



“Gathered to His Word; Going out into the World”

AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

THE 11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / PROPER 16C

9AM SERVICE

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***SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH***

4660 West 94<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Gregg Ramirez

[www.stpauloaklawn.org](http://www.stpauloaklawn.org)

Director of Music: Jeff Kiel

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*Prelude*

## ✠ Divine Service Setting One ✠

*Pastoral Greeting*

**Opening Hymn Sit**    *"Dearest Jesus, We Are Here" (verses 1, 2, & 3 only)*    #592

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1    Dearest Jesus, we are here,<br>Gladly Your command obeying;<br>With this child we now draw near<br>In response to Your own saying<br>That to You it shall be given<br>As a child and heir of heaven. | Heart and life renewing truly,<br>Born of water and the Spirit,<br>And My kingdom thus inherit."  |
| 2    Your command is clear and plain,<br>And we would obey it duly:<br>"You must all be born again,   | 3    Therefore we have come to You,<br>In our arms this infant bearing.<br>Truly here Your grace we view;<br>May this child, Your mercy sharing,<br>In Your arms be shielded ever,<br>Yours on earth and Yours forever. |

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## ✠ Sacrament of Holy Baptism ✠



*We are seated.*

**Sacrament of Holy Baptism**    –    *Thomas Francis Geraci, Jr.*

## ✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

*(Stand)*

- [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 117; antiphon: Psalm 96: 6a; 115: 18

**P** Splendor and majesty are before him; we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

**C** Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!

**P** For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

**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** Splendor and majesty are before him; we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

*LSB 156*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**Old Testament** (*Sit*)

Isaiah 66: 18-23

<sup>18</sup> "For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, <sup>19</sup>and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. <sup>20</sup>And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries (one humped camels), to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. <sup>21</sup>And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

<sup>22</sup> "For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain.

<sup>23</sup> From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD."

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

## Hebrews 4-24

<sup>4</sup>In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup>And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,  
nor be weary when reproved by him.

<sup>6</sup>For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

<sup>7</sup>It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup>If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup>Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup>For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup>For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, <sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. <sup>14</sup>Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup>See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; <sup>16</sup>that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup>For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

## A Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken

<sup>18</sup>For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest <sup>19</sup>and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup>For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” <sup>21</sup>Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” <sup>22</sup>But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup>and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup>and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

**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 13: 22-30

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

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

## The Narrow Door

<sup>22</sup> [Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup>And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, <sup>24</sup> "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup>When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' <sup>26</sup>Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' <sup>27</sup>But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' <sup>28</sup>In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. <sup>29</sup>And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup>And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## ✠ Confession of Faith ✠

*The Apostles Creed*

**C** 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:** "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng" (*verses 1, 2, 5 & 7 only*) #813

1 Rejoice, O pilgrim throng!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
The cross of Christ your king. *Refrain*

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks,  
and sing!*

2 With voice as full and strong  
As ocean's surging praise,  
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old,  
The psalms of ancient days. *Refrain*

5 Still lift your standard high,  
Still march in firm array,  
As pilgrims through the darkness wend  
Till dawns the golden day. *Refrain*

△ 7 Praise Him who reigns on high,  
The Lord whom we adore:  
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
One God forevermore. *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](http://www.stpauloaklawn.org). For information about regular electronic giving, please call the church office.*

## 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 ✠

### 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.

### 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."

### 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.

### Pax Domini (*Spoken*)

LSB 163

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

### Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God (*Sung*)

LSB 163

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A-men.

## ✠ Distribution of the Sacrament ✠

*Sit*

"Jesus Comes Today with Healing"

#620

1 Jesus comes today with healing,  
Knocking at my door, appealing,  
Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace.  
He Himself makes preparation,  
And I hear His invitation:  
"Come and taste the blessed feast."  
  
2 Christ Himself, the priest presiding,  
Yet in bread and wine abiding  
In this holy sacrament,  
Gives the bread of life, once broken,  
And the cup, the precious token  
Of His sacred covenant.

3 Under bread and wine, though lowly,  
I receive the Savior holy,  
Blood and body, giv'n for me,  
Very Lamb of God from heaven,  
Who to bitter death was given,  
Hung upon the cursed tree.  
  
4 God descends with heav'nly power,  
Gives Himself to me this hour  
In this ordinary sign.  
On my tongue His pledge receiving,  
I accept His grace, believing  
That I taste His love divine.

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*"Glorious Things of You Are Spoken" (verses 1, 2 & 4 only) #648*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Glorious things of you are spoken,<br/>Zion, city of our God;<br/>He whose word cannot be broken<br/>Formed you for His own abode.<br/>On the Rock of Ages founded,<br/>What can shake your sure repose?<br/>With salvation's walls surrounded,<br/>You may smile at all your foes.</p> <p>2 See, the streams of living waters,<br/>Springing from eternal love,<br/>Well supply your sons and daughters<br/>And all fear of want remove.</p> | <p>Who can faint while such a river<br/>Ever will their thirst assuage?<br/>Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,<br/>Never fails from age to age.</p> <p>4 Savior, since of Zion's city<br/>I through grace a member am,<br/>Let the world deride or pity,<br/>I will glory in Your name.<br/>Fading are the world's vain pleasures,<br/>All their boasted pomp and show;<br/>Solid joys and lasting treasures<br/>None but Zion's children know.</p> |
|--|---|

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*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.

**[C]** Amen.

**Post-Communion Collect**

*LSB 166*

**[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**      *"Jerusalem the Golden" (verses 1, 2 & 4 only)*      #672

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Jerusalem the golden,<br/>With milk and honey blest—<br/>The promise of salvation,<br/>The place of peace and rest—<br/>We know not, oh, we know not<br/>What joys await us there:</p> | <p>The radiancy of glory,<br/>The bliss beyond compare!</p> |
|---|---|



2 Within those walls of Zion  
Sounds forth the joyful song,  
As saints join with the angels  
And all the martyr throng.  
The Prince is ever with them;  
The daylight is serene;  
The city of the blessed  
Shines bright with glorious sheen.

△ 4 O sweet and blessed country,  
The home of God's elect!  
O sweet and blessed country  
That faithful hearts expect!  
In mercy, Jesus, bring us  
To that eternal rest  
With You and God the Father  
And Spirit, ever blest.

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## Postlude

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANKS

**Vacancy Pastor:** Rev. Gregg Ramirez

**Organist:** Jeff Kiel

**Vocalist:** Sue Marcinkowski

**Lector:** Bill Leise

**Altar Care:** Denise Murray

**Elders on Duty:** David Witkosky & Larry Selden

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## Announcements:

**8/24 Sunday – 10:30am – Bible Class**

***Bible Class*** will continue this morning in the Timothy Room, following the service.  
*Grab something to eat & drink – then please join us!*

***Our Adult Choir and Celebration Ringers*** will resume rehearsals soon. ***Adult Choir rehearses on WEDNESDAYS at 7:00 PM beginning September 10, and Celebration Ringers rehearse on SUNDAYS after morning service beginning September 14.*** Returning members and new folks wanting to join us are welcome to attend. ***Please speak with Jeff Kiel if you have any questions.*** Thanks to all who help make music for our worship services, and we look forward to having you with us!

***The Luther South High School Class of 1970*** will have their ***Reunion on SATURDAY, September 13<sup>th</sup> at Coach's Corner in Willow Springs.*** For further details, please ***contact Sandra (Gates) Pauly at 630-975-7606.*** Please pass the word along to family or friends you may know from this class. -Thank you.

***Service Video, Bulletin, and Newsletter*** can be found on our website, [www.stpauloaklawn.org](http://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 Norma Silinski, 4520 S. Trumbull Avenue, Chicago, IL 60632.

**8-24-2025 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  
Karen (Leise) Bidus*

**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  
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  
Shirley Fairchild  
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  
Glen Krietsch  
Dorothy Kroll  
The Lamberth Family  
Margaret Lundgreen

Bob Marcinkowski  
Adrian Martinez  
Iris McCoy  
Carol Jean & Tim McPhillips  
Audrey Metes  
Carol Milazzo  
Marie Miller  
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  
Janet Trierweiler  
Bernadette & Rich Trusk  
Jose Urena  
Vicki Warren  
Michael Watkins  
Gene Wawrzynikowski  
Cindy (Joens) Wendel  
Katherine Zeleny  
Jean & Al Zirbel

For those celebrating special times of Joy:

- Bill Leise celebrates his 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 8/26<sup>th</sup>!