St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

23rd Day After Pentecost

November 12, 2017

Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Shelley Gibbens, Lay Reader

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

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ’s coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who calls us into an everlasting hope, who guides us to springs of the water of life, who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom. Amen.

One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

O God, our merciful redeemer, we confess the ways we live only for ourselves. We fail to see you in our neighbor’s face. We turn our ears from voices that cry out. We pass by the hungry and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sin and strengthen us for service to all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sin. Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God. Amen.

The assembly stands.

GATHERING SONG  (ELW p. 638)  Blessed Assurance

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.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

4 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Oh Dios de justicia y amor, iluminas nuestro camino a través de la vida con las palabras de tu hijo. Danos la luz que necesitamos, y nos despiertes a las necesidades de los demás, por medio de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor. Amen.

Word

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

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos people thought that the day of the Lord would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The Lord demands justice and righteousness in the community.

Woe to all of you who want God’s Judgment Day! Why would you want to see God, want him to come? When God comes, it will be bad news before it’s good news, the worst of times, not the best of times. Here’s what it’s like: A man runs from a lion right into the jaws of a bear. A woman goes home after a hard day’s work and is raped by a neighbor. At God’s coming we face hard reality, not fantasy—a black cloud with no silver lining. “I can’t stand your religious meetings. I’m fed up with your conferences and conventions. I want nothing to do with your religion projects, your pretentious slogans and goals. I’m sick of your fund-raising schemes, your public relations and image making. I’ve had all I can take of your noisy ego-music. When was the last time you sang to me? Do you know what I want? I want justice—oceans of it. I want fairness—rivers of it. That’s what I want. That’s all I want.

Word of God, word of Life. Thanks be to God.
RESPONSIVE PSALM: 70

**R Quick to my side, quick to my rescue! God, don’t lose a minute.**

God! Please hurry to my rescue!
God, come quickly to my side!
Those who are out to get me—
   let them fall all over themselves. R
Those who relish my downfall—
   send them down a blind alley.
_Give them a taste of their own medicine,_
   _those gossips off clucking their tongues._
Let those on the hunt for you
   sing and celebrate.
_Let all who love your saving way_
   _say over and over, “God is mighty!”_
But I’ve lost it. I’m wasted.
   God—quickly, quickly!
Quick to my side, quick to my rescue!
   God, don’t lose a minute. R

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

_Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ._

And regarding the question, friends, that has come up about what happens to those already dead and buried, we don’t want you in the dark any longer. First off, you must not carry on over them like people who have nothing to look forward to, as if the grave were the last word. Since Jesus died and broke loose from the grave, God will most certainly bring back to life those who died in Jesus.

And then this: We can tell you with complete confidence—we have the Master’s word on it—that when the Master comes again to get us, those of us who are still alive will not get a jump on the dead and leave them behind. In actual fact, they’ll be ahead of us. The Master himself will give the command. Archangel thunder! God’s trumpet blast! He’ll come down from heaven and the dead in Christ will rise—they’ll go first. Then the rest of us who are still alive at the time will be caught up with them into the clouds to meet the Master. Oh, we’ll be walking on air! And then there will be one huge family reunion with the Master. So reassure one another with these words.

Word of God, word of Life.
**Thanks be to God.**
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

“God’s kingdom is like ten young virgins who took oil lamps and went out to greet the bridegroom. Five were silly and five were smart. The silly virgins took lamps, but no extra oil. The smart virgins took jars of oil to feed their lamps. The bridegroom didn’t show up when they expected him, and they all fell asleep. In the middle of the night someone yelled out, ‘He’s here! The bridegroom’s here! Go out and greet him!’ The ten virgins got up and got their lamps ready. The silly virgins said to the smart ones, ‘Our lamps are going out; lend us some of your oil.’ ‘They answered, ‘There might not be enough to go around; go buy your own.’ ‘They did, but while they were out buying oil, the bridegroom arrived. When everyone who was there to greet him had gone into the wedding feast, the door was locked. ‘Much later, the other virgins, the silly ones, showed up and knocked on the door, saying, ‘Master, we’re here. Let us in.’ ‘He answered, ‘Do I know you? I don’t think I know you.’ ‘So stay alert. You have no idea when he might arrive.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

The assembly is seated.
The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY  (ELW p. 488)  Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

NICENE 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

Welcoming God’s reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

Awaken your church to be ready to respond when Christ meets us in the cries of those in need. We lift up the church’s mission of care through Lutheran World Relief and other agencies. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for natural resources like oil, coal, trees, sun, water, and wind. Help us to use them wisely. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Answer the cries of your people in nations caught in war and destruction, especially in Afghanistan, Syria, the South China Sea, the East China Sea, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Lebanon, Egypt, Ukraine, Turkey, Mexico, Nigeria, Yemen, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Mali, the Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, China, Burundi, Myanmar, and Russia. Hold in your care all veterans and their families. Ease the burden of tough memories and bring restoration and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Soothe the pain of those who suffer especially Lorain, Pauline, Shane, Linda, Norma, Ann, Linda, Jack, Lorene, Steve, Evalena, Francis, Carol, Ella, Linda, Charles, Eli, Beth, Steve, Hope, Tom, Jackie,
Yvonne, Lawrence, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Shine your merciful and healing light on the despairing places of our minds and souls. Bring hope in the midst of danger, depression, and illness. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless those who prepare for marriage or who have been married in this place. Strengthen all bonds of friendship and relationship in our community. Give us joy in life together. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Keep us alert for Christ’s coming, sustained by the promise that we will be reunited with all the faithful who have died. Thank you for their lives of witness. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*Peace is shared among the assembly, and then the assembly is seated.*

**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.

The assembly stands.

**OFFERING HYMN** *(ELW p. 512)*  
*Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Creator God, you made everything, and you provide for every need. The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gott, unser Schöpfer, sie machte alles, und Sie bieten für jeden Bedarf. Das Brot, das wir brechen und den Wein gießen wir von Ihnen kommen. Wie wir Essen und Trinken mit Danksagung, uns mit deiner Liebe füllen; diese Liebe durch uns für andere; und uns die Heiligen melden Sie vor uns in einem heiligen und grenzenlose Gemeinschaft; durch Jesus Christus, unseren Herrn. 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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:

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.
LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: *(The assembly joins hands to pray)*

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Hunger no more. Thirst no more. Come to the banquet of life.

*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.

Following Communion, the assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sovereign God, in this meal you give us a foretaste of the great feast to come. Keep us faithful to you, that we, with all your saints, may at length celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*
Sending
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

The assembly stands.

BLESSING

The love of God surround you;
the grace of ✡ Christ release you;
and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength,
now and forevermore. Amen.

SENDING HYMN (ELW p. 728) Blest Are They

DISMISSAL

Led on by the saints before us,
go in peace to serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

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.

A Nursery is located at the rear of the sanctuary in the overflow area.

If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance, please signal an usher.
For Prayerful Consideration

Ill or Injured

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

Birthdays
Holly Polasek and Dottie Myers (Nov. 13), Logan Polasek (Nov. 16)

LAY READERS FOR NOVEMBER
Nov. 19: Sandra Dickens Nov. 26: Dale Tessman

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 16, 7:00 p.m. – Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Service

Saturday, November 18, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Faith Lutheran, Beeville
Ladies Fall Bazaar and Rummage Sale
Hand-crafted holiday gifts, baked goods and snack bar items for breakfast and lunch. Silent bids for quilts and MORE!

Sunday, November 19, 10:30 a.m. - ThanksLiving Worship Service at St. Paul’s

Sunday, December 3, 3:00 p.m. – Faith Lutheran, Beeville
40th Annual Advent Music Festival
Join the folks in Beeville in preparation of our hearts for a Blessed Christmas Season that all be filled with magical holiday spirit.

Saturday, December 9, 6:00 p.m. - Karnes City Founder’s Day Parade
A trailer has been offered for a float in the parade. Volunteers are needed to coordinate a decoration theme for the float, decorate the float on the afternoon of December 9, and ride on the float in the evening Parade. Everyone wanting to participate, contact Ronnie Retzloff or Pastor Dorn.

Sunday, December 17, 6:30 p.m. – Faith Lutheran, Beeville
“One Magic Night” (Live Nativity)
Karnes County Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Service

FBC Kenedy
209 E. School Street
Kenedy, Tx 78119

Join us on Thursday, November 16th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Kenedy for the Karnes County Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service!

Jennifer Mitchell, the new pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Karnes City, will deliver the sermon.

ORDER OF SERVICE
- Opening Song
- Welcome & Prayer
- Scripture Reading
- Congregational Singing
- Scripture Reading
- Update on the Karnes County Thrift Center
- Prayer & Offering
- Special Music
- Sermon Message
- Congregational Singing
- Closing Prayer
- Dessert Reception

An offering will be taken up during the service for the Karnes County Thrift Center, which will reopen in 2018.