

# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

20th Sunday after Pentecost + Saturday, October 9, 2021

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.*

## 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.**

You are the treasured people of the LORD,  
**a people holy to the LORD our God.**

Keep the words of the LORD in your heart; teach them to your children.

**Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.**

One does not live by bread alone,

**but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15**

*Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.*

A reading from Amos.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD and live,  
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,  
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

<sup>7</sup>Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
and bring righteousness to the ground!

<sup>10</sup>They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

<sup>12</sup>For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.

<sup>14</sup>Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

<sup>15</sup>Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 90:12-17**

- <sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
- <sup>13</sup>**Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry?  
Be gracious to your servants.**
- <sup>14</sup>Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning;  
so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.
- <sup>15</sup>**Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us  
and as many years as we suffered adversity.**
- <sup>16</sup>Show your servants your works,  
and your splendor to their children.
- <sup>17</sup>**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;  
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!

**Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!**

Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the Scriptures.

**Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!**

**GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-31**

*Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup>As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>18</sup>Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.' " <sup>20</sup>He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." <sup>21</sup>Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup>When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup>And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for

someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”<sup>26</sup> They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?”<sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

<sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.”

<sup>29</sup>Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news,

<sup>30</sup>who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.

<sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**pray in the Holy Spirit.**

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

Almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen you in all goodness,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**Amen**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*We give our offerings in praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ and for the sake of Jesus' ongoing mission and ministry in this world. We have been entrusted to carry out this mission Jesus' name, bringing the good news of Jesus to the people of this community and around the world. Please, take a minute of your time to make an electronic gift through the St. Paul's Website [www.stpauls-edison.org/online-giving.html](http://www.stpauls-edison.org/online-giving.html). Please consider making this gift a recurring gift, and look for ways to grow in your giving for the sake of Christ's mission through this congregation. You may also mail your offering to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 445 Old Post Rd., Edison NJ 08817.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God, our Creator,

**you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Inspire in the hearts of local, national, and world leaders such compassion and love for their neighbors that love, mercy and justice become the measure of success. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Healing God, in Jesus your revealed healing as a sign of your kingdom coming near. Have mercy and grant peace to those who cry out to you and to those we name now ... Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us part with those things that are no longer beneficial to us and open our hearts to see where new life is budding in this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we thank you for the lives of those who have died. Make us confident in your promise of salvation and support us in our own journey of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us 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, and the power, and the glory,  
    forever and ever. Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL.** Sunday school meets tomorrow *at 11:00 a.m.*

**BACK IN-PERSON.** On Sunday, October 31, we will observe Reformation Sunday and celebrate a long-delayed affirmation of faith by some of our young people. We plan to worship outside that Sunday, but weather may require us to move inside. Regardless of where the service is held, make a point of attending in-person on Sunday, October 31, and celebrating the unity we share in Christ and the community that the Holy Spirit has formed in this place.

**WHAT NOW?** I am looking to convene a group of between five people who are willing to spend an hour each week in prayer, study and conversation about the purpose, mission and ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the coming years. The group will meet in-person monthly from November until April, but will commit to regular prayer and study along the way. — Pastor Jim

**BIBLE STUDY.** Dive deeper into God's Word by asking the questions you always wanted to ask; explore the background and story behind Sunday's Gospel reading and make connections to the larger story of God and God's people. There are two chances to join a Bible studies each week.

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the lounge.

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Sign up for Thursdays study:

<https://calendly.com/james-kromholz/thursday-evening-bible-study>

**DAILY PRAYER.** Cultivating the habit of daily prayer is essential to Christian faith and life, but many of us struggle to make time and when we do we often don't know where to begin. That's why we now offer two ways to make daily prayer part of your life: a daily service of morning prayer and a daily service of night prayer.

**Morning Prayer:** Start each day (Monday through Saturday) with a brief service of Morning Prayer. This service is available as an audio file on the [St. Paul's Website](#) and the St. Paul's Facebook each morning. You can listen and pray along from your home or take it with you as you exercise or commute.

**Night Prayer:** End your day in prayer and fellowship. This ongoing prayer group meets **on Zoom each night at 9:00 p.m.** to share what has been happening in their

day, to let go of each day's trouble and to participate in a brief service of night prayer. Zoom log info: Meeting ID = 401 244 599 + Password: 042662.

**BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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