



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
OCTOBER 18, 2020

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040
Pastor John Moeller

www.stpauloaklawn.org
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

As We Gather

“Empowered by Grace to Give” is our theme for this third and final week of this year’s Stewardship emphasis. God, in His Grace, is able to transform us into new people filled with giving and generous spirits. As new people in Christ, we are called to give cheerfully, seeing that the money and goods God entrusts to us are only tools that can be used to help those in need and extend his kingdom. With God’s help, we are enabled to overcome our natural selfish inclinations so that we may become the channels through which He works.

Prelude

“We Praise You, O God”

H. Willan

Opening Hymn Solo

“We Praise You, O God”

1 We praise You, O God,
our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

When perils o’ertake us,
You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord,
our struggles we win.

2 We worship You, God of our fathers,
we bless You;
Through trial and tempest
our guide You have been.

3 With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us,
Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Text: Public domain

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

P Mighty and merciful Lord, with heavy hearts we confess our sins to You.

C **Captive to sin, 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. 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

† The Vanity of Wealth and Honor †

Ecclesiastes 5:10–20

¹⁰He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. ¹¹When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? ¹²Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

¹³There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, ¹⁴and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. ¹⁵As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. ¹⁶This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? ¹⁷Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger.

¹⁸Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. ¹⁹Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. ²⁰For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem of Praise

“O Sing Unto the Lord”

M. Bedford

Epistle

✠ Walk in Love ✠

Ephesians 5:1–14

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

✠ Lay Up Treasures in Heaven ✠

Matthew 6:19–24

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²²“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

²⁴“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

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 \dagger everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Hymn Solo

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

sts. 1–2, 4

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.

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

Faith Journey Message

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 also continues as an option for us all.*

Offertory Meditation

“Amazing Grace”

arr. R. Przybycien

✠ 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

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

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

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 feed 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.**

