

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

P. O. Box 267, 201 Veterans Dr., Columbus, TX 78934

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August 20 & 21, 2022

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Senior Pastor	Alan Kethan	<u>Home:</u> (979)-942-9060	<u>Cell:</u> (830)-708-1200
Deacon of Word and Service			Sandye Fletcher
Youth & Family Specialist			Stephanie Polasek
Music Minister			Robert Eaton
Congregational Chair			Donna Maas
St. Paul Christian Learning Academy Director			Briana Bedford
Secretary			Elena Holub
Custodian			Tomasa Rosales
Parish Nurse Program Coordinator			DyAnn Lauzon
Organist			Elena Holub

MISSION STATEMENT: Love God, Love Neighbor (*Luke 10:27*)

VISION STATEMENT: We will work to strengthen and grow closer in relationship to God and to one another.

- *As we enter into a sacred time and space, a friendly reminder to please set your cell phone to vibrate.*
- *We want to welcome all of our guests today and thank you for worshiping with us. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding our services, programs, day care, or preschool programs at St. Paul, please visit our Welcome Center in the narthex immediately following our service, and an attendant will be more than happy to assist you. If this is your first time at St. Paul, we hope you will take a gift along with you. We also have a gift bag for children.*

* This symbol indicates that the congregation is invited to stand physically or in spirit.

INTRODUCTION

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIGNING OF ATTENDANCE PADS

(Ushers will be handing out Attendance Pads during the announcements. Please be sure to sign your name and contact information.)

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another, first privately then together publicly.

Silence for reflection and private confession of personal sins, then join in with combined voices this printed confession.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

C Amen.

* **HYMN ELW - #533 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"**

1. **Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there, where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer. Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace!**
2. **Gracious God, I come before thee; come thou also unto me; where we find thee and adore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, oh, enter thou, let it be thy temple now!**
3. **Here thy praise is gladly chanted, here thy seed is duly sown; let my soul, where it is planted, bring forth precious sheaves alone, so that all I hear may be fruitful unto life in me.**
4. **Thou my faith increase and quicken, let me keep thy gift divine; how-so-e'er temptations thicken, may thy word still o'er me shine as my guiding star through life, as my comfort in all strife.**

**5. Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.**

Words: Benjamin Schmolck; tr. Catherine Winkworh, alt. Music: Joachim Neander
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* **GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:9b-14

A Our first reading is from Isaiah, chapter 58, verses 9b-14.

God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

The reading begins:

^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. ¹³If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; ¹⁴then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103:1-8

A The Psalm today is from Psalm 103, verses 1-8. We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will please respond by reading the words in bold print.

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits —**

³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

A Our second reading is from Hebrews, chapter 12, verses 18-29.

Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

The reading begins:

¹⁸You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰(For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.") ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. ²⁵See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken — that is, created things — so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; ²⁹for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

A Please stand as you are comfortable for the gospel.

* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (Sung)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

* **GOSPEL:** Luke 13:10-17

Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding "sabbath work" to include setting people free from bondage.

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 13, verses 10-17.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" ¹⁷When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

* **HYMN** ELW - #521 "O Day of Rest and Gladness"

1. O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm for care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright:
on you the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing, "Holy, holy, holy," to the great God triune.
2. On you, at earth's creation, the light first had its birth;
on you, for our salvation, Christ rose from depths of earth;
on you, our Lord victorious the Spirit sent from heav'n;
and thus on you, most glorious, a threefold light was giv'n.
3. Today on weary nations the heav'nly manna falls;
to holy convocations the silver trumpet calls,
where gospel light is glowing with pure and radiant beams
and living water flowing with soul-refreshing streams.
4. New graces ever gaining from this our day of rest,
we reach the rest remaining to spirits of the blest.
We sing to you our praises, O Father, Spirit, Son;
the church its voice upraises to you, blest Three in One.

CCLI Song #5101580 Words: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt.

Music: German melody, 18th cent; adapt. Xavier Ludwig Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

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* **APOSTLES' CREED**

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C 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.**

(The congregation may be seated during the prayers.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

A You provide justice for all who are oppressed and relief to all who are afflicted. Heal those who are bent over by addiction, depression, and anxiety. Set free all who cry out under the weight of mental, emotional, or physical distress. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A You call us to delight in the sabbath. Renew our bodies, minds, and spirits in this worshiping assembly. Give rest to all who lead our congregation in worship, study, and service. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for our farmers and ranchers as they continue to work hard to bring us food in this time of drought. Bless them as they sow crops and care for livestock. Send us rain to heal the earth and water to quench Your thirsty land. Let faith be born from our doubts, hope from our despair, and compassion from our troubles. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for peace in Ukraine. Help to end this war and the destruction of lives and your creation. Change hearts, bring peace and show the world your existence. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for the family and friends of Kim Thompkins who passed away this past week. Be with them and comfort them during this difficult time. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for all those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:

Michael Yancey; George Bergfeld, Sr.; Diane Koehn; Debbie Eaton; Darrell Grafe; Lydia Rojas; Gladys Ulbricht; Joe Evanicky; Anita Evanicky; Irene Noska; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you (*Pause*). Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for all those battling cancer that they may know comfort and strength. (*Pause for those we are praying for.*) Merciful God,

Bubba Bencal; Al Gene Canik; Jane Veghaus Taylor; George Wright; Elrose Kollatschny; Sarah Stancik; Larry Poenitzsch; Sandy Mosley; Charlene Tesch; Cynthia Coufal; Jeffrey McDaniel; Karen Bailiff; Julian Divin; Nancy Biers; Angie Beggs; Pam Potter; Charlie Hammock; Brad Bryson; Lynette Frnka; Riana Jamison; Jenna Escamilla; Margaret Ortiz; Keith Korth; Jodi Sebesta; Cathy Siglow; Paul Casinger; Fran Gillett; Tiffany Murley; DeQuincy Lister; Angela Mazoch; Lily Presswood; Denise Lange; Doug Mason; Dr. Tom Hancher; Joe Berry; Joyce Templeton; Gracie Brune; Margaret Rogers; Leonard Kahlden; Curtis Wallin; Megan Burch; Jennifer Aleman; Lisa Grazier; Phyllis Behrend; Jessica Mauchlen; Larry Guthrie; Donna Tiner; Libby Divin; Diane Brooks; Bob Loy; Stanley King; Monty Gillett; Dawn Foster; Edward Halcolm; Amber Smith Kutach; Louis Camacho; Melvin Schobel; Janet Greene; Sabrina Galindo; Debbie Grimes; Horst Traub; Margie Fisk; Preston

Carter; Penny Miller; Carl Hahn; Megan Cain; Amanda Fuchs; Cyndi Wallace; Karen Broussard; Donna Young; Sharon Heimann; and Brenda Baker.

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for all expectant mothers, and especially for:

Mallory Dungen Cook; Madisyn Horndt Neumann; and Jessica Johnson that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for all those who reside in care facilities and the homebound that they receive your caring and compassion. (*Pause for those we are praying for.*) Merciful God,

Adrian Fritsch; Don Morrison; Verna Coufal; Doug Hill; John Zwiengel; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Deanna Lee; Doris Poppe; Barbara McMath; Linda Munos Rodgers; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Delores Purcell; Jane Booker; Curtis Berger; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Robert Eaton; Ronnie Rogers; Joyce Dehmer; and Donna Dehmer.

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for all law enforcement officers, fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers, 9-1-1 dispatchers, and active duty military personnel that they are protected and kept safe.

(*Pause for those we are praying for.*) Merciful God,

Law enforcement officers: Todd Jacobs; Troy Neisner; Jacob Gorman; Nancy Gorman; Johnny Kovar; Abigail Weido; Dustin Lattimore; Luke Kanz; Bruno Flores; Zane Weido; Josh Jones; as well as Donnie Templeton and Jason Templeton who are also fire fighters. For all fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers and 9-1-1 dispatchers, especially Brent Gorman, Sr.; Brent Gorman, Jr.; Reid Brasher; Dusty Dittmar; John Maertz; Ron Luedke; Pastor Alan Kethan; Kristi Weyand; Eric Weyand; Bradley Berger; Jon Berger; James Chollett; Edward Thraen, Jr.; Garrett Flores; Kyle Burris; Dylan Walcik; Randy Wendt; Travis Neuendorff; Brenda Henkes; and Jan Willette, as well as those active duty military members including Brian Anderson; Michael Graham; Bryan Kubena; Brad Bergfeld; Cody Jowers; Kyle Appelt; Montana Appelt; Douglas Neuendorff; Scott Cherniss; Kameron Page; Ryan Neisner; Anthony D'Angelo; Dalton Kapel; Kindra Dawson; William Phillips; and Kevin Gonzalez.

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for the church throughout the world. May we all proclaim the good news of your love effectively. We ask, especially, that you would bless the ministry of our sister congregations Cristo Rey and Iglesia Cristiana Camino de Santidad in Peru, all Missionaries, especially St. Paul's supported missionary, Dina Anton de Espinoza, and our companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

C Amen.

* PEACE

P The peace of the risen Lord be with you always.

C And also with you. *(Share the "Peace of the Lord" with your neighbors.)*

(We will be collecting offerings before and after worship each week. This includes Power of One dollars.)

OFFERING and POWER OF ONE

"Power of One" is a ministry sponsored by your Stewardship Team. We are asking each and every one of our members to give \$1.00 above what your normal giving would be. We are asking each member to place this \$1.00 bill or change in the offering plate each week. The team is also inviting all children to participate to develop the habit of giving as part of their worship experience. Parents, a penny, nickel, dime, quarter, or dollar bill, any of these will do to help your children develop a habit of giving. These "Power of One" dollars will be used to support local ministries and ministries abroad. The purpose of this ministry is to demonstrate that something as small as one dollar can be used to make a difference in the lives of others.

* OFFERTORY *(Sung)*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

* LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C 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.

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

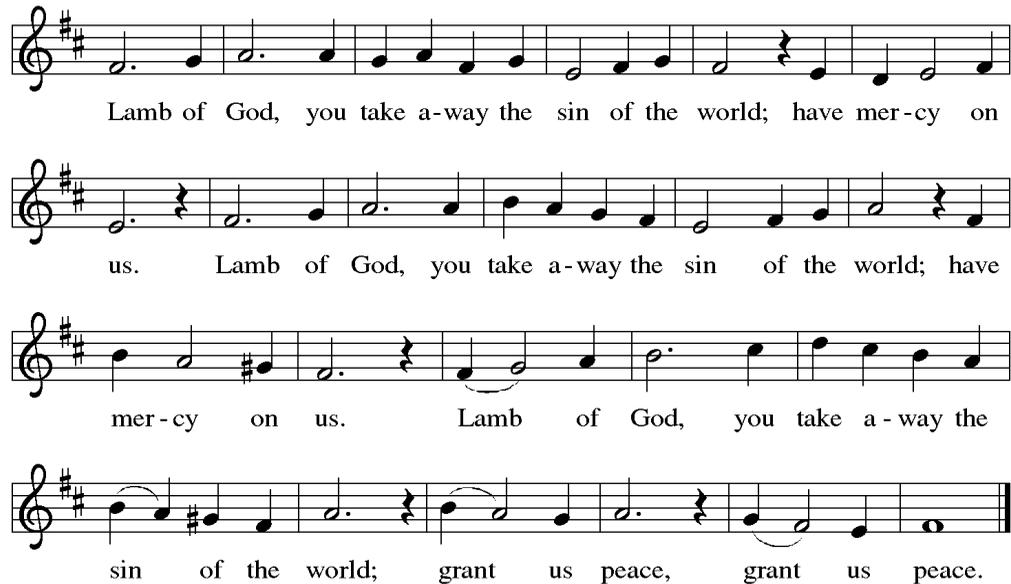
P In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (Kneeling at Rail)

{You will be coming forward to the rail for distribution. **All are welcome for communion.** You will be ushered down the center aisle beginning in the front. Fill in at the railings starting at the side and work your way around to the center, then kneel if you are able. Pastor will hand out the bread. If you wish to have a gluten-free wafer, please tell Pastor "Gluten-free, please." Afterward, you will choose either wine or white grape juice from the individual cups in the tray – white grape juice in the center with wine surrounding. An acolyte follows with an empty tray for you to place your empty individual cup. After receiving communion, please remain at the rails until Pastor has dismissed the entire table with a blessing. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.}

(Sung)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

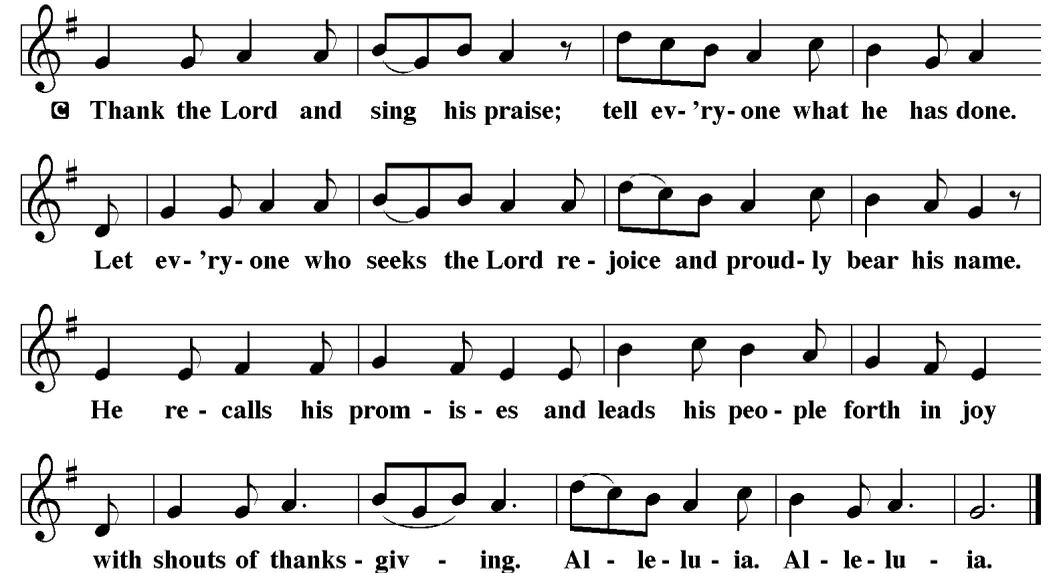
(Please be seated.)

*** BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

P Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

*** POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** (Sung)



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.
He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

C Amen.

*** BLESSING**

P The God of peace, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

C Amen.

*** HYMN ELW - #796 "How Firm a Foundation"**

1. How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

2. “Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”

3. “When through fi'ry trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.”

4. “Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.”

Text: John Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1878, alt. Music: Early American Melody
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* **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. You are loved to love.

C Thanks be to God, and we will.

POSTLUDE

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USHERS: SAT: Kenny & JoAnn Venghaus; Janeen Venghaus; Emily Frank

SUN: Robin Maertz; Ruth Bedford

LAY READERS: SAT: JoAnn Venghaus

SUN: Curtiss Schonenberg

ACOLYTE:

SUN: Cambry Barten

STREAMING:

SUN: Brian Lighthill

ALTAR GUILD: JoAnn Venghaus and Sharon Johnson

WELCOME: “You have not come to something that can be touched. . . [but] to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant” (Hebrews 12:18, 24, NRSV). Welcome to worship.

ALTAR WALL FLOWERS are placed by Brian Lighthill in honor of his mother Carol Lighthill as she celebrates her birthday, which was August 19.

COLLECTION OF OFFERING: Offering for the worship services is collected before and after worship. Offering bowls are placed in the back entrance and inside the side sanctuary door for you to place your offering in. This includes “Power of One” dollars.

Amount needed for average weekly budgeted expenses: \$8,405.00

Attendance: Aug. 13 & 14, 2022 – 170

Contributions: Aug. 13 & 14 – \$8,792.43

Power of One: Aug. 13 & 14, 2022 – \$60.00

Building Fund: Aug. 13 & 14 – \$4,408.23

Thank you to those who contributed to last week's offerings. Loving God/Loving Neighbor.

ATTENTION: *Names on the prayer list in the bulletin will be printed for 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, the names will be removed from the bulletin unless the church office has been notified to keep them.*

**** NOTICE REGARDING BULLETINS:** Please take your bulletin home after worship. We will **not** be reusing them. Thank you! **

► **Children's Activity Bags** are available once again for use by our young members and guests! You can find them on the coat hooks in the coat area of the narthex. After worship, **please place the used activity bags and their contents in the receptacle in the narthex.** Thank you! ☺

**** ATTENTION!!** The sound system is in the process of being converted over to a new digital system and will take a few weeks. Feedback is welcome. Thank you for your understanding and your patience. **

♥ **From St. Paul Christian Learning Academy:** Hello, everyone! Our nursery is working on putting together **personal picture books** for each of our little ones. **We are currently in need of donations for scrap fabric materials.** We are needing material with different textures and colors, as well as any low loft batting and fusible material paper. We greatly appreciate anything that you are able to donate. We thank you so much for your help. Thank you, and God bless, Mrs. Trisha {Please turn in your fabric donations to the St. Paul Christian Learning Academy office. Thank you!} ♥

+ **CONNECTED TO CHRIST:** It's the beginning of a new school year, and we need names/addresses for all of our 2022 high school graduates and all others that are still in college! **Connected to Christ** is a ministry of St. Paul that keeps our new graduates and college students connect with St. Paul with fun, Christian-based mailings four times a year. So students and/or family members, please send the name and address of your student to either Wendy Page (979-732-1756) or Terri Brasher (979-732-1127). +



Acolyte Training: Becoming an acolyte is a wonderful way to serve God and your church. This year we would like to open up this opportunity to serve for youth of all ages able to reach the altar, able to pay attention to the flow of service and capable of assisting with communion trays. Typical age is 9-10 years old or third grade. Acolyte training will be held on **Sunday, August 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary.** *Parents, please*

plan to attend this training with your child so that you may be able to help if there are questions later on. Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) or let Stephanie know you will be attending. If your child is interested in becoming an acolyte but cannot make it to this training, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858.

BLAST Registration for 2022-2023 School Year is OPEN!!

Wednesday, August 24, 2022 will kick off our school year BLAST program! That means that every Wednesday night you and your family can come have a meal, have fun with your friends and grow closer to Christ. A meal will be served starting a 5:00 PM followed by classes from 5:30-6:30 PM in the Lighthouse. High School Youth Group will meet from 6:00-7:00 PM. Classes are divided by age group: PreK; K-1st; 2nd-3rd; 4th-6th; confirmation (7th-8th); high school; and adult Bible study. Bring your friends and strengthen your Belief in God, learn to Live a Christian life, and Share the Truth about the love of Jesus Christ! To register your student for BLAST, please visit <http://www.splctx.com> and click on the BLAST Registration link.

► **God' Gals:** Calling all women of St. Paul!! On **Sunday, August 28, 2022 at 6:00 PM** join us for our first ever **potluck salad supper at the St. Paul Lighthouse!** Bring your favorite salad and your recipe to share. Your salad can be veggie, fruit, gelatin, chicken, etc. – whatever you call a salad! Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127.

Colorado County Fair Concession Stand: The St. Paul Lutheran Youth and St. Paul CLA again have been given the opportunity to take on the concession stand this year at the Colorado County Fair. Last year was so much fun and such a beneficial fundraiser! We are excited to again be a part of this community event. However, it is a big task, and we will need your help. The fair is **September 8-10, 2022**, and **we will cover all three days from 7:00 AM-10:00 PM.** A shift and cooker schedule is posted in the narthex (foyer) along with other ways you can volunteer to help with this fundraiser. If you are a good cook, cashier, organizer, supply runner or just have a heart for serving, we need you! All proceeds will go to support the St. Paul Lutheran Youth programs and the St. Paul Christian Learning Academy. If you would like to know more or be a part of the planning team, please contact Stephanie Polasek at 979-732-1858.

Manna for Moms: Every mom experiences a myriad of emotions – joy, love, the frightening, yet terrific reality that you are responsible for a little dependent. This new small group is for moms to come together for devotion and support. **Starting Thursday, September 8, 2022, and continuing every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month**, moms are invited to meet in the **Lighthouse from 10:00-11:30 AM.** Child care for non-school aged children will be provided by our “Church Moms/Grandmas”. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Courtney Busselman at 361-894-4050.



Senior Explorers to the Astros!! Hey, Sr. Explorers! Let's go cheer on our Houston Astros at their last home game before playoffs. We'll depart from St. Paul on

Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 11:00 AM for a 3:10 PM game against the Phillies. **Tickets should be \$25-\$40.** We will stop for lunch or pie along the way. We plan to take our new bus with great A/C. Drop off and pick up will be as close to Minute Maid as possible. Please sign up by Sunday, September 11, 2022 so we can lock in and purchase tickets. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Please call Kevin Page at 979-732-0845 with any questions.

Women of JOY: The Women of JOY Bible study group will start back **Monday, September 12, 2022.** We will meet every Monday at **6:00 PM in the Hackfeld Gathering Room.** Our topic will be “Living a Chocolate Life”, and it is a 6-8 week study. Only the book by Deb Burma is needed for the group and can be purchased from Christianbook.com or Amazon. A daily devotional is optional to purchase for your personal use. **Wait!! Don't start reading yet!** We will meet the first week with a light-hearted discussion and a chocolate surprise provided by the host – that's me! Looking forward to our weekly studies. – Gerri (979-732-4711)



The **Noon Bible Study group** that meets on Tuesdays is **taking a brief summer break during the month of August.** The group will resume meeting Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at noon in the church library. Hope to see you there!



The Marriage Course: October 2-November 13, 2022, Sunday nights from 6:30-8:30 PM in the Lighthouse. This will be opened up to the public and limited to 25 couples. We realize that strong marriages make strong families and strong families make strong communities. The Marriage Course is relevant for any couple wanting to invest in their relationship and make it stronger. Whether you have been married 4 months, 40 years or cohabitating and not married, you feel your marriage is fine, good, great, struggling or stuck; this course is for you. The course is more like a date night. There will be dinner and dessert mixed in with video presentations and discussion questions for you and your partner. You will not be asked to share anything about your relationship with anyone but your partner.

► **Thrivent Choice Dollars:** A friendly Lutheran reminder and request. If you are a Thrivent member and are eligible to have Choice Dollars, you have the ability to designate those funds to your choice of organizations. **Please make St. Paul Lutheran Church your choice.** We actually use these funds for very meaningful church endeavors. But, *you* must call or mail in this choice **every year between January and March 31** or they will send your dollars to the charity of *their* choice. Please call them at 800-847-4836 each year and ask them to direct your Choice Dollars to St. Paul. Thank you!

**** Volunteers, please step forward!** We need volunteers to comprise the reestablished **St. Paul Lutheran Financial Review Team.** We need at least three congregational members to make this happen. The term is for three years, but we will start up again with a 1-year term member, a 2-year term member and a 3-year term member. You do not have to have a background in finances, but a sincere desire to serve the best interests of the congregation of St. Paul is highly recommended. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Maas at 713-775-6408 or any

council member. To submit your interest to serve, please contact Donna Maas, any council member or Elena in the church office. God bless all of our many volunteers, and thank you! **

♥ ***Grief Support Group:*** Are you experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of friend who has moved? The Grief Support Group is a place to share and discuss these issues with other individuals. The group meets the **third Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 PM in the church library.** For questions or more information, contact Peggy Geisler at 979-732-0350.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Today (Aug. 21) – 10:00 AM – Acolyte Training (sanctuary)
Mon., Aug. 22 – 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting
Tues., Aug. 23 – 9:00 AM-12:00 PM – Quilters (Lighthouse)
6:00 PM – CLA Board & Staff (Lighthouse)
Wed., Aug. 24 – 9:00 AM – CLA Chapel
5:00 PM – Meal
5:30 PM – BLAST, Confirmation & Wed. Night Adult Bible Study
6:00 PM – High School Youth
Fri., Aug. 26 – 10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)
Sat., Aug. 27 – 7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship
Next Sun., Aug. 28 – 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship
10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School & Confirmation
11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship
6:00 PM – God's Gals Salad Supper (Lighthouse)

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Wednesday, August 24, 2022 Bartholomew, Apostle

Mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Bartholomew's name is replaced in John's gospel by Nathanael, leading many to believe that the two are different names for the same person. Little is known about his work, though some traditions place him later in India or Armenia.

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SERVICE OVERVIEW: GOD'S VERBS

Through the lens of the gospel, today's texts offer a clear identification of God's work. What is God doing? God is reaching out to the bound-up to proclaim release from captivity. God is lifting up the oppressed. God is satisfying the needs of the afflicted. God raises up foundations. God restores and rebuilds, reconciles and sets free. God, whose word can shake the very foundations of the earth, speaks a better word than we've ever heard, or that we could ever speak. Like yeast that's included in bread dough or the seed of a particularly stubborn weed sown in the garden, when God speaks, there's no going back. The bread will be leavened; the garden will have a mustard bush; and precious daughters and sons of Abraham will be set free. It is God's work and God's activity that Isaiah calls us to be about. Why is the prophet so

confident that light will conquer darkness and needs will be satisfied? Because this is already God's work, or as the prophet says, because "the mouth of the Lord has spoken." These texts focus us on the verbs, the actions, of God. When we're attuned to the verbs of God within passages like these, it might make it easier to see and give witness to God's work and the verbs around us right now.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Regardless of what day of the week we gather, we meet around the risen Christ. Jesus reminds us today that worship is not the only sabbath - *Christ is our sabbath!* Like the crippled woman in today's story, most humans are bent over with something, if not now then sometime in the future. Welcome to worship! Receive Christ, who straightened up the bent woman.

Jesus admonishes the religious leaders for making the rules more important than life-giving wholeness. When do rules prevent hope, health, and healing from occurring? When does a dress code exclude people? When do rules of decorum keep people from participating in community? Where are spoken or unspoken rules within our assembly, our community, and our society preventing service of neighbor?

Do you consider the sabbath a requirement or an opportunity?

Jesus encounters a woman who has a "spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years." Many of us are also walking around with spirits that are bent out of shape. What in *your* world wounds or crushes *your* spirit? How does God in Christ mend our twisted spirits into a shape that allows relief? Freedom? Gratitude? What is truly "bent" in today's gospel - the woman's back or the opinions of the religious elites? God's subversive work realized in Jesus once again sheds light on what is truly out of shape.

Perhaps, like countless old women throughout time, this woman had osteoporosis. But we all know about the condition of being bowed down by age, infirmity, or distress. In Christ we can stand upright. The sabbath controversy presents us with not only the question of how is God truly honored, but also the picture of Christ who replaces the sabbath, the one who sets us free.

KID STUDY:

There is an official day of rest and worship called the sabbath. Society's rules in biblical times did not allow any work to be done on the sabbath day. If you did any work on that day, you did not "keep sabbath," and Jesus got into trouble for healing a woman on that day. But once again, Jesus turns the rules upside down! Helping other people, no matter what day it is, is a great way to "keep sabbath." Jesus himself IS our sabbath! The things we are taught when we go to church or BLAST should be in our hearts every day - even when we are not at church. Jesus always teaches us about our responsibility to love and take care of people. We are worshiping (creating a holy space where we can connect with God) when we serve our neighbors.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

Her collapsed posture is the physical representation of being “se incurvatus en se,” or, the self curved in on the self - which incidentally, is Luther’s definition of sin - myopically unconcerned for anything but the self and having no thought for God or the neighbor. In other words, bent in a manner in which we see nothing but our own feet... But see, Jesus does not violate the sabbath by healing her. He fulfills it. By healing her he actually does sabbath to her. He physically embodies in her what sabbath is - namely, a time for putting aside our handiwork so that we might witness the handiwork of God. She is passive in the midst of the faithful where she is restored to an upright position, no longer turned in on herself, and is named as a child of God’s promises. That sounds pretty “sabbathy” to me. - Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber

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Next Week’s Theme (Aug. 27 & 28): Jesus teaches about humility and to throw a party for the poor

Next Week’s Scriptures (Aug. 27 & 28):

First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7 *“Do not put yourself forward.”*

Psalm: Psalm 112 *“The righteous are merciful and full of compassion.” (Ps. 112:4)*

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 *“God is with us: let acts of mutual love continue.”*

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14 *“An image of God’s reign: invite the poor, crippled to your banquet.”*