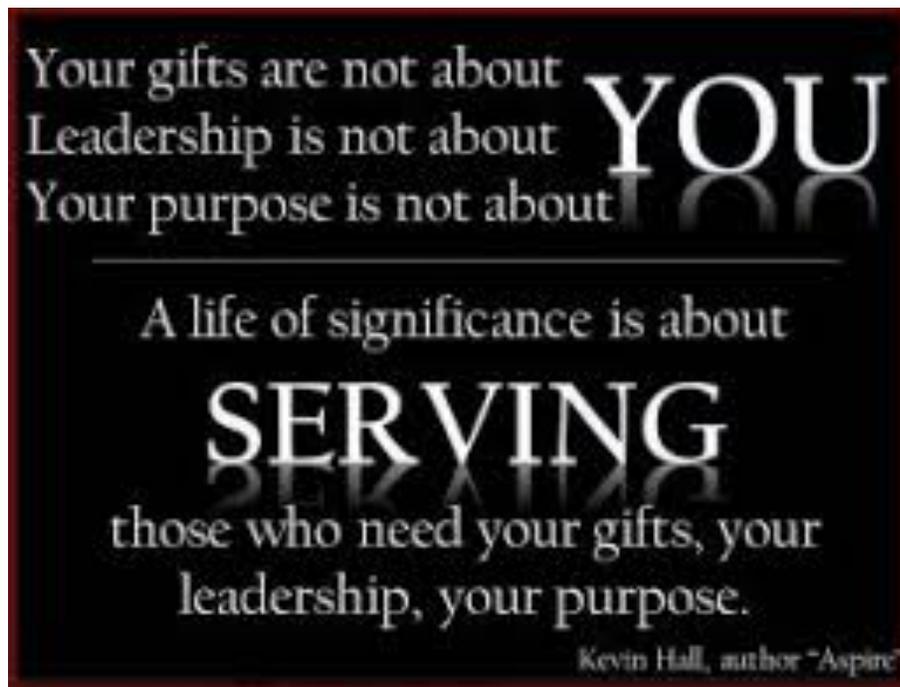


St. Paul's Lutheran Church
18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 23, 2018



Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Mike Tessman, Assistant Minister
Shelley Gibbens, Lay Reader
Rita Jordan, Organist

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Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

(ELW p. 815)

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

GREETING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the + holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ,

The assembly shall kneel, as they are able.

We confess...

That we come believing in our emptiness, believing that we will never have enough, believing that what we have is unworthy.

We confess...

That we come fearful of sharing, fearful of losing our tenuous grip on security, fearful of touching and knowing the pain of others.

We confess...

That we come overwhelmed by the hunger, overwhelmed by the suffering of children near and far, overwhelmed by the endless tales of senseless violence, greed, and death.

We confess...

That we come aching from the weight of the responsibility, aching from the chilling challenge of knowing our abundance, aching from the gnawing awareness that we have much to share.

We pray...

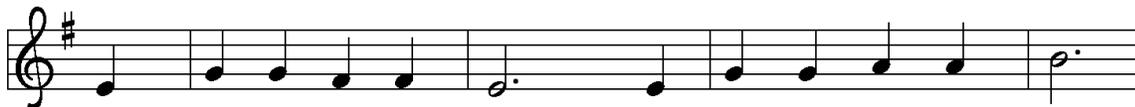
That while we come clinging to our meager offerings, you might loosen our grip and help us to give so that all might thrive.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ takes our offerings and blesses them and us. Christ forgives us our sins and breaks us open for the world. Jesus shows us how we can share all that we are and still

live in abundance. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **God our Father, you created the world and sent your own Son to live among us, made of the same stuff, breathing the same air, marveling at sunrise and sunset just as we do. Help us to participate in the life around and within us as your life, as you living in us and we living in you and in each other. God of love and life, restore us to your peace, renew us through your power and teach us to love all that you have created and to care for the earth as your gift and our home. Amen.**

The assembly is seated

Oremos. **Dios nuestro padre, tú creaste el mundo y enviaste a tu propio hijo a vivir entre nosotros, hecho de las mismas cosas, respirando el mismo aire, maravillados al amanecer y al atardecer tal como lo hacemos nosotros. Ayúdanos a participar en la vida alrededor y dentro de nosotros como tu vida, como tú viviendo en nosotros y nosotros viviendo en ti y en el otro. Dios del amor y la vida, restaurarnos a tu paz, renovarnos a través de tu poder y enseñarnos a amar todo lo que has creado y a cuidar de la tierra como tu Don y nuestro hogar. Amén.**

Word

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11:18-20

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

¹⁸It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,

so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

²⁰But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 54

R: *God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.*

¹Save me, O God, by your name; in your might, defend my cause.

²**Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.**

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,
those who have no regard for God.

⁴**Behold, God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. R**

⁵Render evil to those who spy on me;
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

⁶**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.**

⁷For you have rescued me from every trouble, and my eye looks down on my enemies. **R**

SECOND READING: James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO: Mark 9:30-37

Glory to You, O Lord!

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

(ELW p. 817)

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assembly shall kneel, as they are able.

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

Gracious God, you gather congregations together by the power of your word. Bless leaders with the gifts of wisdom and discernment as they seek to make your church the community for which you long. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creative God, blue whales and honeybees sing the goodness of the earth. Glaciers and deserts declare your greatness. Make us good stewards of our home for the generations to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creative God, Protect your creation and teach us to cherish it. We praise you for the rain that continues to fall on this thirsty land, for the crops that have been harvested, and the livestock, wildlife and pets that inhabit our community. Thank you for the ways they sustain us and for our place among them to tend and watch over what you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you raise up governments to protect the widow and orphan. Bless citizens with wisdom and discernment as they choose leaders. Inspire leaders to always seek the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you desire health and wholeness. Reconcile the conflicts and disputes among us. Teach us to heal the trauma of racism and poverty. Break our hearts open to all those who suffer and mourn especially for Sadat, David, Sharon, Ellvera, Bobby & Betty, Alex, James, Pauline, Mitch, Roxanne, Shane, Norma, Laquita, Helen, Linda, Jack, Andy, Michael, Raymond, Alva, Steve, Evalina, Francis, Ella, Khloe, Kenneth, Eric, Moma, the Ndeh Family, Charles, Leroy, Carly, Shanna, Travis, John, Yvonne, Anyemarie, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Welcoming God, you place children among us. Teach us to honor the children in our midst and to pay attention to what they can teach us about who you are. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As we sow Seeds of Hope, we pray for St. John Lutheran in Westhoff. Guide them to new opportunities and abilities to draw younger people into the congregation. We pray also for St. Peter's in Elgin that they may have vision, direction, and that God would use them as an instrument of grace in their community. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You surround us with a cloud of witnesses who announce the good news of abundant life to a sad and needy world. Make us a pilgrim people, always telling the story of your loving-kindness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING HYMN

(ELW p. 512)

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth,
these resources of our life and our labor.
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,
and use them to set a table that will heal the whole
creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

Amen.

Lasst uns beten.

Gott des Lebens, du gibst uns diese Gaben der
Erde, diese Ressourcen unseres Lebens und
unserer Arbeit. Nehmen Sie, in großen
thanksgiving angeboten, und benutzt Sie, um
einen Tisch zu setzen, der die ganze Schöpfung
heilt; durch Jesus Christus, unseren Erlöser und
Licht. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



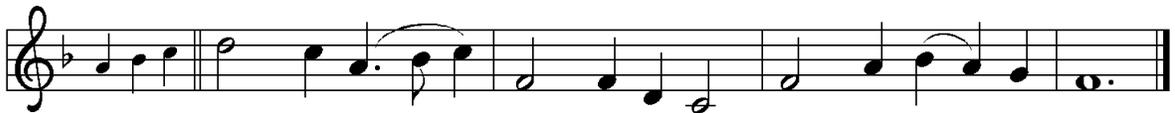
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Following Communion, the assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May God who has created you in rich community, to love, to learn, to share and to serve, be with you as you go out. May God who meets you, in grace, in challenge, in beauty and in patience, greet you outside these walls. And may God who walks with you, in water and wine, in friend and stranger, watch over you and bring you joy. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless and guide you today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN (ELW p. 835) *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.

DOXOLOGY (ELW p. 884) *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

For Prayerful Consideration

Ill, Injured or Otherwise Struggling: Sadat Abrihim, David Anaba, Sharon Baumann, Ellvera Boehm, Bobby & Betty Busselman, Alex Caballero, James Castillo, Pauline Davidson, Mitch Dorn, Roxanne Dorn, Shane Edens, Norma Foreman, Laquita Gibbens, Helen Grimm, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Andy Jacobs, Michael Janysek, Raymond Jenkins, Alva Jonas, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Ella Manka, Khloe Martinez, Kenneth Matthews, Eric Montemayor, Moma Ndeh, the Ndeh family, Charles Pierce, Leroy Polderick, Carly Rosenboon, Shanna Swierc, Travis Tessman, John Tackitt, Yvonne Watkins, Anyemarie, Mary Ruth Witte, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiontz, and Norma Zamzow

For those in the military: Nick Adams, Anthony Alvarez, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Jon Wayne Schulz, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva

Birthdays:

Norma Zamzow, (Sept. 29), Betty Busselman, Jasmine Jonas (Sept. 30)

Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul's by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul's. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us. **If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance**, please signal an usher.

Coming Events

Let's join together and PARTICIPATE!

The Women of the Church will be purchasing and putting together school kits for *Lutheran World Relief*. Anyone who would like to donate to this cause can do so at any time. We will be accepting monetary donations to help pay for the school kits. Place your donation in a marked envelope that says **Women's Group**. Thank you!

Women's Bible Study Group: "Seamless" by Angie Smith. Wednesday evenings at 6:00 in seven sessions, **Seamless** covers the people, places and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. Each week of study features key information that ties all of scripture together into the seamless truth of the gospel message and is accompanied by maps, general Bible facts, and word studies. For more information, contact Rita Jordan A sign up sheet is located in the Fellowship Hall.

St. Paul's will be hosting 5th Quarter on Friday, September 28. This is an event for the high school children after the football game. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please mark your check or envelope with **5th Quarter Donation**, and place it in the offering plate. Volunteers are needed the night of September 28. We also need donations of cookies, brownies, and rice crispies. Thank you for your continuing support! For more information please contact Barbara or a Council Member.

Rita Jordan has 20 tickets to the MercyMe Concert to be held at Freeman Coliseum in San Antonio on October 14, 2018, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35.00 each. See Rita if interested in tickets. This would be a great opportunity, especially for our youth, to attend a contemporary Christian concert! Tell them to invite friends.

