

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Our thoughts and prayers go out to Molly Fant, Marge & Eugene Walz, Matt Deroma, Brian Shields, Nicole Pruyne, and Kristin Stokes.

Please see bulletin boards for all information that is going on at St. Paul! Also, there are flyers in the display racks on the wall across from the lounge to take home.

Mid- August thru mid- September we will be collecting supplies to fill as many “BLESSING BAGS” as possible to donate to The Springfield Rescue Mission and to those individuals who attend Cathedral In The Night, an outdoor Christian community in Northampton which seeks to create a safe place for all people, especially the homeless. We are requesting NEW warm socks, winter stocking hats and gloves, hand towels, face towels, bars of soap, small bottles of hand sanitizers and moisturizers, tooth brushes and tubes of tooth paste. If you would like more information please check bulletin board or contact Joyce and Bill Donovan, 413-525-2045.

St. Paul Book Club will be meeting September 5 at 7:00 p.m., Adult Fellowship starts Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. beginning September 10, and Women’s Group Ethnic Potluck Supper, Monday, September 12th at 6:00 p.m. Please see bulletin blocks for more information in the gathering space.

St. Paul Open Pantry for August needs breakfast foods such as bisquick, oatmeal, cereal, canned fruit, coffee, tea, pancake mix, maple syrup and monetary donations are also appreciated.



**Eleventh Sunday after
Pentecost
August 20, 2017**

Welcome to Worship!

*At St. Paul, no one is a stranger, for we are united by the common bond of our life in Christ. We welcome you to receive Communion at God's Table this morning or to come forward for a blessing if this is more comfortable for you. Communion can also be brought to you where you are sitting, and gluten-free wafers are available. All are welcome here! *Please stand as you are able.*

Announcements

Prelude

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

August 20, 2017

LECTIONARY 20

The Persistent Advocate

The Canaanite woman comes before Jesus with an urgent need. Her daughter is being tormented by a demon. She doesn't just ask for help; she shouts for it. Disconcertingly, despite her outcries, Jesus at first remains silent. Yet she doesn't give up. She kneels before him and pleads her case. Not even being likened to a dog shuts her up. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table," she insists (Matt. 15:27). Finally, Jesus rewards her faith and persistence by healing her child.

We, too, may find ourselves the advocate for a desperate or unpopular cause in our workplace or community. We may find ourselves pleading on behalf of the disenfranchised. We may feel driven to relieve suffering or right an injustice. Urgently, we cry out to those we hope will help us. We shout and demand. We write letters, attend vigils, and carry placards. Perhaps at first, those in power will meet us with scorn or indifference. They might condemn us for who we are. Yet we must not give up. The Canaanite woman does not stop trying, nor should we.

Even though Jesus' disciples encourage him to send the Canaanite woman away, he stops to hear her. He speaks with this vulnerable outsider and allows her words to touch his heart. Compassionately, he reevaluates and reaches out.

We never know how long it will take for our case to be heard. It may take weeks, months, or years. However, when we advocate for the good of another, we must not stop trying. God sees beyond social status, outward appearance, and group affiliation. This is good news for all of us. We can trust that someday we also will hear the words: "Great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Communion Song “Healer of Our Every Ill”
(Please remain quiet after singing the hymn)

#612

Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: AMEN!

Sending Song “There’s a Wideness in Gods Mercy”

#588

C: AMEN

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. 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.

***Gathering Song “Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

#886

*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***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!



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**

P: We pray in your name.
 C: AMEN!

***Lord's Prayer**

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior 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

P: These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.
 C: **Thanks be to God!**

Lamb of God



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.

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

#884

*Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy that....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.

*Words of Institution

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

pg. 839

¹Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Responsive Psalm 67

pg. 650

¹May God be merciful to | us and bless us; may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known | upon earth, your saving health a- | mong all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise | you, O God; let all the | peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth.**

⁵Let the peoples | praise you, O God; let all the | peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought | forth its increase; God, our own | God, has blessed us.**

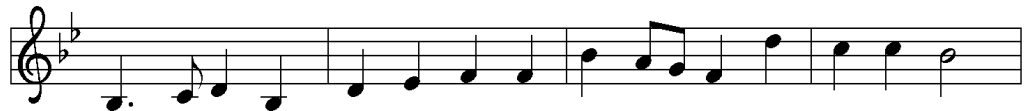
⁷May God | give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

pg. 195

Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

***Alleluia**



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.

***Gospel: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28**

pg. 20

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

¹⁰[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”] ²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her at all.

And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

(After the reading)

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Message

The Rev. Valerie Anne Strickert

Sermon Song

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

#807

APOSTLES’ CREED

C: 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 the People

(Please respond: Hear our prayer)

Passing of the Peace

Offering

(Please remain quiet during the offering)