

# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

21st Sunday after Pentecost + Saturday, October 12, 2024



## 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.*

## WELCOME

### 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.**

### SCRIPTURE SONG

**Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe;

just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.

Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?

**Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

For you alone are the Holy One.

All nations will draw near and worship before you,

for your just and holy works have been revealed.

**Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

## 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.*

<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.**

**SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 4:12-16**

*We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.*

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>12</sup>Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

<sup>14</sup>Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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!**

**Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise 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

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**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**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

Compassionate God, embolden the church to seek all who are lost, clothe those who are naked, and mend what is broken. May we be generous bearers of your eternal love.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Sustaining God, as we approach harvest time, we pray for farmers, field workers, and those who process crops. Keep us mindful of environmental threats to the nourishing food that feeds the world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Steadfast God, inspire world leaders to share resources and work collectively to end poverty, starvation, and preventable disease. Direct us to seek justice and equity, that all may live in peace. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for those who are afflicted, tormented, grieving, oppressed, and lonely, especially we call to mind those whose names we speak now, out loud, in our hearts, or by listing online. Deliver the strength of your love and compassion to all who need it today. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Generous God, we give thanks for the first nations and tribes who inhabited this land. We lament the harm done by colonization. Call us to deeper appreciation and care for the languages, rituals, and history of all Indigenous people. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Ever-living God, we rejoice to be heirs of the eternal life made real in Jesus' death and resurrection. We give thanks for saints of all times and places, first and last, who still inspire us to faithful living. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

**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**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.** We met the challenge, and we collected 546 items for our food pantry in one week! You can continue to bring items for the food pantry throughout the month of October.

**A PLACE FOR US IN *THE GREATEST STORY*.** After Worship Community-Wide Bible Study. After worship each week, we'll pause for fellowship and snacks, then reassemble to see, listen and discuss a different part of the Bible. We will use the [Greatest Story Curriculum](#) from our churchwide publishing house to guide our discovery. Here's some of what you can expect along the way.

- **Catch the vision, beginning to end.** A big-picture overview of the Bible— discussing key people, places, and events in an easy-to-understand way.
- **See the story come to life.** Engage in deeper exploration of the Bible through captivating sand art presentations by renowned artist Joe Castillo.
- **Open the Bible.** Dive deeper into the story. Each session offers inspiration and recommendations for reading and studying the Bible.
- **Become part of the story.** Discover where you fit in the greatest story and how the greatest story fits in their lives.

**SENIOR LUNCH. Tuesday, October 15, at 11:30 a.m.** Invite your friends for lunch fellowship and sharing around a topic of interest. All ages are welcome.

**TRUNK OR TREAT. Sunday, October 27, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** This year we are inviting everyone, children of all ages, to come to our **Trunk or Treat: *Escape from Egypt Extravaganza!*** Each car will be decorated to tell a story of how God saved his people from slavery in Egypt. There will be snakes and frogs ... and lots of candy! Register to decorate a car and/or sign up your family and friends using the sign up sheet in the lounge.

**NJ SYNOD YOUTH ASSEMBLY. November 22-24, at the Sheraton in Edison.** All youth grades 6-12 are invited to join other youth from around New Jersey for a weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun! Our theme this year is Created to Be! following the ELCA Youth Gathering and summer camp theme. Registration is now open. If you are interested in going, see Pastor Jim.

**A NIGHT OF FELLOWSHIP AND SOCCER. Sunday, October 20, starting at 3:00 p.m.** Come Kick it with Your Fellow Lutherans and NJ Youth Ministry Team. Join with others in the NJ Synod for an evening of fun, fellowship and a celebration of women in sports as Gotham FC takes on the Orlando Pride. Tailgating starts at 3:00 p.m.; Kick-off at 5:00 p.m. Red Bull Arena in Harrison NJ. The event is open to all so invite your friends. Tickets are \$5 each. For more information or to register, visit: <https://www.njsynod.org/youth-events>

**JOIN THE CHOIR.** The choir rehearses at 9:00 a.m. each week. Come and add your voice and lead us all in singing God's praise.

**WALKING AT ROOSEVELT PARK. Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m.** Call your friends and put on your walking shoes and meet at skating rink entrance and enjoy fellowship and walk around the park.

**DAILY PRAYER.** Daily prayer is one of the means the Holy Spirit uses to keep us in faith. Here are 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**

God all mighty,  
God most merciful  
✚ bless you, keep you,  
and give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL (WOV p. 53)**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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