



7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 7, 2024

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 Puritans who first came in 1620 saw America as a sort of promised land, given to them by God. Throughout the history of our country, Americans have enjoyed rich gifts granted by our bountiful God. As Christians, we believe that while America continues to be seen as a promised land by “your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,” the eternal Promised Land of heaven still awaits us and all who believe. As we thank God for the blessings of this great nation, we come in humble repentance for our personal and national faults and pray for His guidance and continued blessings for the future of the republic. But all the while, we look ahead by faith to the eternal Promised Land, made certain by the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prelude

“By Grace I’m Saved”

H. Metzger

Opening Hymn

“By Grace I’m Saved”

#566 sts. 1-4

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 By grace I’m saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain:
By grace you too will life obtain.</p> <p>2 By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer,
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.</p> | <p>3 By grace God’s Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit
That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav’nly throne.</p> <p>4 By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
As long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration,
What in His Word our God commands,
Our faith in what our God has done
Depends on grace—grace through His Son.</p> |
|---|---|

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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

P Lift up your eyes to the Lord!

C For He is filled with mercy.

P Plead with Him for what you need.

C For He is filled with power.

P Be content with His ways.

C For His grace is sufficient.

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, each of us has rebelled against God and rejected His will, His ways, and His commands. We were born in sin and weakness, and so we cannot escape our rebellious condition on our own.

We pause to remember our sins before our gracious Heavenly Father

- P** Heavenly Father,
- C** **we confess that we have rejected Your ways and followed our own. We have rebelled against Your almighty rule and tried to be the masters of our own lives. We have failed to love You with all of our heart. We have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves, and we have failed to love our enemies as You've commanded. By Your mercy and grace, forgive us O Lord.**
- P** In the power, mercy, and grace of almighty God, Jesus Christ died and was raised for you. Because of Christ and His all-sufficient grace, God forgives you. 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. His grace is sufficient for us. His power is made perfect in weakness.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit

Ps. 132:13–16; antiphon: Ps. 34:8

- P** Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessèd is the man who takes refuge in him!
- C** For the LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place:
- P** This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.
- C** I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread.
- P** Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy.
- 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.
- Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessèd is the man who takes refuge in him!**

Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray together.
- C** **Lord over all, You ordain the powers that exist in the kingdoms of this world. Order our days in peace, guide our leaders, and prosper the Church, here in this great land and throughout the world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

✠ Ezekiel's Call ✠

Ezekiel 2:1-5

¹ He said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you." ²And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' ⁵And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them."

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

✠ Paul's Vision and His Thorn ✠

2 Corinthians 12:1–10

¹I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise

“Before You Lord, We Bow”

966, sts. 1,2,4, and 5

1 Before You, Lord, we bow,
Our God who reigns above
And rules the world below,
Boundless in pow’r and love.
Our thanks we bring
In joy and praise,
Our hearts we raise
To You, our King!

2 The nation You have blest
May well Your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest,
Protected by Your care.
For this bright day,
For this fair land—
Gifts of Your hand—
Our thanks we pay.

4 Earth, hear your Maker’s voice;
Your great Redeemer own;
Believe, obey, rejoice,
And worship Him alone.
Cast down your pride,
Your sin deplore,
And bow before
The Crucified.

5 And when in pow’r He comes,
Oh, may our native land
From all its rending tombs
Send forth a glorious band,
A countless throng,
With joy to sing
To heav’n’s high King
Salvation’s song!

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Holy Gospel

✠ Jesus Rejected at Nazareth ✠

Mark 6:1–13

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

C Glory to You, O Lord. *(Spoken)*

¹[Jesus] went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands?”

³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. ⁴And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” ⁵And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

⁷And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— ⁹but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. ¹⁰And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. ¹¹And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

✠ Confession of Faith ✠

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came
down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the
virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius
Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according
to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge
both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and
apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the
remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn

“Amazing Grace”

#744

1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!

2 The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.

4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.

5 When we've been there ten thousand
years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Public domain

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

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. For information about regular electronic giving, please call 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

Lord's Prayer

- P** Hear us as we pray together by our Lord's example:
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 ✠

Communion 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.

2 Lord, I confess my sins
And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find
Forgiveness at Your hands.

3 Your body and Your blood,
Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord,
In blest reality.

5 O grant, most blessed Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.

4 Search not how this takes place,
This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more
Than what we think could be.

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

“Fight the Good Fight”

#664

1 Fight the good fight with all your might;
Christ is your strength, and Christ your
right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Your joy and crown eternally.

3 Cast care aside, lean on your guide;
His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove
Christ is your life and Christ your love.

2 Run the straight race through God’s good
grace;
Lift up your eyes, and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near;
He changes not who holds you dear;
Only believe, and you will see
That Christ is all eternally.

Public Domain

“O Christ Our True and Only Light”

#839

1 O Christ, our true and only light,
Enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear Your voice
And in Your fold with us rejoice.

2 Fill with the radiance of Your grace
The souls now lost in error’s maze;
Enlighten those whose inmost minds
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

3 O gently call those gone astray
That they may find the saving way!
Let ev’ry conscience sore oppressed

In You find peace and heav’nly rest.

4 Shine on the darkened and the cold;
Recall the wand’rers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart;
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,

5 That they with us may evermore
Such grace with wond’ring thanks adore
And endless praise to You be giv’n
By all Your Church in earth and heav’n.

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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.

P Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

C His steadfast love endures forever.

- P** Let us pray together,
C We thank You, Lord, for again feeding and nourishing us for our journey through this world to our promised heavenly home. Guide us as we live out Your grace until that day when we experience it in all of its fullness; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Closing Hymn

“God Bless Our Native Land”

#965

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 God bless our native land;
Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save
By Thy great might. | 2 So shall our prayers arise
To God above the skies;
On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry:
God save the state! |
|---|--|

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Postlude

“God Bless America”

I. Berlin





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

Vocalists: Sue Marcinkowski

Lector: Sue Marcinkowski

Altar Flowers: from Terry & Art Hornburg with thanks to God

Altar Care: Martha Moeller

Elders on Duty: Sunday: Dave Kandel, Bill Leise, David Witkosky Wednesday: David Witkosky

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Announcements & Notes:

- Pastor John’s Retirement Service will be at 10am next Sunday morning, July 14th, - one hour later than usual!
- There will be approximately 10 minutes of pre-service music before the 10am service begins next Sunday, July 14th. Come early to hear the special music!
- There is NO Wednesday evening church service on July17th.
- There will be no Evening Bible Study on Friday, July19th.

Please pray for these members of our St. Paul family

Karen Bidus
Sandy Barry
Steve Czerniejewski
George Oberg
Jan Leise
Dawn Schumann
Bob Marcinkowski
Jennifer Garcia
June Hagberg
Dave Purdy
Judy Anderson
Carl Hoppe
Amanda Greene
Janice Janiszewski
Dorothy Pavella
Vic & Marty Both
Rich & Jan Przybycien
Bill Volk
Arthur Gerth
Ingrid Lesko
Jan Briede
Roy Hodgeman
Katherine Hice
Kurt Seehofer
Flora Jones
Graham Jackson
Kevin Hickey
Gloria Meyer
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.
Barbara Prendergast
Nancy Bundley
Rosa Richardson
Sarah Weber

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Roberta & Carlos Owens
Dorothy Kroll
Emily Feehan
LeRoy Bitner
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
Vern Howe
Shawn Harland
Ann Herold
Barb Potter
Wayne Volk
Lance Barrientos
Linda Shuman
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Doreen Holford
Judy Collins
Phyllis Hicks
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.
Cathy Becker
Ken Matz
Jean & Al Zirbel
Carol Loecherbach
Charley Heitz
Sophia Salus
Justin & Ashley Fasel
Frank Coglinase
Gene Wawrzynikowski

Kimberly Rooney
Evelyn & Ron Konieski
Audrey Metes
Richard DeSaga
Ken Went
Margaret Lundgreen
Julie King
Sharon Bryant
Anika Seger
Monica Kato
Herb Kleeman
Debra Kleeman
Sarah Skelton
Barbara Apt
Carrie Aspan
Lisa Anglin
Devon Apt
Tristan Ferry
Hillary Pittelco
Sue Berg
Carol Jean & Tim McPhillips
Evelyn & Ron Konieczki
Katherine Zeleny
Elmo Schultz
Jose Urena
Mike Feyerer
Edward Cyga
Ted Gross
Avery Kenny
Ray Jackson
The DeAngelis Family
Lauren Rossetti
George Dodaro, Sr.
Daniel Musser
Rudy DeAngelis
David Frazone
Anna Stendic
Debby Kehrli

We give thanks to God:

- With Sue Brown as she celebrated her birthday on July 2nd.
- With John Lilja as he celebrates a birthday on July 11th.

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