



17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

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

There is a war going on; it's quite evident in the conflicts we see in society. And, as Jeremiah and David realized, the world has warred against people of faith throughout history. But in today's Epistle, James reveals that the struggle continues within each of us as well. Our passions are often opposed to God, but our Lord Jesus, by His death and resurrection, has won the victory—and therefore, peace—over all of our outward and inward conflict and warfare. His grace assures us of daily and eternal peace.

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.

Confession and Absolution

James 3:18; 4:5–6, 8; Psalm 54:1–2, 4, 6

P In today's Epistle, James urges, “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” So let us go to God, echoing David's words in Psalm 54, which is appointed for today.

P O God, save me, by Your name,

C and vindicate me by Your might.

P O God, hear my prayer;

C give ear to the words of my mouth.

P James' words in today's Epistle guide our confession. Gracious God,
C **we confess that when we have chosen friendship with the world, we forget that it often means enmity with You. We confess that our passions are at war within us. We have had bitter jealousy and selfish ambition inside us. In all humility, we come to You, holy Lord, seeking Your peace to calm the war within us all.**

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, take heart. God has not given up on you! Through the spirit that He has made to dwell in us, He gives grace upon grace. James writes, "A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace," and in His death and resurrection, Jesus gave us His righteousness and established peace between us and God. 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.**

P Behold, God is my helper;

C **the Lord is the upholder of my life.**

P With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to You;

C **I will give thanks to Your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

Introit

Psalm 37:5–7; antiphon: v. 4

P Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

C **Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.**

P He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.

C **Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him.**

P Fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!

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.**

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, in Your infinite grace You have forgiven our warring against Your will and rule.

C **Grant that the peace our Lord has won will be evident in our humble service to You and the people around us each day;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading

✠ The Broken Covenant ✠

Jeremiah 11:18-20

¹⁸The LORD made it known to me and I knew; then you showed me their deeds. ¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more." ²⁰But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem of Praise Duet

"Gloria in Excelsis"

from Divine Service, Setting 4

Epistle

✠ Warning Against Worldliness ✠

James 3:13-4:10

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. ¹What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

✠ Jesus Again Foretells Death, Resurrection ✠

Mark 9:30-37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁰[The disciples] went on from there and passed through Galilee. And [Jesus] did not want anyone to know, ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." ³²But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him. ³³And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" ³⁴But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.

³⁵And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

✠ CONFESSIO OF FAITH ✠

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came
down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the
virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius
Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according
to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge
both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and
apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the
remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

#845

1 Where charity and love prevail
There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love
By love are we thus bound.
2 With grateful joy and holy fear
His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul
Now love Him in return.

3 Forgive we now each other's faults
As we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well
In Christian holiness.
4 Let strife among us be unknown;
Let all contention cease;
Be God's the glory that we seek;
Be ours His holy peace.

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

Offertory Meditation

✠ 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 Lord's Prayer

- P** Hear us now as we pray together in His name,
C Our Father who art in heaven...

Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

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

✠ DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

“Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared”

#622

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared
This feast for our salvation;
It is Your body and Your blood,
And at Your invitation
As weary souls, with sin oppressed,
We come to You for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon. | And though Your people shall not see
Your glory and Your majesty
Till dawns the judgment morning, |
| 2 | Although You did to heav'n ascend,
Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in Your presence they behold
Your glory, all excelling, | 3 Yet, Savior, You are not confined
To any habitation;
But You are present even now
Here with Your congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand,
Unmoved by any daring hand
Or subtle craft and cunning. |

4 We eat this bread and drink this cup,
Your precious Word believing
That Your true body and Your blood
Our lips are here receiving.

This Word remains forever true;
All things are possible with You,
For You are Lord Almighty.

Text: Public domain

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

#611

1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.

3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv’n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav’n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.

2 Oh, the height of Jesus’ love,
Higher than the heav’ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.

4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with Him from earthly strife.

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 O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament,

C and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled constantly to serve You;

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn**“May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill”**

#698

- 1 May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfill
And do on earth our Father’s will
As angels do above;
Still walk in Christ, the living way,
With all Thy children and obey
The law of Christian love.
- 2 So may we join Thy name to bless,
Thy grace adore, Thy pow’r confess,
From sin and strife to flee.
- 3 One is our calling, one our name,
The end of all our hopes the same,
A crown of life with Thee.
- 3 Spirit of life, of love and peace,
Unite our hearts, our joy increase,
Thy gracious help supply.
To each of us the blessing give
In Christian fellowship to live,
In joyful hope to die.

*Text: Public domain***Postlude****“Rondeau”*****J. Mouret***

***A Very important announcement from our
Board of Evangelism / Parish Education***

Our congregation is in an unusual situation that we need to deal with now, because if left to continue, it will harm our opportunity for continued outreach and growth. For the first time—and for a variety of reasons—we currently have no one to teach Sunday school this year, so families with children will begin looking elsewhere for their church home. We need to all continue inviting and encouraging those families to worship with us, trusting that God will bless our efforts if we have our staffing in place.

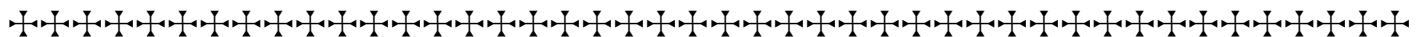
**Please prayerfully consider the joy of serving and sharing God’s Word.
He will equip you to do what you may never have thought possible!**

Thank you,
Pastor John & the Board of Parish Education

Announcements & Notes:

Upcoming events:

- St. Paul’s 5th Annual Veteran’s Luncheon will be Sat., Oct. 9. All Veterans are invited, but they must call the church office to reserve a spot.
- If you’d like to help support this event, there will be a door offering today.
- Next Sunday, Sept.25, we’ll be observing LWML Sunday, and as usual we’ll also support them with a door offering.
- The next week, we have one more opportunity to be generous, as Deaconess Lori Wilbert will be our guest. We’d like to help support her prison ministry with a door offering as well.
- The next Voters’ Meeting is Tuesday, September 28, at 7pm in the St. Timothy Room. (no door offering for that 😊)



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

Vocalists: Lori Freeze and Susan E. Volk

Lector: David Witkosky

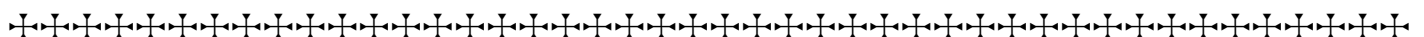
Altar Care: Ruth Diver

Altar Flowers: Given with thanks and praise to God for Ruth Sievers’ 60 years of ministry at St Paul!

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

Phyllis Hicks	Debbie Guarascio
Julie & Larry Gurga	Laverne Abraham
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	Cathy Gleason

For Amanda, Jeff & Axel Greene, (Daughter and family of June Hagberg, all dealing with COVID.

For the family of Roy Kiefer, called from this life on Sept. 9. Arrangements by Kosary Funeral Home, but visitation and service will be at Damar Funeral Home, 7861 S 88th Ave, Justice. Vis: 3:00 – 8:00 PM Monday, Service 11:00 AM Tuesday.

For our Sunday School program.

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Nora Maculitis	Patrick Pasqua Sr.
Larry Fetcho's (son-in-law, Brad)	Eugene Marcinkowski
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
Sue Hardin	Justin & Ashley Fasel
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
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.	Knox Christensen
Cathy Becker	Lois Kiefer
George Lilja	Tim Buckley
Donna Patri	Skip Sorensen
Joe Thomas	Kristen Will
Logan Bliss	

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