

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PH# (979) 732-2423 Fax (979) 733-0489

E-mail: admin@splctx.org www.splctx.com **Pastor:** pastor.akethan@gmail.com

June 18 & 19, 2022

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Senior Pastor	Alan Kethan	<i>On Sabbatical</i>
Deacon of Word and Service	<u>Phone:</u> (979)-530-8368	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		O. C. S.
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

Today's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO MESSAGE FROM PERU

SIGNING OF ATTENDANCE PADS

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

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

D Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

C **Amen.**

D 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.

D Merciful God,

C **we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

D 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 - #620 "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"**

1. **How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away all fear.**
2. **It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the heart's unrest;
'tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary, rest.**
3. **Dear name! The rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place;
my never-failing treasury, filled with boundless stores of grace.**
4. **By thee my prayers acceptance gain although with sin defiled.
The devil charges me in vain, and I am owned a child.**

CCLI Song #42940 Words: John Newton Music: Alexander Robert Reinagle
© Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain CCLI License #1729377

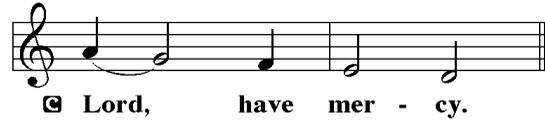
* **GREETING**

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

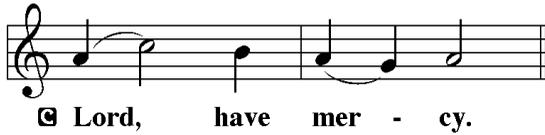
C And also with you.

* **KYRIE** *(Responses Sung)*

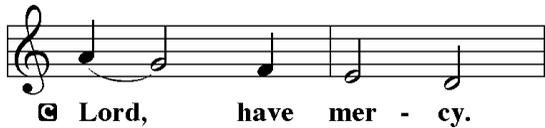
D In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



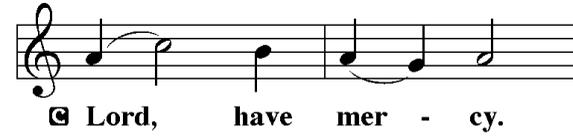
D For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



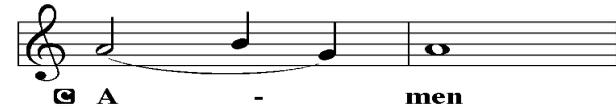
D For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



D For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



D Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



* **HYMN OF PRAISE:**

D This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



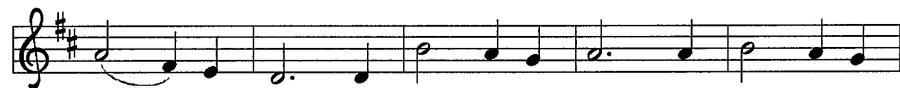
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



Refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

D O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 65:1-9

A Our first reading is from Isaiah, chapter 65, verses 1-9.

The prophet announces God's impatience. The people's self-absorption is idolatry, and images of practices that displease God fill this reading. Like a vintner who crushes the grape to release the wine, God will use Israel's exile to establish a new community of the faithful.

The reading begins:

¹I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that did not call on my name. ²I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; ³a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks; ⁴who sit inside tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat swine's flesh, with broth of abominable things in their vessels; ⁵who say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you." These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all day long. ⁶See, it is written before me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their laps ⁷their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together, says the LORD; because they offered incense on the mountains and reviled me on the hills, I will measure into their laps full payment for their actions. ⁸Thus says the LORD: As the wine is found in the cluster, and they say, "Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it," so I will do for my servants' sake, and not destroy them all. ⁹I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 22:19-28

A The Psalm today is from Psalm 22, verses 19-28. We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will please respond by reading the words in bold print.

¹⁹But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.

²⁰**Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.**

²¹Save me from the lion's mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

²²**I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

26The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

27All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

28For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

SECOND READING: Galatians 3:23-29

A Our second reading is from Galatians, chapter 3, verses 23-29.

For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.

The reading begins:

23Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. **24**Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. **25**But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, **26**for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. **27**As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **28**There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. **29**And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

A Please stand as you are comfortable for the gospel.

* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (Sung)



* **GOSPEL:** Luke 8:26-39

Jesus' mission includes foreigners and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony to God's mercy and power.

D The holy gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 8, verses 26-39.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

26Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. **27**As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. **28**When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me" — **29**for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) **30**Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. **31**They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. **32**Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. **33**Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. **34**When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. **35**Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. **36**Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. **37**Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. **38**The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, **39**"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

D The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

* **HYMN ELW - #843 "Praise the One who Breaks the Darkness"**

- 1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light; praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight. Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease, calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.**
- 2. Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word; praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand; from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

3. **Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place; Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done. Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.**

CCLI Song #3386431 Text: Rusty Edwards Music: J. Wyeth, *Repository of Scared Music*, Part II
Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company CCLI License #1729377

* **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 United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

- A Holy God, you hear the cries of those who seek you. Equip your church with evangelists who reveal the continuous call of your outstretched hands and your promises of a home in you.
God of grace,
C hear our prayer.

- A Loving God, we pray for 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. God of grace,
C hear our prayer.

- A You hear the cries of those who suffer. Come to the aid of all who are homeless, hungry, and sick. Bring peace to any experiencing mental illness, that they can clearly recognize your loving presence. God of grace,
C hear our prayer.

- A You hear the cries of those who celebrate and those who grieve on this Father's Day. Nurture mutual love and tender care in all relationships. Comfort those for whom this day brings sadness or longing. God of grace,
C hear 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. God of grace,
C hear our prayer.

- A We pray for those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:
Ronnie Huebel; Candi King; Janis Stancik; Doris Horndt; Patsy Hodge; Jim Murrile; Verlene Kuntschik; Carolyn Tipp; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you *(Pause)*. God of grace,
C hear our prayer.

- A We pray for all those battling cancer that they may know strength and comfort. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)* God of grace,
Jane Veghaus Taylor; George Wright; Elrose Kollatschny; Sarah Stancik; Shelly Bowden; 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; Kenny Neuendorff; 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; Anthony Baumbach; 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 hear our prayer.

- A We pray for all expectant mothers, and especially for:
Stephanie Miles; Katie Page; Brooke Dungen Pawlak; Mallory Dungen Cook; and Madisyn Horndt Neumann that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace. God of grace,
C hear 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.)* God of grace,
Adrian Fritsch; Don Morrison; Verna Coufal; Doug Hill; John Zwiegel; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Deanna Lee; Dolores Wessels; Doris Poppe; Barbara McMath; Linda Munos Rodgers; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Delores Purcell; Jane

Booker; Curtis Berger; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Beatrice Zikuhr; Robert Eaton; Ronnie Rogers; Fritz Willms; Joyce Dehmer; and Donna Dehmer.

C hear 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.) God of grace,

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 hear 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. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A We give thanks for the faithful departed whose lives proclaimed all you had done for them. At the last, unite us with them as we make our home in you. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

D God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

C Amen.

*** PEACE**

D 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



bles-sing. 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**

D God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus.

C Amen.

* **REMEMBERING JESUS' WORDS, PROMISES, AND COMMANDS**

* **LORD'S PRAYER**

D 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**

D 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**

D 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**

D 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**

D 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 - #886 "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"**

1. Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of his grace!

2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

3. The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.

4. He speaks, and list'ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

5. Look unto him, your Savior own, O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace!

6. To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

CCLI Song #1369 Words: Charles Wesley Music: Carl Gottlieb Gläser
©Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain CCLI License #1729377

* **DISMISSAL**

D Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C Thanks be to God, and we will.

POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006327.
New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.
Used by permission.

USHERS: SAT: Harvey Poenitzsch; Bob Poenitzsch; Audrey Rester

SUN: David Johnson; Byron Marburger; Brad Hajdik; Debbie Yancey

LAY READERS: SAT: Rhanda Lattimore

SUN: Sharon Johnson

ACOLYTE:

SUN: Leira Gonzalez

STREAMING:

SUN: Janel Barten

ALTAR GUILD: Carol Ripper and Carol Lighthill

WELCOME: Welcome to worship this second Sunday after Pentecost. And a happy Father's Day to all father-figures!

ALTAR WALL FLOWERS are placed by Sandy & Randy Neuendorff in honor and celebration of their daughter Traci Neuendorff's 23rd birthday on June 24 and their grandson Colin Kunschick's 3rd birthday on June 25.

We are pleased to have George Bergfeld, Sr. and Tracy Baker sharing their messages with us this weekend. George is sharing his message Saturday, June 18, and Tracy is sharing her message at both Sunday services on June 19 as Deacon Sandye Sandye presides at all three worship services. Thank you George, Tracy and Deacon Sandye!! ☺

✚ As you leave worship today, be sure to pick up a pen in honor of or in memory of the fathers in your life. **Everyone takes home a pen!!** ✚

**** REMINDER!!** Pastor Alan will be on sabbatical during the months of June and July, 2022. In case of an emergency, please contact Deacon Sandye Fletcher at 979-530-8368. **

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: June 11 & 12, 2022 – 118

Contributions: June 11 & 12 – \$8,847.18

Power of One: June 11 & 12, 2022 – \$33.00

Building Fund: June 11 & 12 – \$7,209.53

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 all 2nd-3rd Graders!! A day of excitement and adventure awaits you at the **Houston Museum of Natural Science on Tuesday, July 5, 2022.** We will leave at 9:00 AM and return around 3:45 PM. **Cost per student is \$20.** You will need to bring a lunch and a water bottle. To sign up, please have your parents text Ms. Stephanie at 979-732-1858. **Deadline to register is Monday, June 20, 2022.**

**** Ice Skating!** If you are entering 4th-6th grade and are looking for a fun way to stay cool, join us on a trip to Memorial City Mall to go ice skating! We will leave at 10:30 AM, have lunch along the way, have fun skating, and return around 5:00 PM. The date for this cool day of fun is **Tuesday, June 28, 2022. Cost is \$20 per student.** To register, please have your parents contact Ms. Stephanie at 979-732-1858. **Deadline to register is Tuesday, June 21, 2022.** **

● **THE GATHERING:** The Gathering, a young adult group, meets twice a month for food, fellowship and devotions led by Stephanie and Bradley Polasek. **Their next meeting will be Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 6:00 PM at Hound Song Brewery.** For more information, contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858.



Preschool Water Day! Calling all preschoolers! Come have fun cooling off with some fun water activities on the lawn here at St. Paul on **Thursday, June 23, 2022 from 5:30-7:00 PM.** For more information, your parents can contact Ms. Stephanie at 979-732-1858. Hope to see you there! ☺

► **God's Gals** will be meeting **Sunday, June 26, 2022 at 6:00 PM at Joe's Italian Restaurant** in Columbus for good food and good fellowship! All women of St. Paul are invited to this event. Questions? Contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127. We look forward to having you join us!

◆ **Meals to Heal:** The next Meals to Heal **cooking session** will take place **Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 9:30 AM** in the Lighthouse. If you have any questions, please contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127.

VBS Volunteer Training: There will be a VBS Volunteer Training **Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 6:00 PM** in the sanctuary. If you have any questions or still want to register to be volunteer, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 or stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.

Register for Vacation Bible School – July 18-22, 2022!! Mark your calendars for this year's Vacation Bible School! Join us as we "Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the Southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead!" **VBS dates are July 18-22, 2022 from 6:00-8:30 PM each evening** and is open up to children who have completed 5th grade. Registration is free, however, t-shirts will be available for \$7 each. Parents may register their students online by visiting vbspro.events/p/events/stpaul2022.

BE A VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER! Volunteers are Needed . . . VBS is a wonderful way to connect with the youth and to share how God has worked in your life. Sharing your love for Christ with the younger generation can be a humbling and rewarding experience and can impact the youth in so many ways. We all have gifts to give no matter what age, and we invite you to join our team. You may register on line by visiting vbspro.events/p/stpaul2022. Questions? Contact Stephanie Polasek at 979-732-1858 or stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.



Worship Schedule Change!! The last weekend of July there will be a change in our worship schedule. Since the **weekend of July 30 & 31, 2022** is a 5th Sunday weekend, our worship services will be services of healing. We will have **worship with healing on Saturday, July 30 at 7:00 PM.** For **Sunday, July 31**, we will have **only one healing service at 10:00 AM.** Following that service we will have a pot luck meal in the Lighthouse to enjoy good food and good fellowship! Be sure to make note of the worship time change for Sunday, July 31 (10:00 AM), and mark your calendar for fellowship and pot luck immediately following the service!

* Whenever you have a question about our church, whether it be the facilities, worship services, or just want to know who to talk to about a certain Ministry Team, our **Church Council members** are always there to help, answer questions, and guide us. Posted on the bulletin board across from the church office is a list of all of our hard-working council members and the Ministry Teams they work with and represent. Please use that as a guide to help you contact the appropriate council member with your questions. *

♥ **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:

Mon., June 20 – **Deadline to Register for 2nd-3rd grade HMNS trip!**
9:30 AM – Staff Meeting
6:00 PM – Church Council

Tues., June 21 – **Deadline to Register for 4th-6th grade Ice Skating trip!**
12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library)
5:30 PM – Prayer Team (library)
6:00 PM – The Gathering meeting at Hound Song Brewery

Wed., June 22 – **Newsletter Deadline!!**
9:45 AM – CLA Chapel
10:30 AM-12:00 PM – Sewing Camp (Lighthouse)

Thurs., June 23 – 5:30-7:00 PM – Preschool Water Day (St. Paul Lawn)

Fri., June 24 – 10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)

Sat., June 25 – 7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship

Next Sun., June 26 – 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship
10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School
11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship
6:00 PM – God's Gals to Joe's Italian Restaurant, Columbus

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Tuesday, June 21, 2022 **Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, died 1931**
Onesimos was born in Ethiopia. Captured, enslaved, and taken to Eritrea, he was there freed by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into his native Oromo and returned to preach there.

Friday, June 24, 2022 **John the Baptist**
John said, "[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease." And so his birth is celebrated half a year before Jesus', just as the daylight in the northern hemisphere begins to wane. Jesus honored John as being the greatest prophet.

Saturday, June 25, 2022 **Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530**
On this day in 1530 the German and Latin editions of the Augsburg Confession were presented to the Emperor Charles of the Holy Roman Empire. The Augsburg Confession was written by Philipp Melancthon and endorsed by Martin Luther, and consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.

Saturday, June 25, 2022 **Philipp Melancthon, renewer of the church, died 1560**
Though he died on April 19, Philipp Melancthon is commemorated today because of his connection with the Augsburg Confession. Colleague and co-reformer with Martin Luther, Melancthon was a brilliant scholar, known as "the teacher of Germany."
From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006327.

SERVICE OVERVIEW: PROCLAIMING HOW MUCH JESUS HAS DONE

We feel powerless when life's storms rage about us. Despite our best efforts, we cannot navigate those dangers without the hand of God to guide and free us.

Paul reflects on the human condition of being "imprisoned" and "guarded" and the necessity of Christ to restore us. He reminds us of the power of our baptism to free and unite us. The text goes on to make the radically inclusive statement that there is no longer "Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).

Together, these texts recount the journey of faith from bondage to freedom, from separation to unity, from death to new life. And this is a path open to all, no matter who we are or from whence we've come. The scriptures energize us to join that man in the gospel who went out proclaiming "how much Jesus had done for him," even to those who would rather not hear it.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Today we hear about a naked madman who would break out of his restraints and run around in a cemetery. Hear what happens when this man encounters Christ. Welcome to worship! Shake off your own demons and encounter Christ for yourself.
The gospels identify demons with a wide range of physical or mental illness: this man acts mentally deranged and uncontrollable. This man's demons recognize Jesus for who he is. He is healed and tells everyone what Jesus has done for him.

Jesus' presence brings change to individuals and communities. For the community of the Gerasenes, Jesus altered the social standing of the newly healed man, the community's relationship to the man, the lives of the people who made a living from the pigs, and others who are not named in the text.

Paul's vision in the second reading continues to challenge the global Christian community wherever Christians allow long-standing ethnic and racial divisions, prejudices and hostilities to

guide their interactions with one another instead of embracing unity in Christ. Paul's vision challenges us all to work very diligently, and in the Spirit's power, to love one another rather than continue to live out the scripts that the broken domination systems have written for us over the centuries. What is standing in the way of this community's unity in Christ? What barriers do you see in your own life that may be preventing unity in Christ?

KID STUDY:

People are unhappy. People suffer. It's easy to say that people can improve their lives through discipline or hard work. While that is sometimes true, not all people can do it by themselves. Some people need help. The man in the story today had problems. His behavior was so out of control that he was often put in chains by people in his community. He couldn't be around or live near other people. He lived on the outskirts of town in the tombs all by himself, suffering. He felt powerless. The man approached Jesus as soon as he arrived on the shore. He pleaded for help, and Jesus helped him. It didn't matter how 'crazy' he was. It didn't matter where he was from or who his family was. Jesus healed the man. The people of the community saw the man 'in his right mind,' sitting calmly at the feet of Jesus. It is another example of how Jesus can change lives. Jesus can change your life, too. All you have to do is ask for help like the man asked for help.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

*Hasten to the bath that will purify you thoroughly. The living water, tempered by the Holy Spirit and fire, most sweet, now invites you with its tender murmur. Rejoice. For you will plunge naked into the font, but you will soon emerge clothed with a heavenly garment, dressed in white. And he who does not soil his baptismal robe will possess the kingdom of heaven. - Zeno of Verona [Zeno of Verona, in *Baptism: Ancient Liturgies and Patristic Texts*, ed. Andre Hamman, O.F.M (Staten Island, NY: Alba House, 1967), 66.]*

+++++

Next Week's Theme (June 25 & 26): Jesus' teachings about being followers

Next Week's Scriptures (June 25 & 26):

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

"Elijah says to Elisha, Follow me and do not continue plowing."

Psalm: Psalm 16

"I have set the LORD always before me." (Ps. 16:8)

Second Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

"Love is the whole law, gift of the Spirit."

Gospel: Luke 9:51-62

"Jesus says, Follow me and do not look back."