



"IF ANYONE WOULD COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF
AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME."

THE 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 3, 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

“Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart” (Jeremiah 15:16). The prophet Jeremiah didn’t praise God with these words because his life was super easy; he rejoiced in the Lord *even though* his life was full of problems. Now like Jeremiah, as we are surrounded by the evil of this world, we cling to our good and gracious God, learning to trust His Word for our deliverance from our enemies of sin and death. The living, active, delightful voice of our Savior guarantees His ongoing presence in our lives, and because of this, we rejoice! As we gather in the presence of God today, let us echo Jeremiah’s words of praise: “Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart!”

Prelude

“The Lord, My God, Be Praised”

G. Kaufmann

Opening Hymn

“The Lord, My God, Be Praised”

#794

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 The Lord, my God, be praised,
My light, my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me
Has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield
And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield
New blessings on my way.</p> <p>2 The Lord, my God, be praised,
My trust, my life from heaven,
The Father’s own dear Son,
Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned
With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith
The highest heav’nly good.</p> | <p>3 The Lord, my God, be praised,
My hope, my life from heaven,
The Spirit, whom the Son
In love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart
And gives my spirit pow’r,
Help, comfort, and support
In sorrow’s gloomy hour.</p> <p>△4 The Lord, my God, be praised,
My God, the ever-living,
To whom the heav’nly host
Their laud and praise are giving.
The Lord, my God, be praised,
In whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son,
And God the Holy Ghost.</p> |
|---|---|

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Invocation

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

C Amen.

Introit

Psalm 37:5–7; antiphon: v. 4

P Delight yourself in the Lord,

C and He will give you the desires of your heart.

P Commit your way to the Lord;

C trust in Him, and He will act.

P He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,

C and your justice as the noonday.

P Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him;

C fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

C as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Delight yourself in the Lord,
and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the evil of sin and death at the cross for our redemption.

C Enable us to stand in the goodness of our Savior so that we are not overcome by evil, but that we may overcome evil with good;

P through the same 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

✠ Words of Joy and Delight ✠

Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? ¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

✠ Marks of the True Christian ✠

Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

✠ Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection ✠

*Matthew 16:21-28***P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.** (*Spoken*)

²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**✠ **Confession of Faith** ✠*The 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

"Christ Be My Leader"

#861

1 Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the
way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

2 Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as

sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

3 Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its
stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

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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

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 ✠

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

Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father...

The Lord's Prayer

C Our Father, who art in Heaven...

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

✠ Distribution of the Sacrament ✠

Hymn

“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”

#545

1 Word of God, come down on earth,
Living rain from heav'n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth
Faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere You;
Word made flesh, we long to hear You.

2 Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die,
Crucified for our salvation,
Saving Word, the world restoring,
Speak to us, Your love outpouring.

3 Word that caused blind eyes to see,
Speak and heal our mortal blindness;
Deaf we are: our healer be;
Loose our tongues to tell Your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken,
Heal the world, by sin now broken.

4 Word that speaks God's tender love,
One with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above,
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one bread feed us.

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Hymn

“You Are the Way, through You Alone”

#526

1 Word of God, come down on earth,
Living rain from heav'n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth
Faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere You;
Word made flesh, we long to hear You.

2 Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die,
Crucified for our salvation,
Saving Word, the world restoring,
Speak to us, Your love outpouring.

3 Word that caused blind eyes to see,
Speak and heal our mortal blindness;
Deaf we are: our healer be;
Loose our tongues to tell Your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken,
Heal the world, by sin now broken.

4 Word that speaks God's tender love,
One with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above,
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one bread feed us.

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Hymn

“Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way”

#857

1 Lord, help us walk Your servant way
Wherever love may lead
And, bending low, forgetting self,
Each serve the other's need.

2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord,
But pow'r You laid aside.

You lived Your years in servanthood;
In lowliness You died.

3 No golden scepter but a towel
You place within the hands
Of those who seek to follow You
And live by Your commands.

4 You bid us bend our human pride
Nor count ourselves above
The lowest place, the meanest task
That waits the gift of love.

5 Lord, help us walk Your servant way
Wherever love may lead
And, bending low, forgetting self,
Each serve the other's need.

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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 Prayer

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through the gracious gift of Your Son's body and blood. Now that we have received our Savior's goodness, help us now as we go from here to face the evil of our world in the strength and blessing of Him who died for us all; 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

P Do not be overcome by evil,

C but overcome evil with good.

P Go forth with the blessing of our good and gracious God:

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

"With the Lord Begin Your Task"

#869 sts. 1-2; 4-5

1 With the Lord begin your task;
Jesus will direct it.
For His aid and counsel ask;
Jesus will perfect it.
Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise,
And when day is ended,
In His name then close your eyes;
Be to Him commended.

2 Let each day begin with prayer,
Praise, and adoration.
On the Lord cast ev'ry care;
He is your salvation.

Morning, evening, and at night
Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter's might,
With His presence cheer you.

4 If your task be thus begun
With the Savior's blessing,
Safely then your course will run,
Toward the promise pressing.
Good will follow ev'rywhere
While you here must wander;
You at last the joy will share
In the mansions yonder.

5 Thus, Lord Jesus, ev'ry task
Be to You commended;
May Your will be done, I ask,
Until life is ended.

Jesus, in Your name begun
Be the day's endeavor;
Grant that it may well be done
To Your praise forever.

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Postlude

“With the Lord Begin Your Task”

T. Stelzer



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANKS

Organist: Ruth Sievers

Vocalist: Stan Wirtschoreck

Lector: Sunday: David Witkosky; Wednesday: Rev. George Mrochen

Altar Care: Sunday: Ruth Diver; Wednesday: Sandy Barry

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Announcements & Notes:

The Ladies Guild will have a Bake Sale on Grandparent's Day, which is Sunday, September 10th. Please browse our tables in the school hall after the 9am service for delicious treats from our famous St. Paul bakers. To St. Paul Guild members – Thank you for your donations! Please bring your baked or bought goodies already plated, priced and ready to sell by 8:45am on the 10th.

Operation Blessing will host a Spaghetti Dinner here in our St. Paul gym on Saturday, September 9th from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Come and enjoy all-you-can-eat spaghetti with meat sauce, sausage, salad, drinks and dessert. Take out is available! The cost is \$12 adults; \$6 children ages 4-10. All proceeds benefit Operation Blessing of Southwest Chicagoland.

The St. Paul Adult Choir will begin weekly rehearsals after the Wednesday church service on Wednesday, September 13th at 7:15 p.m. in the Timothy Room. Singers of all voice parts are welcome!

ATTENTION: ST. PAUL WOMEN! September 11th is the deadline for registering for the District's LWML Fall Gathering on Friday, September 29th and Saturday, September 30th at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lombard, IL. All the information you need, including costs, times each day, features of both the ingathering of supplies for Deaconess Lori Wilbert's Stateville Prison ministry – also the session themselves, - AND registration instructions) are in the flyer available on the narthex table by the front door. You may also see Ruth Sievers, our LWML zone secretary for more details.

Walcamp will host an adult only event, "An Evening Under the Stars" to celebrate 60 years of Outdoor Ministry on Saturday, September 16th. Tickets are available online: \$30 per person – Meals Only is \$15 per person. Enjoy live music provided by Voice Among Thee, food, and fellowship throughout the night. Early arrival activities such as archery and hatchet throwing begin at 4pm. Caricature artist begins at 4:30pm. A Wine-Pull with additional chance for prizes, a basket raffle will be held (tickets 3/\$20). Hayrides leave the lodge every 30 minutes from 4:30-6:30pm. Enjoy canoeing, corn hole, and games by the lake. Gourmet dinner options include: Artisan Cheeseburger, Grilled Chicken Breast or Grilled Portabella Mushroom. Water, soda, coffee, and dessert are included. You may also bring your own food, beer or wine. For information, call (815) 784-5141 or visit www.WALCAMP.org/STARS. Walcamp is located at 32653 Five Points Road in Kingston, IL 60145. Flyers are on the table in the narthex.

Bible Classes continue each Sunday Morning in the Timothy Room after our worship service. Grab a cup of coffee and something to eat and join us! Sept. 10th will be a special day. Bill Leise was our circuit's delegate to the LCMS Convention at the end of July, and he'll be sharing some of the happenings of the convention during our Bible Study time.

Thursday Evening Bible Study is held at 6:30pm in the Timothy Room led by Curtis Simonson. You can join any time and everyone is invited!

Wednesday Evening Communion Services are currently being held in the air-conditioned Timothy Room. Service begins 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 Jan Briede, Bremontowne Manor, 16130 Oak Park Avenue, Tinley Park, IL 60477

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

Rev. George Mrochen
Rich & Jan Przybycien
Rev. and Judy Anderson
Sue & Bill Volk
Arthur Gerth
Ingrid Lesko
Patricia Murdoch
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
Evelyn Leise

**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 Bondar
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
Diane Johannes

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 Wente
Herbert Kleeman
Margaret Lundgreen
Julie King
Debby Cabera
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
Hillary Pittelko

Prayers of Thanksgiving

For Sue Marcinkowski who celebrated a special birthday on 9/2.

For Pastor John and Martha celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary today!

Please let the church office know when your need for our congregational prayers is over.

(708) 423-1040