



Our *hearts*
in HIS *hand*

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly (1 Peter 4:8).

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
LWML SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040
Pastor John Moeller

www.stpauloaklawn.org
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

As We Gather

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has affirmed each woman's identity as a child of God and her relationship with Jesus Christ. Lutheran Women in Mission are women of faith, empowered for active service in Jesus' name and bold support of missions through Mite Box offerings. As Christians, we have been given the kingdom of God to bear its fruit.

Prelude

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

P. Manz

Opening Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

#850 sts. 1, 2, & 4

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 God of grace and God of glory,
On Your people pour Your pow'r;
Crown Your ancient Church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour. | Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days. |
| 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise. | 4 Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving You whom we adore,
Serving You whom we adore. |

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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.

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.

We pause in silence to remember our sins before Almighty God...

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.

✠ WORD ✠

Psalm

Psalm 86:5–12

- L** For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
C **abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.**
- L** Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.
C **In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me.**
- L** There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.
C **All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.**
- L** For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.
C **Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.**
- L** I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.
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.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
O God, You make the minds of Your faithful people to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

✠ I Will Put My Spirit Within You ✠

Ezekiel 36:22–27

²²“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. ²³And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my just decrees.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem of Praise Solo

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

African American Spiritual

Epistle

✠ Called to be Holy ✠

1 Peter 1:18–22

¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, ²¹who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. ²²Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

✠ The Great Commandment ✠

Mark 12:28–31

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁸And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” ²⁹Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Confession of Faith

The LWML Pledge

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption, we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

“Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service”

#848

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Lord, whose love through humble service
Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken,
Offered mercy's perfect deed,
We, Your servants, bring the worship
Not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to Your purpose
Ev'ry gift that You impart. | 2 Still Your children wander homeless;
Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom;
Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion
Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love Your Spirit kindles
Still to save and make us whole. |
|--|---|

3 As we worship, grant us vision,
Till Your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness,
Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens
Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving,
Your abundant life to share.

4 Called by worship to Your service,
Forth in Your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged,
Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort,
Counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom
May Your mercy know and live.

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Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please contact the church office.*

Offertory Meditation

✠ 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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father, Who art in heaven...

Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

✠ DISTRIBUTION of the SACRAMENT ✠

Hymn

“Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face”

#631, sts. 1-4

- 1 Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things
unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand the_ eternal
grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.
- 2 Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of
heav’n;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv’n.

- 3 This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heav’nly table spread for me;
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with
Thee.
- 4 I have no help but Thine; nor do I need
Another arm but Thine to lean upon.
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in Thy might,
Thy might alone.

Text: Public domain

Hymn

“Come, My Soul, with Every Care”

#779

- 1 Come, my soul, with ev’ry care,
Jesus loves to answer prayer;
He Himself has bid thee pray,
Therefore will not turn away.
- 2 Thou art coming to a King,
Large petitions with thee bring;
For His grace and pow’r are such
None can ever ask too much.
- 3 With my burden I begin:
Lord, remove this load of sin;
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt,
Set my conscience free from guilt.

- 4 Lord, Thy rest to me impart,
Take possession of my heart;
There Thy blood-bought right maintain
And without a rival reign.
- 5 While I am a pilgrim here,
Let Thy love my spirit cheer;
As my guide, my guard, my friend,
Lead me to my journey’s end.
- 6 Show me what is mine to do;
Ev’ry hour my strength renew.
Let me live a life of faith;
Let me die Thy people’s death.

Text: Public domain

Communion Blessing

- P** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Closing Prayer

Psalm 136:1; Psalm 34:8, adapted

- P** Let us pray together.

- C** **Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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

“Serve the Lord with Gladness”

#LWML Hymn by E. Lewerenz

1 “Serve the Lord with gladness!”

It is He alone

Who redeemed us sinners, Guides us as His own

To enjoy the blessings, Of His love and grace,

Will at last in glory, Meet us face to face.

Onward, then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:

“Serve the Lord with gladness!”

Glorify His name.

2 “Serve the Lord with gladness!”

He gave us command

To proclaim His Gospel, Now in every land

So that fellow sinners, May, like us, be blest.

Leading them to Jesus, We can serve Him best.

Onward, then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:

“Serve the Lord with gladness!”

Glorify His name!

3 “Serve the Lord with gladness!”

There’s no greater joy

Than to serve the Master, Work in His employ.

As we build His kingdom, Angels, too, rejoice

Over every sinner, Brought to hear His voice.

Onward, then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:

“Serve the Lord with gladness!”

Glorify His name!

Postlude

“Postlude in D”

J. K. F. Fischer



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

Vocalist: Bill Leise

Lector: Audrey Mitchell

Altar Care: Denise Murray

Service adapted from *Lutheran Service Book*, Divine Service, Setting Four, pages 203–212.

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About the author

Dr. Dale A. Meyer is president emeritus and professor emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Retired since 2020, he served for 15 years as Seminary president. He was a speaker on “The Lutheran Hour” radio program and hosted the television show “On Main Street.” He has authored many books and articles, including *Timely Reflections: A Minute a Day with Dale Meyer*. Dr. Meyer has been speaking and preaching for over 40 years. He and his wife, Diane, live in Collinsville, Illinois. They are parents to two grown daughters and have five grandsons.



Live a God-Pleasing Life!

This year's stewardship theme is **Live a God-Pleasing Life!** We have been “*created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do*” (Ephesians 2:10). Together we'll learn how God not only prepares the work we are to do, but prepares and equips us, his stewards, to do that work.

Be sure to join us as we grow together in God's Word. Our worship and emailed Bible Studies will focus on the following themes:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| October 3 | Faith is the Foundation <i>(with special guest Deaconess Lori Wilbert)</i> |
| October 10 | Discipleship is the Path |
| October 17 | Generosity is the Hallmark |

We can only be overwhelmed at the grace of God which has created us, saved us, and daily offers us forgiveness and strength to be stewards who please him.

Commitment Sunday is October 17th, which will be a day of our joyful response to that grace of God. We encourage everyone to return your completed commitment card on that day. Following the service, the Board of Stewardship will provide us with a light continental brunch of “*Muffins & Munchies.*” See you there!



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

The Greene Family	Cathy Gleason
Julie & Larry Gurga	Helen Bonder
Janice Przybycien	Kevin Hickey
Mary Ann Colander	Art Hornburg
Melva Smith	Sue Lilja
Carol Small	Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski	Beverly Sellers
Lenore Curran	Betty Beegle
Delphine Cherry	Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank	Deb Skopec
Herta Iversen	Loretta Frank
Jane & Freddie Giacobbe	Marge Rochlitz
Ron Hickey	Shirley Smulkis
Ingrid Lesko	Katherine Hice
Gloria Meyer	Jan Briede
Delores Stegemann	Connie Braun
Kurt Seehofer	The Polezoes Family
Lincoln & Parker Alex	Patricia Murdoch
Gloria Crook	Lois Kaminske
Patty Sellers	Janet Varnagis
Dawn McNicholas	Laverne Abraham

Special Prayers

- For Rev. Valdas Ausra and his wife Nora of Zion Lutheran—Oak Lawn—recovering from COVID
- For Rev. Steven Anderson, was hospitalized last week, thankfully on the mend.
- For Rev. Mike Stein and the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Beecher as their beloved church building, built in 1865, burned to the ground in a devastating fire last Sunday.

Prayers for God's comfort for those who grieve:

- For Carrie Bergstrom and all the friends and family of her mother, Katherine Fleischmann, called from this life on September 20th. Services have been held.

Announcements & Notes:

- The next Voters' Meeting is Tuesday, September 28, at 7pm in the sanctuary.
- Operation Barnabas will host their 5th Annual Veteran's Luncheon on Sat., Oct. 9; Reservations are required and due by Oct. 4. Call the church office.
- LWML Zones 12 & 13 will host the Fall Rally on Sunday, October 10 from 1-5pm. Reservations are required. Flyers are in the narthex.
- Evening worship services are held every Wednesday at 6PM.

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Nora Maculitis	Patrick Pasqua Sr.
Larry Fetcho's son-in-law, Brad	Eugene Marcinkowski
Denise DeLaurentis	Dorothy Kroll
Anthony Krcelic, Jr.	Eric Kessling
Bob Hessert	Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta	Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow	Janet Trierweiler
Alan Hecke	Kim Lamberth
Matt Favero	Sandra Wilson
Rev. Bob Mitchell	Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi	Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher	The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross	Brenda Gurgel
Gloria Folsom	Autumn Kessling
Elizabeth Hoefler	Alan Iversen
Ron Lunt	Christopher Kosary
Sandy Plath	Iris McCoy
Shirley Demyres	Raquel Rameriz
Nick & Bridget DeAngelo	Henry Bonder
Sue Hardin	Justin & Ashley Fasel
Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr.	Kyle Hughes
Elaine Hoffstetter	Fred Raddatz
Selma & John Carmichael	Allyson Seehofer
Bernadette & Rich Trusk	Dana Kahn
Donald Hakanson	Carl Hoppe
Paul Noffke	Sue Sortino
Pam Brown	Lisa Sanders
Shawn Harland	Ann Herold
Barb Potter	Wayne Volk
Charley Heitz	Sharon Bryant
Doris Potts	Brad Benfield
Doreen Holford	Janice Hernandez
Donna Santi	Judy Collins
Paul Sowa	Maryann Krieg (Wilke)
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.	Knox Christensen
Cathy Becker	Lois Kiefer
George Lilja	Tim Buckley
Donna Patri	Skip Sorensen
Joe Thomas	Kristen Will
Logan Bliss	Debbie Guarascio
Phyllis Hicks	

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