

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

**St. Paul
Lutheran**



**Taylor, TX
LCMC**

***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School***

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

September 6, 2026



Matthew 18, 15-20



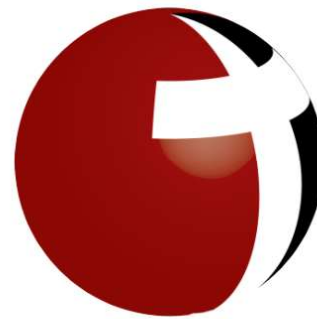
***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
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Teach me, O LORD,
the way of your decrees,
that I may follow it to the end.



WELCOME

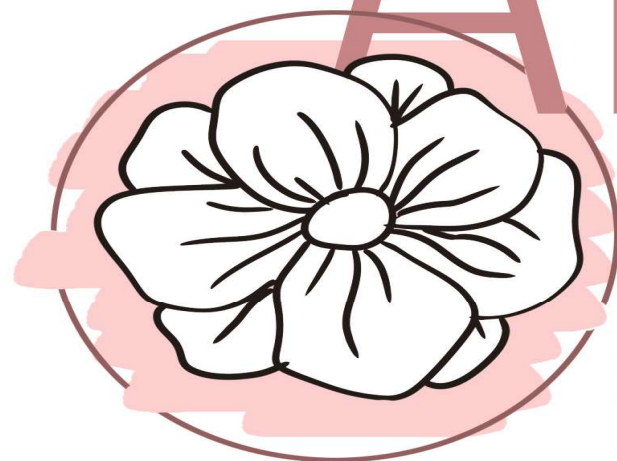
WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



lcmmc

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

ALTAR *flowers*



Rooted in Love, living on in our hearts.
The green plant on the altar is in memory of
Curtis & Rosalie Minzenmayer
from their children and grandchildren.



PRAY FOR: HARVEST WORKERS

Lord of the harvest, bless your
harvest workers with a great bounty!

*The harvest is plentiful, but the
laborers are few, therefore pray
earnestly to the Lord of the harvest
to send out laborers into his harvest.*

—Matthew 9:37-38

 **PRAYER LEAGUE**
prayerleague.org

INTRODUCTION

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through
faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody
your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our
relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking
justice.**

**Divisions disrupt your call to show
genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

**Restore our world and reconcile us to one
another.**

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

Gathering Song

“Earth and All Stars!”

Hymn # 731

**¹ Earth and all stars! Loud
rushing planets!
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

Hymn # 731

**Hail, wind, and rain! Loud
blowing snowstorm!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 731

[Refrain]

**God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new
song!**

Hymn # 731

**³ Engines and steel!
Loud pounding hammers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

Hymn # 731

**Limestone and beams!
Loud building workers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 731

[Refrain]

**God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new
song!**

Hymn # 731

**Final Knowledge and truth!
Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

Hymn # 731

**Daughter and son!
Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 731

[Refrain]

**God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new
song!**

Hymn # 731

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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord*

Lord, have mercy.

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being
of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us
pray to the lord*

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their
worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord
A-men.

THIS IS THE FEAST

***This is the feast of victory
for our God.***

Alleluia, alleluia

(sung twice)

***Worthy is Christ,
the Lamb who was slain
whose blood set us free
to be people of God***

***Power, riches, wisdom, and
strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory
are his***

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

(sung twice)

***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***

(sung twice)

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

***This is the feast of victory
for our God.***

Alleluia, alleluia

(sung twice)

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand.

⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?”

¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall
keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your
commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal Life.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 18:15-20

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector.

¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

For where two or three are
gathered together in my
name, there am I in the midst
of them.

Matthew 18:20



Hymn of the Day

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

Hymn # 612

[Refrain]

**Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

Hymn # 612

**¹ You who know our fears and
sadness,
grace us with your peace and
gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our
hearts.
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 612

[Refrain]

**Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

Hymn # 612

**² In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of
love.
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 612

[Refrain]

**Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

Hymn # 612

**3 Give us strength to love each
other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our
guide.
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 612

[Refrain]

**Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

Hymn # 612

**Final You who know each thought
and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each
heart.
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 612

[Refrain]

**Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

Hymn # 612

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

Apostles' 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.**

Congregation may be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love,
we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us; especially we remember our friends and family members before you.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries, for Juna and Anne in Boliva, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Grace Lutheran Church in Nahua, Montana.

Today we also pray for St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Weesatche, Texas and their pastor, Kevin Karnei. By your Holy Spirit, give them the strength of faith to answer your call to make disciples.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you.
We give you thanks for the nearness of your
salvation for all who have gone before us.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have
forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that
we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you. 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...

...we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are
full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

COMMUNION

*Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line
and at the altar rail.*

Lamb of God Pg. 174

***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, grant us peace.***



Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line and at the altar rail.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and
mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you
peace.

Amen.

Sending Song

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Hymn # 543

**¹ Go, my children, with my
blessing, never alone. Waking,
sleeping, I am with you; you are
my own.**

Hymn # 543

**In my love's baptismal river I
have made you mine forever. Go,
my children, with my blessing,
you are my own.**

Hymn # 543

**2 Go, my children, sins forgiven, at
peace and pure. Here you learned
how much I love you, what I can
cure.**

Hymn # 543

**Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at
peace and pure.**

Hymn # 543

**Final Go, my children, fed and
nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.**

Hymn # 543

**Here my Spirit's power filled you;
here his tender comfort stilled
you. Go, my children, fed and
nourished, joyful and free.**

Hymn # 543

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

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