

*Sunday between October 16 and October 22
Proper 24, Ordinary/Lectionary 29
Luke 18:1-8*

SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2025
THE 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / PROPER 20C
9AM SERVICE

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040

Pastor: Rev. Gregg Ramirez

www.stpauloaklawn.org

Director of Music: Jeff Kiel

✠ Divine Service Setting One ✠

Opening Hymn Sit *"Before You, Lord, We Bow"* (verses 1, 2 & 3 only) #966

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Before You, Lord, we bow,
Our God who reigns above
And rules the world below,
Boundless in pow'r and love.
Our thanks we bring
In joy and praise,
Our hearts we raise
To You, our King! | For this bright day,
For this fair land—
Gifts of Your hand—
Our thanks we pay. |
| 2 The nation You have blest
May well Your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest,
Protected by Your care. | 3 May ev'ry mountain height,
Each vale and forest green,
Shine in Your Word's pure light,
And its rich fruits be seen!
May ev'ry tongue
Be tuned to praise
And join to raise
A grateful song. |

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✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

Invocation (*Stand*)

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel / Sit

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P 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.

✠ Service of the Word ✠

Introit *(Stand)*

Psalm 119: 137-140; antiphon: v. 144

- P** Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.
C Righteous are you, O LORD, and right are your just decrees.
P You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness, and in all faithfulness.
C My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words.
P Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it.
C Your righteousness is righteous forever,
P and your law is true.
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.
P Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

Kyrie *(Cantor / Sung – Congregation)*

LSB 152-3

- A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mer-cy.
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mer-cy.
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mer-cy.
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mer-cy.
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C A-men.

Glory in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest *(Sung – Congregation)*

LSB 154

- A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.
C Lord God, heav-enly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:
We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:
You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.
For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,
You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament *(Sit)*

Amos 8: 4-7

⁴Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring the poor of the land to an end,

⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain?

And the Sabbath that we may offer wheat for sale,

that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great,

and deal deceitfully with false balances,

⁶that we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals,

and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Timothy 2: 1-15

Pray for All People

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; ⁹likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. ¹¹Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse (*sung*)

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 16: 1-15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The Parable of the Dishonest Manager

¹ [Jesus] also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ²And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' ³And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' ⁷He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' ⁸The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰ "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³No servant 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."

The Law and the Kingdom of God

¹⁴The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

✠ Confession of Faith ✠

The Nicene Creed

C 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: "Lamb of God" #550

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God. *Refrain*

*ref O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.*

2 Your Gift of love they crucified,
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. *Refrain*

3 I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. *Refrain*

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Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Announcements

Sharing of God's Peace

Offering—may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Offerings may also be dropped off at the office or mailed, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please call the church office.

C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation, and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord, now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

A word about the Sacrament of the Altar...

We believe Jesus' own words that the bread and wine we receive in Holy Communion are indeed His true Body and Blood and not just a representation of them. 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*)

✠ The Sacrament of the Altar ✠

Preface (Spoken)

LSB 160

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.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary... *evermore praising You and saying:*

Sanctus (sung)

LSB 161

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament.

Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth

as it is in heaven;

give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom

and the power and the glory

forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✙ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✙ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *(sung)*

LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

✙ Distribution of the Sacrament ✙

"There is a Balm in Gilead"

#749

*Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole;
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin-sick soul.*

1 Sometimes I feel discouraged
And think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit
Revives my soul again. *Refrain*

2 If you cannot preach like Peter,
If you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus
And say He died for all. *Refrain*

3 Don't ever feel discouraged,
For Jesus is your friend;
And if you lack for knowledge,
He'll ne'er refuse to lend. *Refrain*

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"What is the World to Me"

#730

1 What is the world to me
With all its vaunted pleasure
When You, and You alone,
Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
You only, dearest Lord,
My soul's delight shall be;
You are my peace, my rest.
What is the world to me!

2 The world seeks to be praised
And honored by the mighty
Yet never once reflects
That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize
Above all things is He,
My Jesus, He alone.
What is the world to me!

3 The world seeks after wealth
And all that mammon offers
Yet never is content
Though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good,
Content with it I'll be:
My Jesus is my wealth.
What is the world to me!


4 What is the world to me!
My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth,
My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all,
My bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare:
What is the world to me!

Text: Public domain

Stand

Communion Blessing

LSB 164

[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.

Thank the Lord (*sung*)

LSB 164

[C] Thank the Lord and sing His praise;
tell ev'ry-one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and
proud-ly bear His name.

He re-calls His promis-es and leads His
peo-ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia.

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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

LSB 166

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 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" (*verses 1,2, 3 & 7 only*) #549

1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all.

2 Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God,
Who from His altar call;
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod
And crown Him Lord of all.
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod
And crown Him Lord of all.

3 Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all.

7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.

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Postlude

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANKS

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Gregg Ramirez

Organist: Jeff Kiel

Vocalist: Mandy Signorelli

Lector: Betty Shamasko

Altar Care: Cheryl Horan

Elders on Duty: Bill Leise & Kevin Kenealy

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Announcements:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| 9/21 Sunday | – 10:30am | – Bible Class & Sunday School! |
| | – 10:30am | – Celebration Ringers rehearsal (after service) |
| 9/22 Monday | – 7pm | – Southwest Lutheran Chorus |
| 9/23 Tuesday | – 1pm | – Ladies Guild's Women's Luncheon |
| | – 7pm | – * our Church Voters' Meeting * |
| 9/24 Wednesday | – 7pm | – St. Paul Adult Choir Rehearsal |
| 9/27 Saturday | – 9am– 3pm | – Rummage Sale at Operation Blessing's location |
| | – 11am– 3pm | – JenCare Festival (*RSVP required) |
| | – 11am– 1pm | – Oak Lawn's Free Jamboree/ Monarch Butterfly Event |

Bible Class and Sunday School will continue this morning following the Service.

From the larger location down the Hall, grab something to eat & drink – then join the **Bible Class** in the **Timothy Room** and/or **Sunday School** in **Room 8**.

ALL Women are invited to a **Fall Luncheon** prepared by the Ladies Guild board members on **TUESDAY, September 23rd at 1pm in the Timothy Room**. So that enough food is prepared, please RSVP on the sheet outside the Church Office **by TODAY, SUNDAY, Sept. 21st!** Come – bring a Friend – enjoy a delicious Lunch – and hear about our Guild programs for the coming year!

***Our Regular Voters' Meeting** will be this **TUESDAY, Sept. 23rd at 7pm**. Please come & participate.

A **Rummage Sale Event** will be held **SATURDAY, Sept. 27th from 9am to 3pm**, at **Operation Blessing's** headquarters, **4901 W. 128th Place, Alsip, IL 60803**, to be of benefit to their organization. Please come, find some treasures for you, and provide hope to those whom they serve.

Oak Lawn Park District's **Prairie Location** is hosting a **Free Jamboree / Monarch Butterfly migration Event, SATURDAY, Sept. 27th, from 11am to 1pm, at 105th & Menard Avenue**. This family-friendly event will feature Educational Walks, Fun Games, Crafts, Vendors, Music and Pictures with their Mascot, Duke Mallard! **Prairie Conservationist** will be onsite to answer your questions. Please stop by!

JenCare Senior Medical Center is hosting their "**JenCare Festival**", **SATURDAY, Sept. 27th from 11am-3pm**, located at **6101 W. 95th St., Oak Lawn, IL 60453**. Please come and enjoy Music, Food, Vendors, Raffles and much, much more! Please **RSVP with Gina at 872-243-1653**. See you there!

*** Our Congregation will hold a **SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING, SATURDAY, Oct. 4th at 10am**, for the purpose of calling a Pastor. Please come, participate and be a part of this important process. ***

Service Video, Bulletin, and Newsletter can be found on our website, www.stpauloaklawn.org. For more info., please contact the church office.

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 **Carolyn Wheeler, 7832 S. Joilet Drive, Tinley Park, IL 60477**.

**9-21-2025 Please let the church office know when your need
for our congregational prayers is over. (708) 423-1040**

**These people *urgently*
need our prayers**

*Sandy Barry
George Oberg
Elaine Lebron
Barbara Prendergast
Sarah Weber
Betty Larson
David Kinishi
Carol Geegan*

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

Betty Beegle
Vic & Marty Both
Jan Briede
Delphine Cherry
Doris Cyga
Jennifer Garcia
Arthur Gerth
Amanda Greene
June Hagberg
Kevin Hickey
Roy Hodgeman
Herta Iversen
Graham Jackson
Janice Janiszewski
Flora Jones
Robert Kaczmarek
Ron Klingensmith
Betty Kruckow
Bill Leise
Jan Leise
Ingrid Lesko
Gloria Meyer
Carol Miller
Warren Miller
Dorothy Pavella

Rich & Jan Przybycien
David Purdy
Rosa Richardson
Lori (Freeze) Safstrom
Dawn Schumann
Kurt Seehofer
Beverly Sellers
Norma Silinski
Carol Small
Melva Smith
Delores Stegemann
Bill Volk
Susan E Volk
Wayne Volk

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

Lisa Anglin
Barbara Apt
Devon Abt
Carrie Aspan
Lance Barrientos
Cathy Becker
Sue Berg
LeRoy Bitner
Henry Bonder
Gigi Browning
Lenny Browning
Sharon Bryant
Selma Carmichel
Frank Coglinase
Judy Collins
Mike Cyganiewicz
Steve Czerniejewski
John Darge
Dana DeAngelis
Rudy DeAngelis

Bridget & Nick DeAngelo
Shirley Demyres
George Dodaro, Sr.
Tom Domogal
Justin & Ashley Fasel
Diane Fauser
Tristan Ferry
Gloria Folsom
David Franzone
Tom Groh
Jerry Gross
Ted Gross
Donald Hakanson
Shawn Harland
Charley Heitz
Amanda Hermansen
Ann Herold
Elaine Hoffstetter
Doreen Holford
Carl Hoppe
Louise Hrynkow
Kyle Hughes
Rich Huscher
Marissa Jiminez
Dana Kahn
Monica Kato
Debby Kehrli
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.
Julie King
Debbie Kleeman
Herb Kleeman
Zech Kleeman
Evelyn & Ron Konieski
Neil Koning
Christopher Kosary
Jerome "Jerry" Kreten
Dorothy Kroll
The Lamberth Family
Margaret Lundgreen

Bob Marcinkowski
Adrian Martinez
Iris McCoy
Carol Jean & Tim McPhillips
Audrey Metes
Carol Milazzo
Daniel Musser
Roberta & Carlos Owens
Pam Palhegyi
Patricia Paulsen
Jorene Pierzga
Sandy Plath
Jackie Plichta
Barb Potter
Guillermo Ramirez
Raquel Rameriz
Kimberly Rooney
Sophia Salus
Elmo Schultz
Rhonda Scott
Allyson Seehofer
Linda Shuman
Al Silinski
Gail Skelly
Kim Skelton
Sarah Skelton
Katherine Sorenson
Janet Trierweiler
Bernadette & Rich Trusk
Jose Urena
Vicki Warren
Michael Watkins
Gene Wawrzynikowski
Cindy (Joens) Wendel
Katherine Zeleny
Jean & Al Zirbel

RUMMAGE SALE



GREAT DEALS!

To benefit Operation Blessing

4901 W 128TH PL

Saturday, Sept 27th

9am to 3pm