



EXPERIENCING THE JOY OF GENEROSITY!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
"THE JOY OF SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS"
OCTOBER 22, 2023

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040

Pastor John Moeller

Guest Pastor Rev. Chuck Tessaro

www.stpauloaklawn.org

Director of Music Ruth Sievers

As We Gather

On this third and final week of our annual stewardship series, we consider *“The Joy of Sharing God’s Blessings.”* Knowing that the Creator of the universe entrusts us with the care of His creation and has chosen us to be the stewards of His gifts, how could we not be joyful? Our loving Lord has given us life, and by His grace, we are blessed to live as His forgiven and redeemed people through the blood of Jesus. Today, as we make our annual commitment to the work of His Kingdom, let’s also celebrate the countless blessings that are ours through faith in Him.

Prelude

“Prelude in F Major”

J. S. Bach

Opening Hymn

“Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings”

#782

1 Gracious God, You send great blessings
New each morning all our days.
For Your mercies never ending,
For Your love we offer praise. Refrain

ref Lord, we pray that we, Your people
Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,
Through the sharing of Your blessings
May bring glory to Your name.

2 By Your Word You formed creation
Filled with creatures large and small;

As we tend that endless treasure
May our care encircle all. Refrain

3 In His earthly life, our Savior
Knew the care of faithful friends;
May our deeds of dedication
Offer love that never ends. Refrain

△4 Heav’nly Father, may our caring
Bear the imprint of Your grace;
With the Son and Holy Spirit,
Praise be Yours in ev’ry place! Refrain

*Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission:
LSB Hymn License no. 110001400*

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 in worship and praise for all the good gifts you give 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 ourselves 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 does empower 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 sins 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 ✠

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

✠ Construction of the Tabernacle ✠

Exodus 36:2–7

And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the Lord had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work. And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, and said to Moses, "The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the Lord has commanded us to do." So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, "Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem

"Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings"

N. Sleeth

Epistle

✠ Encouragement to Give Generously ✠

2 Corinthians 8:1–7

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have

overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

✠ The Parable of the Good Samaritan ✠

Luke 10:25–37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 10th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord**

Behold, a lawyer stood up to put [Jesus] to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to You, O Christ**

Confession of Faith

1st Article of the Apostles’ Creed

P The First Article of the Apostles’ Creed tells us about the creative work and continuing care of God the Father. The explanation, written by Martin Luther, further explains the work of our Creator and our faithful response to His goodness and love. So let us confess our faith together.

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.**

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

Sermon Hymn

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

#783

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

*Text: Public domain***Sermon***Guest Pastor, Rev. Chuck Tessaro***Prayer of the Church**

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Today there is also a box on the table in the narthex between the outside doors for you to drop off your stewardship commitment form for 2024. 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.*

Choir Anthem / Offertory Meditation

"All Around the World"

N. Sleeth

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.

Proper Preface
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 "We Give Thee But Thine Own" #781

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

Text: Public domain

Hymn "Christ the Eternal Lord" #829 sts. 1-4

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Christ the eternal Lord,
 Whose promise here we claim,
 Whose gifts of grace are freely poured
 On all who name Your name;
 With thankfulness and praise
 We stand before Your throne,
 Intent to serve You all our days
 And make Your glory known.</p> <p>2 Christ the unchanging Word
 To ev'ry passing age,
 Whose timeless teachings still are heard
 Set forth on Scripture's page;</p> | <p>Transform our thought and mind,
 Enlighten all who read,
 Within Your Word by faith to find
 The bread of life indeed.</p> <p>3 Christ the redeeming Son,
 Who shares our human birth,
 And by His death salvation won
 For ev'ry child of earth;
 Inspire our hearts, we pray,
 To tell Your love abroad,
 That all may honor Christ today
 And follow Him as Lord.</p> |
|--|---|

4 Christ the unfading Light
Of everlasting day,
Our Morning Star in splendor bright,
The Life, the Truth, the Way;

That light of truth You give
To servants as to friends,
Your way to walk, Your life to live,
Till earth's brief journey ends.

*Text: © 1999 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB
Hymn License no. 110001400*

Hymn

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

#643

1 Sent forth by God’s blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take
leave.
The Supper is ended.
O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us
To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving
To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and
race.
With Your feast You feed us,
With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we
bear.

*Text: © 1964 World Library Publications. Used by permission:
LSB Hymn License no. 110001400*

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 Word

1 Chronicles 29:10–13

P Blessed are You, O Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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 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

“Jesus Shall Reign”

#832 sts. 1-3 & 5

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2 To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And endless praises crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

- 3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.
- 5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen.

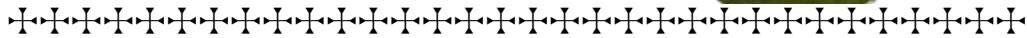
Text: Public domain

Postlude

“Jesus Shall Reign”

R. Wienhorst

Rev. Chuck and Karen Tessaro



Rev. Chuck and Karen Tessaro

Rev. Chuck and Karen Tessaro first set foot in Nigeria, where there are over 500 different language groups, in 1985. They serve with multiple local translation teams including the Old Testament teams for the Ikwerre, Yala, Kukele and Gokana languages. These teams also promote literacy and serve in their local community as teachers and helpers.

The Tessaros met and married at Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan. By the time Chuck had graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN, their family had grown to four. Called to serve on a translation team in Nigeria, the Tessaros spent a year at the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Texas before heading for Africa.

Since finishing the Eleme New Testament in 2002 and assisting with the consultant checking of the Ikwerre New Testament in 2010, Chuck and Karen are principally responsible for mentoring LBT's International Associates in Nigeria and training and consulting with various Old Testament translation teams.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

Anthems: The St. Paul Choir, directed by Mrs. Ruth Sievers

Lector: Ruth Diver

Altar Care: Martha Moeller

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4. Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

“Experiencing the Joy of Generosity” resources © Copyright Parish Publishing, LLC. May not be copied without permission. www.parishpublishing.org. Copyright © All rights reserved.



Announcements & Notes:

This is Stewardship Sunday! *If you brought your commitment cards for 2024, there is a box on the white table between the doors in the narthex as you leave – in the wings just put them in the offering plates. Extra copies of that form are available if you need one. **There are also copies of the Daily Devotions** that accompany today’s message – there’s one for each of these three weeks there on the table too.*

Then, right after this service, EVERYONE is invited to the Timothy Room for a time of food and fellowship hosted by our Stewardship Committee – they’ve prepared a nice brunch for **EVERONE** – (even if you haven’t or choose not to complete a commitment form...) *This is also an opportunity for you to meet Pastor Tessaro and Karen and make them feel welcome! There’s PLENTY OF FOOD, so PLEASE COME. Next week we’ll return to our regular Bible study time.*

There will be a door offering if you’d like to give in that way to help support the work of the Lutheran Bible Translators. *You can also go to their website and give online if that’s more your style, and you can learn more about them there too at **LBT.ORG**.*

Ladies Guild General Meeting – *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.*

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 Gloria Meyer, 10720 Washington Street, #205, Oak Lawn, IL 60453.*

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

Stan Wirtschoreck
Rev. George Mrochen
Rich & Jan Przybycien
Rev. Paul and 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
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
Dorothy Kroll
Emily Feehan
LeRoy Bitner
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 Coglinase
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
Carol Jean McPhillips
Randall Bunch

We pray:

For Carol Jean McPhillips (sister of Sandy Barry)

For Randall Bunch (a relative of Patricia and John Tyeptanar, friends of St. Paul)

We pray for those who grieve:

For Don & Karen Nordstrom on the death of their friend, Denise DeLaurentis called from this life to her eternal rest with Jesus on October 13th;

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