



*Service of the Word*  
*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*September 6, 2020*



SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3383 EAST LAKE LANSING ROAD  
EAST LANSING, MI 48823

PHONE (517) 351-8541

Pastor Carl E. Ballard  
E-MAIL: [pastor@stpaul-el.org](mailto:pastor@stpaul-el.org)  
[officemanager@stpaul-el.org](mailto:officemanager@stpaul-el.org)

Please consider joining us for Outdoor Worship!

Please keep in mind this is not a departure from social distancing. Congregants must wear masks (*they are provided if you do not have one*). Please remain at least six feet apart from other family groups.

The Praise Team will be sharing in music, and you are invited to read along. Recommendations currently advise not to sing together as a group.

We have provided a bulletin, mask, hand sanitizer, and Kleenex to any who do not already have them.

When sharing the peace, please do so by waving – not touching, hugging, or shaking hands.

We will not be passing the offering plate but have provided an offering box for those who would like to use that to tithe.

For those wishing to partake in Holy Communion, a contactless host and wine will be provided. The host is under a clear seal on top of the foil that covers the wine. You will be the only one to touch the celebration cup's contents.

If at any time you have the following symptoms, please remain home and worship with us on-line: fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and/or new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, and diarrhea.

The building is open to use restrooms observing social distancing and coronavirus prevention guidelines.

If you would feel comfortable to serve as an usher or an assisting minister as we move forward, please let Pastor Carl or the office know.

We are excited for the opportunity to gather together and feel a deep gratitude for the volunteers that have made everything possible.

Thank you for your cooperation during this time.

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

## **BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism as the presiding minister begins:*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

P: Faithful God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✠ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

**C: Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

## Build on a Rock Praise Team

*Built on a rock the church shall stand,  
even when steeples are falling;  
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,  
bells still are chiming and calling—  
calling the young and old to rest,  
calling the souls of those distressed,  
longing for life everlasting.*

*Surely, in temples made with hands  
God the Most High is not dwelling—  
high in the heav'ns his temple stands,  
all earthly temples excelling.  
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above  
deigns to abide with us in love,  
making our bodies his temple.*

*Christ builds a house of living stones:  
we are his own habitation;  
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,  
granting us life and salvation.  
Where two or three will seek his face,  
he in their midst will show his grace,  
blessings upon them bestowing.*

*Yet in this house, an earthly frame,  
Jesus the children is blessing;  
hither we come to praise his name,  
faith in our Savior confessing.  
Jesus to us his Spirit sent,  
making with us his covenant,  
granting his children the kingdom.*

*Through all the passing years, O Lord,  
grant that, when church bells are ringing,  
many may come to hear your Word,  
who here this promise is bringing:  
"I know my own, my own know me;  
you, not the world, my face shall see;  
my peace I leave with you. Amen."*

## **GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## **KYRIE**

**Praise Team**

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.*

*For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.*

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.*

*For the holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.*

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

*Amen.*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray.

**C:** **O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us**

everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song.

### FIRST READING

**Ezekiel 33:7-11**

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM

**Psalms 119:33-40**

*I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)*

<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it to the end.

<sup>34</sup>**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for that is my desire.

<sup>36</sup>**Incline my heart to your decrees  
and not to | unjust gain.**

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;  
give me life in your way.

<sup>38</sup>**Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
which is for those who fear you.**

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
because your judgments are good.

<sup>40</sup>**Behold, I long for your commandments;  
by your righteousness enliven me.**

## **SECOND READING**

**Romans 13:8-14**

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Praise Team**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

## **GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Matthew 18:15-20**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 15“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Carl Ballard**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

In All Our Grief  
Praise Team

*In all our grief and fear we turn to you.  
O God, you know all that we think or do,  
you know the pain we put each other through.*

### **Refrain**

*Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Lord, grant us peace.*

*Help us to put aside the angry word,  
the clenching fist, the wish and will to hurt.  
Teach us the way in which love best is served. **Refrain***

*You did not even spare your only Son.  
He lived our griefs and bore all evil done,  
but through his cross, redemption has been won. **Refrain***

*God, when we suffer all that we can bear,  
then let us know that you in truth are near  
and will not leave us lost in all our fear. **Refrain***

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;**

he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS

A: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*(A brief silence)*

*(Each portion of the prayers ends)*

A: Lord in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## GREETING OF PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our**

daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen

## **SENDING HYMN**

### **Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee Praise Team**

*Joyful, joyful we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,  
praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.*

*All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee.*

*Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine!*

## **DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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<i>Ministers:</i>	All the people of St. Paul Lutheran Church
<i>Presiding Minister:</i>	Pastor Carl Ballard
<i>Reader/Assisting Minister:</i>	Mary Ballard
<i>Music Director:</i>	Elene Kobulashvili
<i>Music Ministers:</i>	Kathy Griffin, Steven Opp, James Tavadze, Stacy Turke

**St. Paul Lutheran Church** uses Vanco eGiving tools, to provide the opportunity for on-line giving. You may use the free GivePlus App (Google Play or Apple Store). On-line giving may also be accomplished on our website at <https://stpaul-el.org/donations/>

**Pastor Carl** has a weekly devotion on our Facebook page, *St. Paul Lutheran Church*.

**Mary Ballard** has a weekly kid's talk on our Facebook page, *St. Paul Lutheran Church*.

**Pastor Carl's** office hours are 2 pm to 6 pm on Tuesdays or by appointment.

**We need Assisting Ministers!** Please either contact Pastor Carl directly or let Norma know of your willingness.

### **Meijer / Simply Give**

The Fall Simply Give campaign will run a total of five weeks from the dates of **Sunday, August 23, 2020, through Saturday, October 24, 2020.**

**Double Match Days** will be held on Friday, September 11, 2020, and Saturday, September 12, 2020. For every \$10 donation card purchased on these dates, Meijer will provide an additional contribution of \$20, bringing the total donation to \$30 for a single customer purchase.

Our Meijer location is: 1350 W. Lake Lansing Road

Purchases of the \$10 donation card must be made at this location to benefit the St. Paul Food Pantry.

Meijer will match up to a maximum amount of \$10,000 for the campaign. Thank you for joining Meijer and St. Paul's Food Pantry as we work to fight hunger. We could not do this without your support.