

Hymn of the Day ELW 659 "Will You Let Me be Your Servant" vs. 1, 3, 4

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;

I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953 Text © 1977 Scripture In Song (c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music) /ASCAP, c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

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

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Strengthen those who suffer for Christ. We pray also for the ministries of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Collique, Peru. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need. We pray especially for all affected by the COVID virus and for the families of Rose Mayer, Wyatt Stewart-Skelton, Glen Hartmann, Mike & Mazie Hess; Albert, Allen, Annie, Barbara, Beth, Pastor Bill, Bonnie, Brooke, Calvin, Chantel, Clarence, David, Diane, Don, Donald, Doris, Ed, Edna Mae, Edwin, Elva, Emmaus, Enid, Fay, Gaby, Glenn, J.C., Jamie, Jan, Janis, Jenelle, Jerry, JoAnne, Juanita, Kay, Kaycee, Larry, Leon, Linda, Lisa, London, Marjatta, Mark, Megan, Mel, Milroy, Nellie, Nick, Oliver, Paige, Richard, Sarah, Shelby, Sherry, Tami, _____ and for those we name now in the silence of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offering *(Please drop your offering in the black lock box on a table in the Narthex as you leave.)*

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, 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.**

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.

(Sit)

Communion Instructions

We will commune today by pews. You may stay in your pew and the usher will give you a prepackaged kit. If you want to come forward, you may receive the bread and wine/grape juice from the pastor OR you can bring a prepacked kit from the usher.

(Stand if able)

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

Mothering God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

Sending Song (Saturday only) ELW 537 “On Our Way Rejoicing”

On our way rejoicing gladly let us go. Christ our Lord has conquered;
vanquished is the foe. Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy;
who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?

Refrain On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!

Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing; unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit bow we and adore, on our way rejoicing now and evermore. *Refrain*

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

Sending Song (Sunday only) “Power of Your Love”

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God. And we will!**

Adult Sunday School resumes **this morning, 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

We will practice social distancing and everyone will be required to wear a mask.

Pastor Candy will discuss “Honoring our Neighbor’s Faith,” as a basis for our look into other faith expressions, both Christian and non-Christian.

Pastor will also host a Zoom meeting each Tuesday, 10 a.m. on the same topic. If you would like to join the Zoom meeting, do one of the following:

~ go to <i>https://ww.zoom.us</i>	Meeting ID 992 289 9925	Passcode: 4Y1V4U
~ call 1-346-248-7799	Meeting ID: 992 289 9925	Passcode: 208839

Let Pastor Candy know if you need help joining the Zoom meeting.

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!

IF WEEKLY BULLETINS have been mailed to you during Covid and you are attending services and no longer wish to receive them by mail, please let Melinda know.

