



20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
STEWARDSHIP 2  
"DISCIPLESHIP"  
OCTOBER 10, 2021

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***SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH***

4660 West 94<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040  
Pastor John Moeller

[www.stpauloaklawn.org](http://www.stpauloaklawn.org)  
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

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# "DISCIPLESHIP IS THE PATH"

## As We Gather

Our focus today is on Discipleship, as we continue our three-week stewardship series for 2021, "Live a God Pleasing Life." "Come, follow me," Jesus invites. (Matthew 4:19). Just as He called His original twelve disciples, He still calls us today. Disciples are followers of Jesus who strive to do His will and share His love with others. The goal is that we are all encouraged to follow Him more closely and live as His stewards. Next Sunday, the last week of our series, focuses on generosity in the giving of ourselves in service to Him. It is also "Commitment Sunday," so please remember to bring your commitment cards for 2022.

## Prelude

"Prelude in F"

J. S. Bach

## Opening Hymn

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

#790 sts. 1-4

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!<br/>O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!<br/>Let all who hear<br/>Now to His temple draw near,<br/>Joining in glad adoration!</p> <p>2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning<br/>And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.<br/>Have you not seen<br/>All that is needful has been<br/>Sent by His gracious ordaining?</p> | <p>3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,<br/>Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.<br/>What need or grief<br/>Ever has failed of relief?<br/>Wings of His mercy did shade you.</p> <p>4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;<br/>Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.<br/>Ponder anew<br/>What the Almighty can do<br/>As with His love He befriends you.</p> |
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## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.  
**P** Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!  
**C** **Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore!**  
**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!  
**C** **He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,**  
**P** to make them sit with princes, with the princes of His people.  
**C** **Praise the Lord!**

## Confession and Absolution

*We pause to remember and confess our sins to our merciful God and Father...*

- P** Almighty and merciful Lord, with heavy hearts we confess our sins to You.  
**C** **Captive sinners, we have sinned against You, mighty God, in thought, word, and deed.**

- P** When we have ignored the plight of the poor,  
**C** **we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.**
- P** When our happiness is dependent upon our possessions and our wealth,  
**C** **we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.**
- P** When we have failed to be generous to others as You have been generous to us,  
**C** **we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.**
- P** When we have been foolish with the resources You entrust to us, instead of using them to further Your Kingdom,  
**C** **we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Bring us to repentance, Lord, and forgive our sins, those of which we are aware and those we do unwittingly. Have mercy on us.**
- P** There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

## ✠ WORD ✠

### Psalm

*Psalm 50:1–3, 6; antiphon: v. 14*

- P** Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and perform your vows to the Most High.
- C** **The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.**
- P** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
- C** **Our God comes; He does not keep silence;  
before Him is a devouring fire, around Him a mighty tempest.**
- P** The heavens declare His righteousness, for God Himself is judge!
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
**Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and perform your vows to the Most High.**

### Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.  
Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have called us to be Your children and heirs of Your gracious promises in Christ Jesus. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we may forsake all covetous desires and the inordinate love of riches. Deliver us from the pursuit of passing things, that we may seek the kingdom of Your Son and trust in His righteousness and so find blessedness and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading**

✠ How Majestic Is Your Name! ✠

*Psalm 8*

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.**C** Thanks be to God.**Anthem of Praise Solo**

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

Hymn #721

**Epistle**

✠ The Ministry of Reconciliation ✠

*2 Corinthians 5:11–21*

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.**C** Thanks be to God.**Holy Gospel**

✠ Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection ✠

*Mark 8:31–38***P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter**C** Glory to You, O Lord

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord

**C** Praise to You, O Christ

### Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the  
right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living  
and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

### Sermon Hymn

- 1 O God, my faithful God,  
True fountain ever flowing,  
Without whom nothing is,  
All perfect gifts bestowing:  
Give me a healthy frame,  
And may I have within  
A conscience free from blame,  
A soul unstained by sin.
- 2 Grant me the strength to do  
With ready heart and willing  
Whatever You command,  
My calling here fulfilling;

“O God, My Faithful God”

#696 sts. 1, 2 & 4

- That I do what I should  
While trusting You to bless  
The outcome for my good,  
For You must give success.
- 4 Lord, let me win my foes  
With kindly words and actions,  
And let me find good friends  
For counsel and correction.  
Help me, as You have taught,  
To love both great and small  
And by Your Spirit's might  
To live in peace with all.

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### Sermon

#### Prayer of the Church

**P** *Our prayer response today is the hymn verse, “O Lord, Hear My Prayer,” printed in the worship folder.  
Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs...*

**C** O Lord, hear my prayer,  
O Lord, hear my prayer;  
When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer,  
O Lord, hear my prayer;  
Come and listen to me.

**Offering**—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at [www.stpauloaklawn.org](http://www.stpauloaklawn.org). For information about regular electronic giving, please contact the church office.*

**Faith Journey Speaker**

*David Witkosky*

**Offertory Meditation**

## ✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

**Preface**

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**Proper Preface**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Lord's Prayer**

- C** **Our Father who art in heaven...**

**The Words of Our Lord**

**Pax Domini**

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** **Amen.**

## ✠ Distribution of the Sacrament ✠

**Hymn**

**"I Lay My Sins on Jesus"**

**#606**

1 I lay my sins on Jesus,  
The spotless Lamb of God;  
He bears them all and frees us  
From the accursed load.  
I bring my guilt to Jesus  
To wash my crimson stains  
Clean in His blood most precious  
Till not a spot remains.

2 I lay my wants on Jesus;  
All fullness dwells in Him;  
He heals all my diseases;  
My soul He does redeem.  
I lay my griefs on Jesus,  
My burdens and my cares;  
He from them all releases;  
He all my sorrows shares.

3 I rest my soul on Jesus,  
This weary soul of mine;  
His right hand me embraces;  
I on His breast recline.

I love the name of Jesus,  
Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;  
Like fragrance on the breezes  
His name abroad is poured.

*Text: Public domain*

### Hymn

“Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake”

#688

1 “Come, follow Me,” the Savior spake,  
“All in My way abiding;  
Deny yourselves, the world forsake,  
Obey My call and guiding.

With meekness overflowing.  
My heart, My mind, My strength, My all,  
To God I yield, on Him I call.

O bear the cross, whate’er betide,  
Take My example for your guide.

4 “I teach you how to shun and flee  
What harms your soul’s salvation,  
Your heart from ev’ry guile to free,  
From sin and its temptation.  
I am the refuge of the soul  
And lead you to your heav’nly goal.”

2 “I am the light, I light the way,  
A godly life displaying;  
I bid you walk as in the day;  
I keep your feet from straying.  
I am the way, and well I show  
How you must sojourn here below.

5 Then let us follow Christ, our Lord,  
And take the cross appointed  
And, firmly clinging to His Word,  
In suff’ring be undaunted.  
For those who bear the battle’s strain  
The crown of heav’nly life obtain.

3 “My heart abounds in lowliness,  
My soul with love is glowing;  
And gracious words My lips express,

*Text: Public domain*

### Communion Blessing

**P** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

### Closing Prayer

**P** Let us pray together,

**C** **Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You that You welcome us to Your Table and have fed us with the body and blood of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. By Your grace lead us into paths of loving and sacrificial service in Your name, that we may joyfully do the good works that You desire; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Amen.**

### Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

“Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”

#685

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,  
 Follow His example pure,  
 Through a world that would deceive us  
 And to sin our spirits lure.  
 Onward in His footsteps treading,  
 Pilgrims here, our home above,  
 Full of faith and hope and love,  
 Let us do the Father’s bidding.  
 Faithful Lord, with me abide;  
 I shall follow where You guide.

2 Let us suffer here with Jesus  
 And with patience bear our cross.  
 Joy will follow all our sadness;  
 Where He is, there is no loss.  
 Though today we sow no laughter,  
 We shall reap celestial joy;  
 All discomforts that annoy  
 Shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
 Jesus, here I share Your woe;  
 Help me there Your joy to know.

3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.  
 Since by death He conquered death,  
 He will free us from destruction,  
 Give to us immortal breath.  
 Let us mortify all passion  
 That would lead us into sin;  
 And the grave that shuts us in  
 Shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
 Jesus, here with You I die,  
 There to live with You on high.

4 Let us also live with Jesus.  
 He has risen from the dead  
 That to life we may awaken.  
 Jesus, You are now our head.  
 We are Your own living members;  
 Where You live, there we shall be  
 In Your presence constantly,  
 Living there with You forever.  
 Jesus, let me faithful be,  
 Life eternal grant to me.

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**Postlude**

“Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”

R. Hillert



# Discipleship is the Path

On this, the second Sunday of our stewardship emphasis, *Live a God-Pleasing Life!*, we're looking at discipleship as the path on which Christ leads us and teaches us what it means to follow Him. In order to be His disciples, Jesus said, we must deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him. We do not choose the way, and we do not choose which crosses we will carry. Christ chooses, just as He's chosen to give us faith and make us His disciples.

Jesus invited His followers, *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light”* (Matthew 11:28-29). Christ did not mean for our focus as disciples to be on the path, which may be rough and treacherous, but to be on Him to lead us on that way. We are called to *“fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the JOY set before Him endured the cross . . .”* (Hebrews 12:2).

The Apostle John encourages us. *“His commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world”* (1 John 5:3, 4). We are overcomers in Christ! Discipleship is the path we walk, but Christ is leading us, even carrying our burdens and giving us joy in our stewardship.







## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANKS

**Vocalist:** Stan Wirtschoreck

**Lector:** Louis Frank

**Altar Care:** Cynthia Rose

**Faith Journey Speaker:** David Witkosky

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTES:

- The congregation is invited to attend a Hymn Festival performed by Ruth Sievers on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, presented in thanksgiving for blessings received through her ministry at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School. Flyers are in the narthex and in the wings.
- The Northern Illinois District is sponsoring a free district wide wellness event “Bringing It for Belize” Oct. 17-23. If you would like to participate, all you do is track the number of minutes you exercise. While the event is free, participants are encouraged to collect pledges for the minutes they exercise. The money raised goes toward the Belize Children’s Sports Camp. Collect your donations from Oct. 17-Nov. 7 and send them to NID, Hillside. Flyers and Pledge Forms are in the narthex and in the wings.
- To benefit Operation Blessing, Moraine Valley Church is hosting their Annual Pancake Brunch & Bake Sale on Sat., Oct. 23 from 8am-1pm. Flyers are in the narthex and wings.
- Zion Lutheran Church, Summit, Illinois, is hosting its 150th anniversary celebration on October 24, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. We are inviting past members and friends to come and celebrate with us. As our LCMS sister congregation, we invite you to join us in celebrating this milestone. Pastor Mark Raddatz, a past member of Zion, will be delivering the homily, along with other speakers attending. After the service, we will go to Mama Luigi’s in Bridgeview, 7500 S. Harlem Ave. for dinner, which will be provided by Zion. Please RSVP to Joe or Liz Chicola by October 17th at (708) 458-4203 or [joe.chicola@zionlutheransummit.org](mailto:joe.chicola@zionlutheransummit.org).

Evening worship services are held every Wednesday at 6PM.

*Please take a copy of the Stewardship Daily Devotion booklets, which are correlated with our Stewardship series.*

**Please pray for these members of our St. Paul family:**

Gloria Crook	Cathy Gleason
Julie & Larry Gurga	Helen Bonder
Janice Przybycien	Kevin Hickey
Mary Ann Colander	Art Hornburg
Melva Smith	Sue Lilja
Carol Small	Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski	Beverly Sellers
Lenore Curran	Betty Beegle
Delphine Cherry	Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank	Deb Skopec
Herta Iversen	Loretta Frank
Jane & Freddie Giacobbe	Marge Rochlitz
Ron Hickey	Shirley Smulkis
Ingrid Lesko	Katherine Hice
Gloria Meyer	Jan Briede
Delores Stegemann	Connie Braun
Kurt Seehofer	The Polezoes Family
Lincoln & Parker Alex	Patricia Murdoch
Lois Kaminske	Patty Sellers
Janet Varnagis	Dawn McNicholas
Laverne Abraham	

**With thanks to God...**

- *That Danielle Pintozzi (Sandy Barry's sister) and her unborn child are now recovering from COVID*
- *That the Greene family is ALSO recovering from COVID*
- *With Pastor George & Ruth Mrochen, that after a possible exposure to COVID she tested positive to COVID, but thankfully it was a "False Positive", so they're both fine, and giving all glory to God!*
- *We give thanks as God continues to enlarge His kingdom through the sacrament of Holy Baptism as Evelyn Violet Wirtschoreck becomes His child following today's worship service. Evelyn is the daughter of Max & Melissa Wirtschoreck, granddaughter of Stan & Cathy.*

**Special Prayers**

- *We continue our prayers for missionaries David & Joyce Erber whom we help to support with our mission offerings and for all who serve in the mission field*
- *Martha & I continue to ask your prayers for us and for the congregations of St. John Lutheran in Deer Lodge, MT and for our congregation here at St. Paul, regarding their call to serve as their pastor. Please keep this in your prayers as we will be seeking our Lord's will over the next few weeks.*

**Please pray for these friends and family of our members:**

Heather & Josh Turro	Carolyn Moeller
Eugene Marcinkowski	Danielle Pintozzi
Denise DeLaurentis	Dorothy Kroll
Anthony Krcelic, Jr.	Eric Kessling
Bob Hessert	Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta	Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow	Janet Trierweiler
Alan Hecke	Kim Lamberth
Matt Favero	Sandra Wilson
Rev. Bob Mitchell	Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi	Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher	The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross	Brenda Gurgel
Gloria Folsom	Autumn Kessling
Elizabeth Hoefler	Alan Iversen
Ron Lunt	Christopher Kosary
Sandy Plath	Iris McCoy
Shirley Demyres	Raquel Rameriz
Nick & Bridget DeAngelo	Henry Bonder
Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr.	Kyle Hughes
Elaine Hoffstetter	Fred Raddatz
Selma & John Carmichael	Allyson Seehofer
Bernadette & Rich Trusk	Dana Kahn
Donald Hakanson	Carl Hoppe
Paul Noffke	Sue Sortino
Pam Brown	Lisa Sanders
Shawn Harland	Ann Herold
Barb Potter	Wayne Volk
Charley Heitz	Sharon Bryant
Doris Potts	Brad Benfield
Doreen Holford	Janice Hernandez
Donna Santi	Judy Collins
Paul Sowa	Maryann Krieg (Wilke)
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.	Knox Christensen
Cathy Becker	Lois Kiefer
George Lilja	Tim Buckley
Donna Patri	Skip Sorensen
Joe Thomas	Patrick Pasqua Sr.
Logan Bliss	Debbie Guarascio
Phyllis Hicks	Karl Kraut
Jerry Koenig	Justin & Ashley Fasel
Nora Maculitis	

**Please let the church office know when your need for our congregational prayers is over (708) 423-1040.**