



THE 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

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

Our reward for being called to work in God’s kingdom doesn’t change based on how long we have been in our Lord’s service. After all, we’re saved by grace through faith, not by works. Isaiah’s call for the wicked and unrighteous to return to the Lord shows God’s immense compassion for all people, no matter when they return to Him. God’s ways are not our ways, yet we continue to work in His kingdom until He calls us home to Him when we die. Paul felt pulled in two directions. He would have liked to leave this life and be with Christ, but he also wanted to go on living and laboring for the Lord. Death and life contend, but Paul knew life will always win, confident of Jesus’ return and the resurrection to life on the last day for all who believe.

Prelude

“Prelude in C Major”

G. Handel

✠ Divine Service Setting Four ✠

Stand

Opening Hymn

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

#807 sts. 1-4

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 When morning gilds the skies,
My heart, awaking, cries,
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”
When evening shadows fall,
This rings my curfew call:
“May Jesus Christ be praised!” | 3 No lovelier antiphon
In all high heav’n is known
Than “Jesus Christ be praised!”
There to the_ eternal Word
The_ eternal psalm is heard:
“May Jesus Christ be praised!” |
| 2 When mirth for music longs,
This is my song of songs:
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”
God’s holy house of prayer
Hath none that can compare
With “Jesus Christ be praised!” | 4 Ye nations of mankind,
In this your concord find:
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”
Let all the earth around
Ring joyous with the sound:
“May Jesus Christ be praised!” |

Text: Public domain

✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.
P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

We pause to remember our sins before our gracious Heavenly Father

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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

Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16; antiphon: v. 17

P I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

C **What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?**

P I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

C **Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.**

P O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.
You have loosed my bonds.

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.**

**I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.**

Kyrie (*sung*)

p. 204

C **Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria in Excelsis

p. 204

1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.

Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray...

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

✠ The Compassion of the Lord ✠

Isaiah 55:6–9

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem

“Come, All Who Thirst”

arr. H. Hopson

Epistle

✠ The Advance of the Gospel ✠

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁹For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse (sung)

p. 205

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**These things are written that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

✠ Laborers in the Vineyard ✠

Matthew 20:1–16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

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

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

✠ Confession of Faith ✠

Nicene Creed

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 ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

Sermon Hymn

“Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling”

#827

1 Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,
“Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting—
Who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth;
Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
“Here am I, send me, send me”?

2 Some take up His task in morning,
To their Lord responding soon;
Some are called in heat of midday,
Others late in afternoon;
Even as the sun is setting,
Some are sent into the fields,
There to gather in the bounty
That God’s Word so richly yields.

3 For as rain and snow from heaven
Water seeds in dusty soil,
Causing them to bud and flower,
Giving bread to those who toil;
So the Lord sends forth His promise,
Words of life and joy and peace—
Never void to Him returning,
Bearing fruit with great increase.

4 Hearken to the Lord whose coming
Marks the time when grace shall end,
When with His angelic reapers
He in glory shall descend.
Soon the night, the final harvest;
Soon the time for work shall cease.
Then the souls His grace has garnered
Shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.

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110001400*

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Recognition of Faithful Service + Mrs. Sandra Barry +

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 Hymn (Choir Anthem) “Let’s Sing about God’s Love”

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*)

✠ The Sacrament of the Altar ✠

Stand

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.**

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

Sanctus (*sung*)

p. 208

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
 Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
 Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
 Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

p. 209

P Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:
C Our Father who art in heaven...

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

p. 209

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

Agnus Dei (*sung*)

p. 210

1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world away;
 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world away;
 Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

✠ Distribution of the Sacrament ✠

“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”

#623

1 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray
 That we may feast on You today;
 Beneath these forms of bread and wine
 Enrich us with Your grace divine.

2 Give us, who share this wondrous food,
 Your body broken and Your blood,
 The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,
 The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.

3 By faith Your Word has made us bold
 To seize the gift of love retold;

All that You are we here receive,
 And all we are to You we give.

4 One bread, one cup, one body, we,
 Rejoicing in our unity,
 Proclaim Your love until You come
 To bring Your scattered loved ones home.

5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:
 O keep us steadfast till that day
 When each will be Your welcomed guest
 In heaven's high and holy feast.

Text: Public domain

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

#738

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could
destroy:

Be there at our waking, and give us, we
pray,

Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the
break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the
plane and the lathe:

Be there at our labors, and give us, we
pray,

Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the
noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to
embrace:

Be there at our homing, and give us, we
pray,

Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve
of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose
presence is balm:

Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we
pray,

Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the
end of the day.

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“How Wide the Love of Christ”

#535

1 How wide the love of Christ!
It knows not class or race
But holds our one humanity
Within its broad embrace.

2 How long the love of Christ!
Its patience will not cease
Until this broken world is bound
In everlasting peace.

3 How high the love of Christ!
Beyond all thought it soars,

And yet upon our passing lives
Unmeasured mercy pours.

4 How deep the love of Christ,
Descending to a cross!
He bears within His wounded hands
All human pain and loss.

5 All praise to You, O Christ,
For love whose depth and height,
Whose length and breadth fill time and space
With endless life and light!

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Stand

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.

Nunc Dimittis

p. 211

1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:

A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.

**2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;**

**For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

Closing Prayer

- P** Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
C **for His steadfast love endures forever.**
P Let us pray...

Benediction

p. 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

“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise”

#680

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Thine the amen Thine the praise
Alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head
Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story
Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up
lifted up.</p> <p>2 Thine the life eternally
Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree
All the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing
Gone the pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was
loss lifted high.</p> <p>3 Thine the truly Thine the yes
Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee
Thine the glory yet to be</p> | <p>Then the ringing and the singing
Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore
evermore.</p> <p>4 Thine the kingdom Thine the prize
Thine the wonder full surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise
Then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story
Then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast
at Thy feast.</p> <p>5 Thine the glory in the night
No more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree
Then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy
Celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness
only Thee only Thee.</p> |
|---|--|

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Postlude

“Psalm XIX”

B. Marcello



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANKS

Organist: Ruth Sievers

Adult Choir – under the direction of Ruth Sievers

Lector: Sunday: Bill Leise; Wednesday: Rev. George Mrochen

Altar Care: Sunday: Cathy Kumke; Wednesday: Sandy Barry

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book. Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.
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Announcements & Notes:

A BIG THANKYOU to everyone who helped or participated in yesterday's Veteran's Luncheon. Your service was greatly appreciated as together we thanked our community's veterans for THEIR SERVICE!

News from the Stewardship Committee! YOU'VE GOT MAIL!! Please take home your personal letter from the Board of Stewardship with the details of our October Stewardship program. Letters are in alphabetical order on a table in the narthex.

The Ladies Guild's September meeting is a free "Welcome Luncheon" served at 1pm on Tuesday, September 26th in the Timothy Room. All women are invited for food, fellowship, and to hear the Guild's plans for the coming year. So that the Board can provide enough food, please sign the attendance sheet on the clipboard outside the church office or call the office at (708) 423-1040. Please come and bring a friend!

This Tuesday evening, September 26th, the St. Paul Voter's Assembly will meet at 7:00 in the sanctuary. All voters are encouraged to attend.

Today after our worship service, please plan to come to the St Timothy Room for some food and fellowship and conversation in thanksgiving for Sandy Barry's for 15 years of service to St. Paul as our Secretary / Administrative Assistant. (Sunday Bible Study will resume next week.)

Wednesday Evening Communion Services are held in the Sanctuary at 6pm.

Thursday Evening Bible Study with Curtis Simonson is at 6:30pm in the Timothy Room. This Thursday is on the miracles of Jesus. All are invited!

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 Ken Grining, 16400 Harold Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452.

Please pray for these members of our St. Paul family

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
Mary Ann Colander
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.
Bob Marcinkowski
Barbara Prendergast

Nancy Bundley
Rosa Richardson

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Roberta & Carlos Owens
Roy Strassner
Dee DeLaurentis
Dorothy Kroll
Emily Feehan
LeRoy Bitner
Bob Hessert
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
Carl Hoppe
Charley Heitz
Sophia Salus
Justin & Ashley Fasel
Frank Coglinase
Gene Wawrzynkowski
Kimberly Rooney
Helena Hoffman
Evelyn & Ron Konieski
Audrey Metes
Richard DeSaga
Ken Wenten
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
Terry Hepton
Hillary Pittelko
Marge Schmidt
Sue Berg

We pray for those who grieve:

For Bill Leise, Carol Small and all the family and friends of Evelyn Leise, Called from this life yesterday (Saturday), September 23. Visitation will be at Kosary Funeral Home Monday, 3:00 – 8:00 and also Tuesday morning here at St. Paul from 10:00 – 11:00, with funeral service at 11:00.

For the family and friends of Patricia Murdoch called from this life on September 17, 2023 to her eternal rest with Jesus. The funeral was held at St. Paul on September 22nd.

For Elaine Kruski and family on the death of her husband, Daniel Kruski, called from this life to his eternal rest with Jesus on September 17, 2023 to his eternal rest with Jesus. The funeral was held on September 20th. Friends of our congregation through our Faith in Action Food Pantry.

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