



STEWARDSHIP 2
"THE JOY OF MANAGING GOD'S BLESSINGS"
OCTOBER 15, 2023

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

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Pastor John Moeller

www.stpauloaklawn.org
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

As We Gather

This is the second week of our 2023 Stewardship emphasis, “*Experiencing the Joy of Generosity*,” and today’s theme is “*The Joy of Managing God’s Blessings*.” As His stewards, God calls us to faithfully manage His gift of time, our talents and abilities, as well as the financial resources and material things that He’s entrusted to us. In faith, we understand that all that we are and have are His gifts by grace, and in grateful response, we manage those blessings in ways that give Him honor and praise. Together, may we continue to grow in our faith in Him and in His abiding love and care for us all.

Prelude

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

P. Manz

Opening Hymn

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

#851

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil
With Your own unsparing hand.</p> <p>2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.</p> | <p>3 Wondrous honor You have given
To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence,
“You have done it all to Me.”
Can it be, O gracious Master,
That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy,
“Give as I have giv’n to you”?</p> <p>4 Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly,
Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces,
With Your love our love renew.</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 ashes,**
- 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** **Mighty God, as captive sinners we have sinned against You 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 with others as You have been generous with us,
C **we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.**
- P** When we have been foolish with the resources You've entrusted 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, O Lord, and have mercy on us. For Jesus' sake, forgive all of our sins, those of which we are aware and those we do without thinking.**
- P** There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ, 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 together,
- C** **Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have called us to be Your children and heirs of Your gracious promises in Christ Jesus.**
- P** Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we may forsake all covetous desires and the inordinate love of riches.
- C** **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, Amen.**

Old Testament

✠ Solomon Prays for Wisdom ✠

2 Chronicles 1:7–12

In that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, “Ask what I shall give you.” And Solomon said to God, “You have shown great and steadfast love to David my father, and have made me king in his place. O Lord God, let your word to David my father be now fulfilled, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth. Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people, for who can govern this people of yours, which is so great?” God answered Solomon, “Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked possessions, wealth, honor, or the life of those who hate you, and have not even asked long life, but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may govern my people over whom I have made you king, wisdom and knowledge are granted to you. I will also give you riches, possessions, and honor, such as none of the kings had who were before you, and none after you shall have the like.”

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

“Never Forget to Be Thankful”

N. Sleeth

Epistle

✠ Warning Against Idleness ✠

2 Thessalonians 3:6–15

Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

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

✠ The Parable of the Talents ✠

*Matthew 25:14–30***P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.**C** Glory to You, O Lord

[Jesus said:] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”

And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

"Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing"

#691

1 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing,
May we ripen and increase,
Fruit to life eternal growing,
Rich in love and joy and peace.

3 Rooted deep in Christ our Master,
Christ our pattern and our goal,
Teach us, as the years fly faster,
Goodness, faith, and self-control.

2 Laden branches freely bearing
Gifts the Giver loves to bless;
Here is fruit that grows by sharing,
Patience, kindness, gentleness.

4 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending,
May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life unending,
Heaven's love and joy and peace.

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Sermon

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. For information about regular electronic giving, please contact the church office.*

Offertory Meditation

A word about the Sacrament of the Altar...

We believe Jesus' own words that the bread and wine we receive in Holy Communion is indeed His true Body and Blood and not just a representation of it. We also acknowledge St. Paul's instruction to the Church at Corinth that it is harmful for anyone to receive the Sacrament without recognizing the real presence of His Body and Blood. Because of this, in Christian love we ask anyone who does not understand these truths to please refrain from receiving the Sacrament until you've spoken with the pastor. (*Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-30*)

✠ 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

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

✠ Distribution of the Sacrament ✠

Hymn

"Lord of All Good"

#786

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You
 now;
 Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.
 Tokens of love and pledges they shall be
 That our whole life is offered to Your will.</p> <p>2 We give our minds to understand Your
 ways;
 Hands, eyes, and voice to serve Your
 great design;</p> | <p>Hearts with the flame of Your own love
 ablaze—
 Thus for Your glory all our pow'rs
 combine.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">△ 3</p> <p>Father, whose bounty all creation shows;
 Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;
 Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:
 To You with grateful hearts ourselves we
 give.</p> |
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Hymn

“Christ Be My Leader”

#861

- 1 Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.
- 2 Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
- 3 Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.
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Hymn

“O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee”

#632

- 1 O Jesus, blessèd Lord, to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me Thy body and Thy blood.
- 2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart:
How blessed am I! How good Thou art!
- Text: Public domain*

Communion Blessing

- P** The true 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
Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to us on the cross and revealed yourself through Your Word. By Your grace, and because of Your love, keep us in Your faith and favor, that we my live in You even as You live in us. May Your precious Body and Blood strengthen us and preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting. **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

“On What Has Now Been Sown”

#921

- 1 On what has now been sown
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow’r is Thine alone
To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
And Thou alone shalt have the praise!
- 2 To Thee our wants are known,
From Thee are all our pow’rs;
Accept what is Thine own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
And to Thy Word a blessing give.

3 O grant that each of us,
Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus

When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

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Postlude

"On What Has Now Been Sown"

A. Beck



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

Announcements & Notes:

Our Stewardship Emphasis Continues – thanks to our Stewardship Board for all their hard work and to our “Faith Journey Speakers” for sharing with us. Next Sunday is the last day of this year’s stewardship series. Our special guests will be Pastor Chuck Tessaro and his wife Karen, both serving with Lutheran Bible Translators. Pastor will have the sermon that day, and they’ll both be telling us about their work in Nigeria. We will also have a door offering available to help support the work of the Lutheran Bible Translators.

After next Sunday’s service, join us in the Timothy Room for a fellowship brunch prepared by our Stewardship Board. It’s for everyone to enjoy and also an opportunity for you to meet Pastor and Mrs. Tessaro.

As you leave today be sure to pick up a copy of the Daily Devotions that accompany today’s message. Only a few went out last week, so they are still available if you want it too.

All women are invited to attend the Ladies Guild Meeting on Tuesday, October 24 beginning at 1pm in the Timothy Room. Pilates and Yoga instructor, Colleen (Hicks) Pesek will lead us in some yin/chair yoga and demonstrate Pilates for us. A short business meeting and refreshments will follow. Please bring a friend, dress comfortably and join us!

Faith in Action’s Food Pantry reminds us that Thanksgiving is almost here! If you’d like to help with donations to the pantry, there’s a flyer on the table in the narthex and on the counters that details what they need to prepare for Thanksgiving bags for families in need.

Bible Classes continue each Sunday Morning in the Timothy Room after our worship service. Grab a cup of coffee and something to eat and join us!

Thursday Evening Bible Study is held at 6:30pm in the Timothy Room led by Curtis Simonson. You can join any time and everyone is invited!

Wednesday Evening Communion Services are held in the Sanctuary beginning at 6pm.

Remembering our homebound friends is a caring ministry of St. Paul meant to help us stay in touch with our members who aren’t able to be with us for worship. Please remember them in your prayers. You may also like to send a note or a card. This week our homebound friend is Betty Larson, 4150 W. Gatling Blvd., Rm. 213, Country Club Hills, IL 60478.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

- Vocalist:** Sandy Barry
- Lector:** David Witkosky
- Altar Care:** Ruth Diver
- Faith Journey Speaker:** Lori Safstrom

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Please pray for these members of our St. Paul family

Sue Lilja
Stan Wirtschoreck
Rev. George Mrochen
Rich & Jan Przybycien
Rev. Paul & Judy Anderson
Sue & Bill Volk
Arthur Gerth
Ingrid Lesko
Jan Briede
Roy Hodgeman
Katherine Hice
Kurt Seehofer
Flora Jones
Graham Jackson
Kevin Hickey
Gloria Meyer
Mary Ann Colander
Elaine Lebron
Melva Smith
Delores Stegemann
Carol Small
Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski
Beverly Sellers
Betty Beegle
Warren Miller
Delphine Cherry
Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank
Betty Kruckow

Herta Iversen
Loretta Frank
George Dodaro, Sr.
Barbara Prendergast
Nancy Bundley
Rosa Richardson
Carl Hoppe

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Roberta & Carlos Owens
Roy Strassner
Dee DeLaurentis
Dorothy Kroll
Emily Feehan
LeRoy Bitner
Bob Hessert
Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta
Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow
Janet Trierweiler
Vicki Warren
Rhonda Scott
Michelle Mitchell
Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi
Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher
The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross
Louise Hrynkow
Gloria Folsom
Mary Beth Pasqua
Shirley Fairchild

Simeon Hoppe
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
Allyson Seehofer
Selma Carmichael
Bernadette & Rich Trusk
Dana Kahn
Donald Hakanson
Guillermo Ramirez
Paul Noffke
Vern Howe
Pam Brown
Shawn Harland
Ann Herold
Barb Potter
Wayne Volk
Lance Barrientos
Linda Shuman
Doris Potts
Doreen Holford
Judy Collins
Luke Pajowski
Phyllis Hicks
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.
Monica Iversen
Cathy Becker
Ken Matz
Jean & Al Zirbel

Carol Loecherbach
Miguel Hernandez
Charley Heitz
Sophia Salus
Justin & Ashley Fasel
Frank Coglina
Gene Wawrzynkowski
Kimberly Rooney
Helena Hoffman
Evelyn & Ron Konieski
Audrey Metes
Richard DeSaga
Ken Wentz
Margaret Lundgreen
Julie King
Sharon Bryant
Anika Seger
Monica Kato
Brian Anderson
Herb Kleeman
Debra Kleeman
Nora Beth Will DeMottes
Sarah Skelton
Barbara Apt
Bob & Gloria Freeman
Carrie Aspan
Lisa Anglin
Devon Apt
Tristan Ferry
Naomi Mauler
LaNell Mauler Koenig
Todd, Sofia
& Grace Lynum
Hillary Pittelko
Marge Schmidt
Sue Berg
The Kruski Family

Special Prayers

- *We remember Pregnancy Loss Awareness Day, today October 15*
- *Eda Nitz, Pam Brown's aunt and for Del Smylie, a friend of Pam's*

For those who mourn

- *Al Moravec at the death of his mother Nadine and Kathy Moravec at the death of her Father, Pastor Tom Hinz.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

- *We give thanks with Pam Brown and with Mark & Chloe Brown on the birth of their son, Nolan, born Aug. 22*
- *Ruth Sievers, celebrating a birthday on October 19th.*

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