



STEWARDSHIP 3  
LIVE A GOD PLEASING LIFE  
"GENEROSITY"  
OCTOBER 17, 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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# "GENEROSITY IS THE HALLMARK"

## As We Gather

Generosity is the Hallmark of how to *Live a God-Pleasing Life!*, which has been our stewardship theme, these past three Sundays. The apostle Paul wrote, "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11). May you rejoice in all God's gifts to you and may you willingly, joyfully, and generously share them with others. Through your faithful giving, God blesses the recipients of your gifts, he blesses you, the giver, and he receives praise and glory.

## Prelude

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

H. Gehrke

## Opening Hymn

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

#892

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Come, ye thankful people, come;<br/>Raise the song of harvest home.<br/>All be safely gathered in<br/>Ere the winter storms begin;<br/>God, our maker, doth provide<br/>For our wants to be supplied.<br/>Come to God's own temple, come;<br/>Raise the song of harvest home.</p> <p>2 All the world is God's own field,<br/>Fruit unto His praise to yield;<br/>Wheat and tares together sown,<br/>Unto joy or sorrow grown.<br/>First the blade and then the ear,<br/>Then the full corn shall appear.<br/>Lord of harvest, grant that we<br/>Wholesome grain and pure may be.</p> | <p>3 For the Lord, our God, shall come<br/>And shall take His harvest home,<br/>From His field shall in that day<br/>All offenses purge away,<br/>Give His angels charge at last<br/>In the fire the tares to cast,<br/>But the fruitful ears to store<br/>In His garner evermore.</p> <p>4 Even so, Lord, quickly come<br/>To Thy final harvest home;<br/>Gather Thou Thy people in,<br/>Free from sorrow, free from sin,<br/>There, forever purified,<br/>In Thy garner to abide:<br/>Come with all Thine angels, come,<br/>Raise the glorious harvest home.</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** Heavenly Father, we come to you as humble and grateful servants who give you praise and thanks for all the gifts that you give to us.

**C** Lord, help us acknowledge you as the source of all good things.

**P** We pray, Lord, that you will empower us to devote our lives to do what is good and to lead productive lives of service for you.

**C** Lord, use our hands, feet, and mouths as your channels of love, grace, and mercy to those around us.

**P** Empower us to be like the Good Samaritan who had compassion on his neighbor and who gave his time, talents, and money to care for the person in need.

**C** Help us to seek opportunities to share the love of Christ with our neighbors.

- P** Help us, Lord, to use our thoughts, words, and deeds to serve you wholeheartedly through service to others.
- C** **Lord, we thank you for your gifts that enable us to do your work.**
- P** Lord, thank you for choosing to give us gifts that, when used faithfully, will edify and build up your church.
- C** **Lord, through the working of your Holy Spirit, empower us to serve.**

### Confession and Absolution

- P** Although God empowers us to serve, in our weakness we often fail to use His gifts to His glory. So let us now confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.
- C** **Almighty God, we confess our sinfulness to You. By nature, we are unclean and are turned against Your will and Your ways. Our thoughts are not always righteous and pure, and our deeds are not always honorable and just. Our stewardship is often grudging, and our praise can become less than heartfelt. We have sinned against Your Law and deserve Your punishment. We are sorry for our sins and sincerely repent of them. We ask of You, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, that You would grant us forgiveness. By the power of the Holy Spirit, create in us clean hearts, that we may live with renewed lives.**
- P** Jesus came into the world and obeyed God's Law perfectly for you. He died on the cross to pay the price for the guilt of your sins. In the stead and by the command of our gracious Lord Jesus Christ, and as His called and ordained servant, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

## ✠ WORD ✠

### Introit

*Ps. 36:5–10; antiphon: Ps. 22:22*

- P** I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
- C** Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.
- P** Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD.
- C** How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
- P** They feast on the abundance of your house,  
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
- C** For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.
- P** Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you,  
and your righteousness to the upright of heart!
- C** I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
- C** As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.  
I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

### Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You crown the fields with Your blessing and permit us to gather in the fruits of the earth. As stewards of Your creation, may we receive Your gifts in humble thankfulness and share Your bounty with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**Old Testament Reading**

✠ David Prays in the Assembly ✠

*1 Chronicles 29:10–20*

Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: “Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

“But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you. Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision.” Then David said to all the assembly, “Bless the Lord your God.” And all the assembly blessed the Lord, the God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and paid homage to the Lord and to the king.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Anthem of Praise Solo**

“Praise and Thanksgiving”

Hymn #789

**Epistle**

✠ The Cheerful Giver ✠

*2 Corinthians 9:6–15*

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, “*He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.*”

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel**

✠ Jesus and Zacchaeus ✠

*Luke 19:1–10*

**P** **The holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 19<sup>th</sup> Chapter**

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord**

[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

**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**

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

#851

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.

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.

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”?

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.

*Text: Public domain*

## Sermon

## Prayer of the Church

*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

*Sue Marcinkowski*

## 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

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord. In Your mercy, give us new hearts. Direct us to live according to Your perfect will, and shape our lives so that they may be offerings of thanks to You. Grant that we may ever trust in the wisdom of Your plan and rejoice in the working of the Holy Spirit among us as we await the end of time and fullness of eternity, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, **Amen.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

In our Baptism, You have given us the blessings of forgiveness, deliverance, and eternal life. We thank You for continuing to nourish us through the very body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Joined together in the name of our Lord and in the communion of all saints, we pray You to send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus, through whom we further pray together as He taught us,

## 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

“We Give 90Thee But Thine Own”

#781

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 We give Thee but Thine own,<br>Whate'er the gift may be;<br>All that we have is Thine alone,<br>A trust, O Lord, from Thee.             | 4 To comfort and to bless,<br>To find a balm for woe,<br>To tend the lone and fatherless<br>Is angels' work below.          |
| 2 May we Thy bounties thus<br>As stewards true receive<br>And gladly, as Thou blessest us,<br>To Thee our firstfruits give!               | 5 The captive to release,<br>To God the lost to bring,<br>To teach the way of life and peace,<br>It is a Christ-like thing. |
| 3 Oh, hearts are bruised and dead,<br>And homes are bare and cold,<br>And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled<br>Are straying from the fold. | 6 And we believe Thy Word,<br>Though dim our faith may be:<br>Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,<br>We do it unto Thee.      |

*Text: Public domain*

### Hymn

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

#783

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Take my life and let it be<br>Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;<br>Take my moments and my days,<br>Let them flow in ceaseless praise. | 4 Take my silver and my gold,<br>Not a mite would I withhold;<br>Take my intellect and use<br>Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.      |
| 2 Take my hands and let them move<br>At the impulse of Thy love;<br>Take my feet and let them be<br>Swift and beautiful for Thee. | 5 Take my will and make it Thine,<br>It shall be no longer mine;<br>Take my heart, it is Thine own,<br>It shall be Thy royal throne. |
| 3 Take my voice and let me sing<br>Always, only for my King;<br>Take my lips and let them be<br>Filled with messages from Thee.   | 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour<br>At Thy feet its treasure store;<br>Take myself, and I will be<br>Ever, only, all for Thee.        |

*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 Word

*1 Chronicles 29:10–13*

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of Israel, our Father forever and ever.

**C** **Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours.**

**P** Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head above all.

**C** **Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all things.**

**P** In Your hand are power and might, and in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

**C** **And now we thank You, our God, and praise Your glorious name.**

**P** Let us pray

Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself for 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 may live in You even as You live in us. May Your Body and Blood strengthen us and preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting.

**C** **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

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

#803

1 Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,  
Praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
Drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,

Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

△ 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Fountainhead of love divine:  
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!  
Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

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## Postlude

“All hail the Power of Jesus' Name”

*H. Fleischer*



# Generosity is the Hallmark

In 1 Chronicles 29, we find the account of the gathering of the gifts for the building of the Temple. First David generously gave of his personal resources. After providing the example of giving, David issued a challenge to his people: *“Now, who is willing to consecrate himself today to the Lord”* (vs.5)? The response was overwhelming, as the Israelites brought their wealth.

There are some key concepts on giving that we see in these verses. Those *“... in charge of the king’s work gave willingly”* (vs. 6). There was no coercion involved, no guilt-inducing fund drives, no thoughts of reward for their generosity.

First the leaders brought their offerings of all kinds, and then, *“The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders ... David the king also rejoiced greatly”* (vs. 9). When generosity is the hallmark of believers, the result is joy within the Body of Christ.

David, in his prayer, reveals the object of their rejoicing: *“Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name”* (vs.13). David and his people realized that it is God who gives hearts of generosity, and, for that, we offer him our praise and thanks.

David’s prayer also reveals a humble spirit: *“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from You, and we have given you only what comes from your hand”* (vs. 14). We offer our gifts, not with pride, but with humility, knowing that nothing we give is our own. God graciously has provided that we might be able to give, thereby becoming stewards *living a God-pleasing life*.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

**Vocalists:** Julia Volk

**Lector:** David Witkosky

**Altar Care:** Cheryl Horan

**Faith Journey Speaker:** Sue Marcinkowski

**Flowers on the Altar** are from Maria Young in loving memory of her 34<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Basket arrangements are from the Hagberg family in memory of Jim.

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

Cathy Gleason	Laverne Abraham
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
Gloria Crook	Lois Kaminske
Patty Sellers	Janet Varnagis
Dawn McNicholas	

*We pray for June Hagberg and for all of the family and friends of her son Jim, called from this life on August 23. A memorial service was held here at St Paul yesterday*

**Announcements & Notes:**

- Everyone is invited to attend a Hymn Festival performed by Ruth Sievers on Sun., Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> at 2pm
- 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; ;
- NID 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; send monies to NID, Hillside. Flyers and the Pledge form are in the narthex and wings.
- LWML is low on mites to meet their 2020-2022 goal and asks that you consider giving a fall Mite donation. Mite boxes are in the narthex and wings;
- Evening worship services are held every Wednesday at 6PM.

**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.**