

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 18, 2022



210.532.7341
stpaulsa.org

When I walked into the Bronx I was an atheist. It was something I was sure about. But after years of traveling America, I wasn't so sure. To my educated lifelong friends, I might have said I was agnostic, or still an atheist, but one who appreciated religion. To the believers I met I would say, "I appreciate the power of faith," or "I understand the power of the Bible." To the more direct and blunt questions, "Yes I read the Bible now and then, but I wouldn't call myself religious," or, "I have not been saved, but I do read the Bible."

None of it was a lie, but the more direct truth was that even after I had come to see how useful religion was, I still attended services as an outsider trying to understand why faith drew so many people to it. Why it seemed to comfort those who needed it the most. In the language of the church, I wasn't yet saved. In the language of my friends, I was a scientist trying to understand religion. I could no longer ignore the value of faith, not as a scientist, not as a person who claimed to want to learn from others. Yet I still saw it as a utility—something popular because it worked. Still, after attending hundreds of different services I was beginning to realize there was more to it than that. My biases were limiting a deeper understanding: that perhaps religion was right, or at least as right as anything could be. Getting there required a level of intellectual humility that I was not sure I had.

Like most in the front row, I'm used to thinking we have all the answers. On Wall Street, there were few problems we couldn't solve with smarts, energy, audacity, or money. We even managed to push death into the distance; with enough research and resources—eating right, doing the right things, going to the correct medical specialist—the inevitable could be delayed, and mortality could feel distant. With a great job and a great apartment in a great neighborhood, it's easy to feel we have nothing for which we need to be absolved. The fundamental fallibility of humans seems outdated, distant. It's not hard to imagine that you have everything under control.

On the streets, few can delude themselves into thinking they have it under control. You cannot ignore death there, and you cannot ignore human fallibility. It is easier to see that everyone is a sinner, everyone is fallible, and everyone is mortal. It is easier to see that there are things just too deep, too important, or too great for us to know. It is far easier to recognize that one must come to peace with the idea that we don't and never will have this under control. It is far easier to see religion not just as useful, but as true.

Chris Arnade, *Dignity: Seeking Respect in Back Row America*, P. 119 (2019)

Welcome to St. Paul!

We are glad that you are with us today! If you are new to our church, you may not be familiar with Lutheran liturgy. No worries. This bulletin is designed to help guide you through the worship service. We encourage you to participate in as much or as little of the service as you feel comfortable. Thank you for being a part of our worship. We hope that the Lord blesses you through our time together!

Restrooms, Changing Stations, and Nursing Room

Restrooms are located in the lobby (narthex) of the sanctuary. Both the men's and women's rooms have diaper changing tables for the little ones. We also have a nursing room for mothers and babies that is located across the breezeway, straight out of the doors on the east side of the lobby.

Children in the Liturgy

We pray that all children would know that God made them, He loves them, and He goes with them everywhere. We are glad to have little ones with us in the service. We know that they sometimes can squirm, squawk, and squeal. Please don't feel embarrassed by it! All kids are always welcome here at St. Paul. We encourage you to help them follow along and engage with them in the action of the liturgy – observe the movement of the procession, hear the music, sing the songs, smell the fire of the candles, respond with a loud *Amen*, make the sign of the cross, touch the water in the baptismal font, and wonder at the images and symbols that are all around. What Jesus does here is sure to engage us all.

A Note on Holy Communion

In this service we celebrate a sacred ritual of the Christian Church called the Eucharist, or the Lord's Supper. In this rite we recall the last meal that Jesus had with his disciples. In this blessed meal we have our eyes opened and we recognize Him in the breaking of the bread. Though our faith is grounded in history, this liturgy is not merely a nostalgic looking back at the past – it is a celebration and a deep recognition that in this meal our Lord Jesus Christ is truly and really present with us in the bread and the wine. We cling to the hope of resurrection that will be ours when all things will be fully redeemed and restored in Him. All baptized Christians who have a sincere sorrow for their sin and see in this holy mystery the true body and blood of Christ are invited to receive Holy Communion.

Notes for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost

The scripture texts today speak to the relationship between God and the use of resources. Amos prophetically calls to account any who trample the needy and bring ruin to the land. He reminds those who would take advantage of the poor that God sees and remembers their actions. The Gospel of Luke speaks to the use of money by those who follow Jesus. In telling the story of the shrewd manager, Jesus tells the disciples they can only serve one master, either God or money. For disciples then and now, the choice is always to put money in service of God rather than God in service of money.

Greeting and Welcome

The congregation stands and faces the back of the sanctuary. We begin with a procession, the crucifix leading our way. An image of our journey from death to life, our life in Christ. Some bow as the cross passes, honoring the mystery of salvation.

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (803)

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,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!
Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

Invocation

En el nombre del Padre, y del ✠ Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo.

All Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us

All But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Señor, ten piedad de nosotros.

All Señor, ten piedad de nosotros.

Cristo, ten piedad de nosotros.

All Cristo, ten piedad de nosotros.

Señor, ten piedad de nosotros

All Señor, ten piedad de nosotros

Silence is Kept

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

All Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you

All And also with you

Let us pray:

All Grant us, Good Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love heavenly things; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Scripture Readings

Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land, ⁵ saying, “When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?” skimping on the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales, ⁶ buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the wheat. ⁷ The Lord has sworn by himself, the Pride of Jacob: “I will never forget anything they have done.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God

1 Timothy 2:1-15

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. ⁷ And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles. ⁸ Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing. ⁹ I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, ¹⁰ but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God. ¹¹ A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴ And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. ¹⁵ But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 16th chapter.

All Glory to You, O Lord.

Luke 16:1-15

Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ² So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.' ³ "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg—⁴ I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.' ⁵ "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ " "Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. "The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.' ⁷ "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' ⁸ " "A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. "He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.' ⁸ "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹ I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. ¹⁰ "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? ¹³ "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." ¹⁴ The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. ¹⁵ He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Creed

All I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Kid Sermon

Be Unto Your Name

We are a moment. You are forever.

Lord of the ages, God before time.

We are a vapor. You are eternal.

Love everlasting, reigning on high

Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.

Highest praises, honor and glory.

Be unto Your name. Be unto Your name.

We are the broken. You are the healer.

Jesus Redeemer, mighty to save.

You are the love song we'll sing forever.

Bowing before you, blessing Your name.

Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.

Highest praises, honor and glory.

Be unto Your name. Be unto Your name.

Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.

Highest praises, honor and glory.

Be unto Your name. Be unto Your name.

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

After the pastor says Lord in Your Mercy, all respond with **Hear our Prayer.**

**For the strength to hold Jesus tightly and to hold everything else loosely.
For blessing in our outreach; CDC, Thrift Shop, Food Pantry, LINC, Presa.
Pastors Philip, Roy, Naresh, Christoph, Matt and all church planters.
For U.S. Leaders: President Joe, Governor Greg, Mayor Ron.
Church Leaders; LCMS President Matt, District President Mike.
For those in Military: Jarred, Alissa, Mark, Tom, Thomas, Ricky, Julian.
For divine wisdom and energy to turn toward our enemies in love.
Persecuted Christians in: Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia
Global Partner Church: The Lutheran Church – Hong Kong Synod**

For Comfort, Health, Encouragement, and Recovery:

The people of Ukraine

Mark, Paul, and Jo Ann Mallow

Melissa Hild

Jim Hild

Ana Garcia (cousin of Paul and JoAnn – diagnosed with cancer)

Cecilia Luna (friend of America Alderete – diagnosed with cancer)

Joe Ojeda (as he begins training and formation for pastoral ministry)

Ronnie Westphal

Tillie Cropper

Ralph Rivera

Alex Rivera

Roy Wessel

Danny Stubbs

David Schneider (Father of Kristen Boerger with cancer)

Delia Flores

Vicky Dean (sister of Melissa Hild)

Yesenia (daughter of Anna Marquez)

Diane Beasley

Teresa Medellin (neighbor of Alicia Guerrero)

Rosa Figueroa (friend of Alva-Alicia)

Mildred Westphal

Albert Pedroza (neighbor of Thomas Robledo)

Norma Ann (sister of Patricia Perez)

Rev. Bill Johnson

Beatrice (sister of America Alderete)

Cayley (granddaughter of Robert and Linda Chetwood)

Austin Hernden

Robin Beasley Jr

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (805)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer Before Reception of Holy Communion

*O Lord, I believe and profess that you are truly Christ,
The Son of the living God, who came into the world
To save sinners of whom I am the first.*

*Accept me as a partaker of your mystical supper, O Lord,
For I will not reveal your mystery to your enemies,
Nor will I give you a kiss as did Judas, But like the thief I profess to you:*

*Remember me, O Lord, when you come in your kingdom.
Remember me, O Master, when you come in your kingdom.
Remember me, O Holy One, when you come in your kingdom.*

*May the partaking of your Holy mysteries, O Lord,
Be not for my judgment or condemnation,
But for the healing of my soul and body.*

*O Lord, I also believe and profess, that this,
Which I am about to receive,
Is truly your most precious Body, and your life-giving Blood,
Given for me for remission of all my sins and for life everlasting. Amen*

*O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.
O Lord, forgive me for I have sinned without number.*

The Service of the Sacrament

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. From sunrise to sunset this day is holy, for Christ has risen from the tomb and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade. This day the risen Lord walks with us, unfolds for us His word, and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread. And though the night will overtake this day you summon us to live in endless light, the unending sabbath of the Lord. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored;
Heaven and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosana in the highest, sing hosana to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy, we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us to faithfully eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us to in His own testament. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate, with all the faithful, the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone be all glory, honor, and worship, now and forever.

All Amen.

The Consecration

The Acclamation and The Invitation

As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Behold the Lamb of God, behold Jesus, who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

La paz del Señor sea con ustedes.

All Y también contigo

Sharing of the Peace

Greet each other in the name of Jesus by saying, '*Peace of the Lord be with you*' as a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation in preparation for reception of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Lamb of God

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

Eucharistic Dismissal

Thank The Lord

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; Tell everyone what He has done.

Let everyone who seeks the Lord, Rejoice, and proudly bear His name.

He recalls His promises, and leads His people forth in joy

With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Prayer

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You, that of Your mercy, You would strengthen us in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Crown Him with Many Crowns (525)

**Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns, All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King Through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won, Which now His brow adorn;
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.**

**Crown Him the Lord of Love, Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky, Can fully bear that sight,
But down-ward bends their wond'ring eyes, At mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of Life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, And lives that death may die.**

**Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the King to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is King of all.**

Serving Today @ St. Paul

Music	Jim Wollmann, Judy Foerster, Ronnie Biediger	
Duty Elders	Rick Garza, Paul Mallow, George Fernandez	
Altar Server	Zachary Robledo	
Lector	Justin Maupin	
Liturgist/Cantor	Rev. Carlos Boerger	(carlosb@stpaulsa.org)
Preacher/Celebrant	Rev. Dave Murillo	(davem@stpaulsa.org)
Parish Administrator	Suzanne Segovia	(suzannes@stpaulsa.org)
CDC Director	Deborah Stephenson	(deborahs@stpaulsa.org)
Deaconess	Claire Jackson	

Announcements

Study Opportunities This Week

We have ongoing online zoom classes throughout the week – all are invited!
(Meeting ID #2105327341 No Password required)

Monday @ 6:30 (Deaconess Claire – Jesus & Women in 1st Century and Now)

Tuesday @ 6:30 (Pastor Dave – Study on the book of Exodus)

Thursday @ 6:30 (Pastor Carlos – Study on the book of Acts)

Gathering at Five Stones Brewery

Come out this Saturday, September 24th @ 3pm for a Fall Get Together @ Five Stones Brewery located at 11335 FM1863, New Braunfels, TX 78132. Bring the whole family and enjoy food, drink, and fellowship!

New Young Adult Book Study

Starting Thursday, September the 22nd @ 6pm, meeting in Room 6, we are kicking off a new study looking at the book – **Beauty Will Save the World: Rediscovering the Allure and Beauty of Christianity by Brian Zahnd**. For more info, please contact Michael Cruz @ 210-701-4431.

New Church Office Hours

We welcome our new parish administrator, Suzanne Seogvia, with updated church office hours. She is in the church office Monday through Friday from 9am to 2pm.

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

Join us before the service for bible class for adults as well as children. Adult Sunday School meets in Room 6 and kids aged 3 to grade 5 meet in room 3.

Thanks to all who helped with the Ice Cream Social last week!