



19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
STEWARDSHIP 1
"LIVE A GOD PLEASING LIFE"
OCTOBER 3, 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

"FAITH IS THE FOUNDATION"

As We Gather

"Faith is the Foundation" is our theme this week as we focus on how to *Live a God-Pleasing Life!* "...without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that He exists and that He blesses those who earnestly seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). Through faith, the Holy Spirit enables us to become the God-pleasing stewards that He wants us to be. Our stewardship is an expression of our faith, as we continually trust in our loving Creator to provide all that we need for this life, even as we share His gifts and anticipate eternity with Him.

Prelude

"Prelude in G Major"

D. Buxtehude

Opening Hymn

"O Day of Rest and Gladness"

#906 sts. 1, 3 & 4

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 O day of rest and gladness,
O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness,
Most beautiful, most bright;
This day the high and lowly,
Through ages joined to bless,
Sing, "Holy, holy, holy,"
The triune God confess. | We journey on, believing,
Renewed with heav'nly might,
From grace more grace receiving,
On this blest day of light. |
| 3 This day, God's people meeting,
His Holy Scripture hear;
His living presence greeting,
Through bread and wine made near. | △ 4 That light our hope sustaining,
We walk the pilgrim way,
At length our rest attaining,
Our endless Sabbath day.
We sing to Thee our praises,
O Father, Spirit, Son;
The Church her voice upraises
To Thee, blest Three in One. |

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Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

2 Corinthians 5:17; 9:6–8, 15

P If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

C **The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.**

P The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

C **Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

P And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

C **Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!**

Confession and Absolution

P With genuine thanks for our Creator’s merciful gifts, we also remember and confess our sins to Him in heartfelt humility.

We pause to reflect on our sins and our need for a Savior.

C **Almighty God, who judges all people with equity and truth, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful, and to that sin we have added transgressions in thought, word, and deed. We have not lived as responsible stewards at all times. We have not shown full care for Your creation and have not sought new ways to express the thanks of our lives. Imploring Your mercy, we repent of our sin. On account of Christ’s suffering and death, have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive all in our lives that is evil and wrong and with the power of the Holy Spirit, move us to serve You faithfully.**

P The eternal and gracious God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May our gracious God keep you in His care and lead you to greater faith through our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 24:1–6; antiphon: Psalm 3:8

P Salvation belongs to the Lord; Your blessing be on Your people!

C **The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,**

P for He has founded it up on the seas and established it upon the rivers.

C **Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place?**

P He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

C **He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.**

P Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

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.**

Salvation belongs to the Lord; Your blessing be on Your people!

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray together,

C **Almighty God, all that we have is from Your loving hand. Give us grace, that we may honor You with all that You have given us, and keep us mindful of the account we must one day give to Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us. In His holy name, Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

✠ The Sacrifice of Isaac ✠

Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac.

And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem of Praise Duet

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

arr. M. Pooler

Epistle

✠ By Faith... ✠

Hebrews 11:6–19

Without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

✠ A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed ✠

Matthew 9:18–26

P **The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 9th Chapter**

C **Glory to You, O Lord**

While [Jesus] was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples. And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.” Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well.

And when Jesus came to the ruler’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. And the report of this went through all that district.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to You, O Christ**

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.**

Sermon Hymn

“All Depends on Our Possessing”

#732 sts. 1-4

1 All depends on our possessing
God’s abundant grace and blessing,
Though all earthly wealth depart.
They who trust with faith unshaken
By their God are not forsaken
And will keep a dauntless heart.

2 He who to this day has fed me
And to many joys has led me
Is and ever shall be mine.
He who ever gently schools me,
He who daily guides and rules me
Will remain my help divine.

3 Many spend their lives in fretting
Over trifles and in getting
Things that have no solid ground.
I shall strive to win a treasure
That will bring me lasting pleasure
And that now is seldom found.

4 When with sorrow I am stricken,
Hope anew my heart will quicken;
All my longing shall be stilled.
To His loving-kindness tender
Soul and body I surrender,
For on God alone I build.

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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.*

Faith Journey Speaker

Deaconess Lori Wilbert

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

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Prepare our hearts to give You thanks, O God, and make all that we say and do an offering of praise for the salvation You have so graciously given through Jesus Christ, our Lord. With saints and angels all around we praise and magnify your glorious name, now and forever, Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Remembering His life-giving passion and death, His glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again, we give thanks to You and ask You to bless us, so that all we who partake of Christ's holy body and of His precious blood may be filled with Your heavenly peace and joy. Hear us as we pray together in His name, and as He has taught us...

Lord's Prayer

- C** **Our Father who art in heaven...**

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

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

✠ Distribution of the Sacrament ✠

Hymn

“Your Table I Approach”

#628

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Your table I approach;
Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart
Prove hurtful to me there. | 4 Search not how this takes place,
This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more
Than what we think could be. |
| 2 Lord, I confess my sins
And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find
Forgiveness at Your hands. | 5 O grant, most blessed Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind. |
| 3 Your body and Your blood,
Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord,
In blest reality. | 6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light. |

Text: Public domain

Hymn

“I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”

#729

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free. | 4 I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev’ry day and hour supplying
All my need. |
| 2 I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now. | 5 I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail. |
| 3 I am trusting Thee for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy
By Thy blood. | 6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all. |

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

P Let us pray together,

C O Lord, grant that the lips that have sung Your praise in the sanctuary may glorify You in the world, that the ears that have heard the voice of Your songs may be closed to the voices of clamor and dispute, that the eyes that have seen Your great love may also behold Your blessed hope, that the tongues that have confessed Your name may ever speak the truth, and that the bodies of all who have tasted of Your Son's living body and blood may be restored to newness of life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. 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

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

#733, sts. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6

1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,

From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

Text: Public domain

Postlude

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

H. Fleischer

Faith is the Foundation

Have you ever tried to compare yourself to the heroes of faith that we read about throughout Scripture and whose exploits are capsulized in Hebrews 11? Most of the time, we come up short, don't we? When is the last time you parted the waters of a river with your stick? Have you slayed any giants lately? How many years have you spent as a spy in service to your country?

We remember the feats of courage and strength while often-times forgetting about the failures of the men and women whose names are sprinkled throughout the pages of Scripture. We forget that they were not bigger-than-life people; they were simply people chosen and equipped by God to carry out his work in his world. They are people commended for their faith, even though there is evidence that, at times, their faith faltered.

We are not unlike those heroes. We, too, are called to *Live a God-Pleasing Life!* and we, too, please God only through faith. *"And without faith it is impossible to please God . . ."* (Hebrews 11:6). At times, our faith, just like those biblical heroes, falters. Then we find it is God who is faithful – faithful to forgive, faithful to renew, and faithful to equip us for further service as his stewards.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

Vocalists: Marilyn Bitner & Susan E. Volk

Lector: Marilyn Bitner

Altar Care: Cathy Kumke

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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

We pray:

- *For Danielle Pintozzi, Sandy Barry's sister. At 8 mos. pregnant, she is now in ICU with Covid.*
- *For Heather Turro and her husband Josh. Heather is the niece of John & Jo Ann Stiso. They've experienced the loss of the preborn child she had been carrying.*
- *For missionaries David & Joyce Erber and all who serve in the mission field*

Announcements & Notes:

- A door offering will be received today to support the work of Deaconess, Lori Wilbert's prison ministry, *Behind the Wall*;
- Operation Barnabas will host their 5th Annual Veteran's Luncheon on Sat., Oct. 9. Monday, October 4th is the last day to register.
- To benefit Operation Blessing, Moraine Valley Church is hosting their Annual Pancake Brunch & Bake Sale on Sat., Oct. 23 from 8am-1pm. Flyers are in the narthex and wings;
- Evening worship services are held every Wednesday at 6PM.

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Heather & Josh Turro	Nora Maculitis
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
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	Karl Kraut
Jerry Koenig	Justin & Ashley Fasel
Patrick Pasqua Sr.	Danielle Pintozzi

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