

ASCENSION SUNDAY



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***

May 17, 2026

John 17:1-11

Revealing the Father Receiving His Glory



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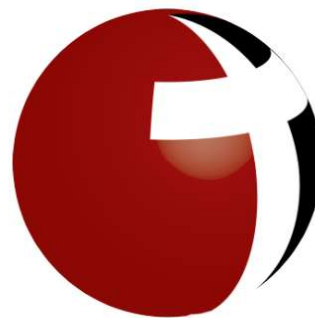


**Let God arise,
let his enemies
be scattered:
let them also that hate
him flee before him.**

Psalm 68:1

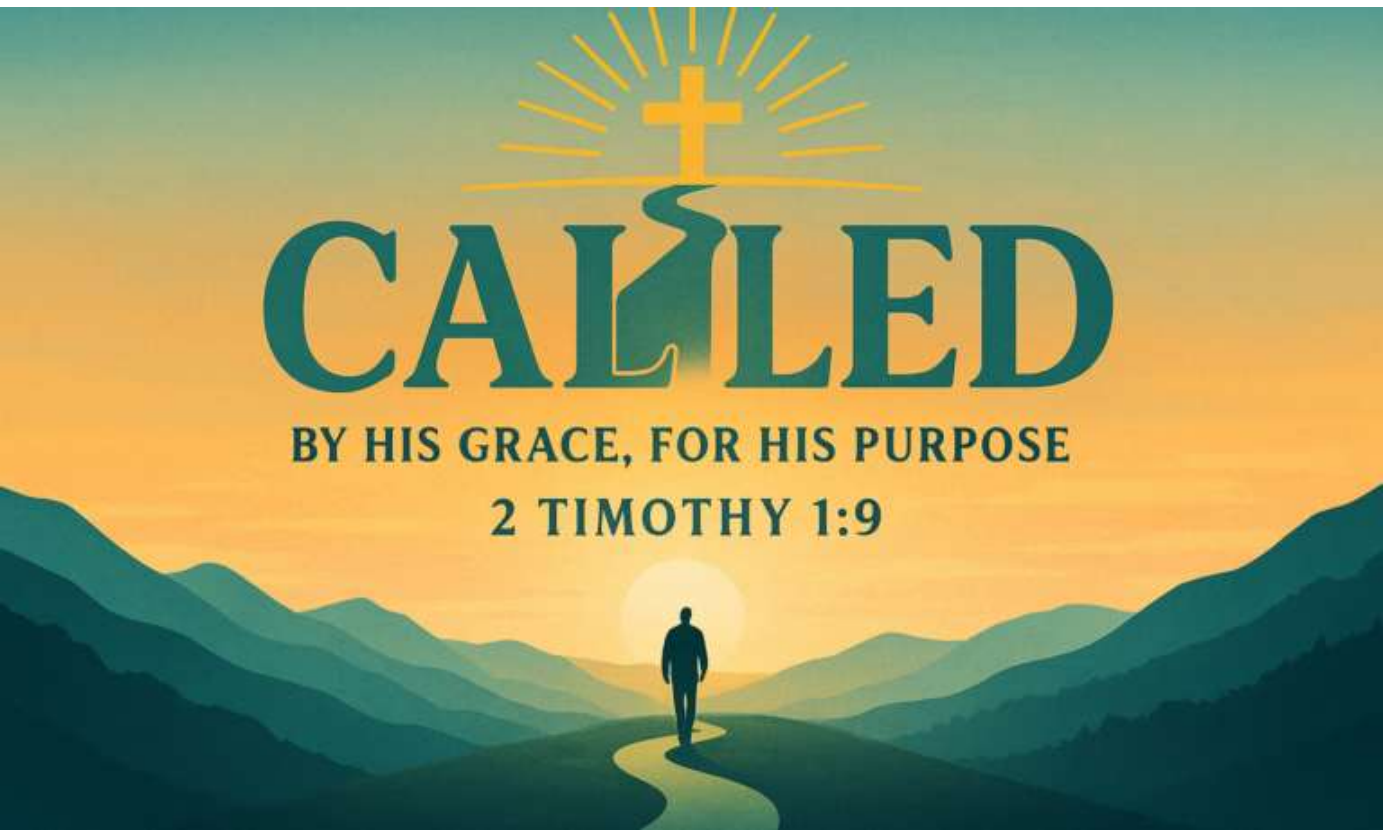
WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



lcmc

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ



CALLED
BY HIS GRACE, FOR HIS PURPOSE
2 TIMOTHY 1:9

St. Paul
Lutheran



Taylor, TX
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Mark Your Calendar!

2026 Annual TX District Gathering, July 24-25

St. Paul Lutheran Church in New Braunfels, Texas

PRAY FOR: THE MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

May there be an outpouring of Your Spirit, Lord, even where it seems most challenging.

“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength.”

Isaiah 12:2



WORLD MISSION PRAYER LEAGUE

wmpl.org



INTRODUCTION

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to
come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of
life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and
resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of
life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

Amen.

Gathering Song

“Bind Us Together”

Hymn # 748

(From the blue ‘With One Voice’ hymnal)

[Refrain]

**Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.**

Hymn # 748 (From the blue 'With One Voice' hymnal)

[Refrain]

**Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together, Lord;
bind us together in love.**

Hymn # 748 (From the blue 'With One Voice' hymnal)

**¹ There is only one God.
There is only one King,
There is only one Body;
that is why we sing:**

Hymn # 748 (From the blue 'With One Voice' hymnal)

[Refrain]

**Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.**

Hymn # 748 (From the blue 'With One Voice' hymnal)

[Refrain]

**Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together, Lord;
bind us together in love.**

Hymn # 748 (From the blue 'With One Voice' hymnal)

**Final You are the fam'ly of God.
You are the promise divine.
You are God's chosen desire,
you are the glorious new
wine.**

Hymn # 748 (From the blue 'With One Voice' hymnal)

[Refrain]

**Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.**

Hymn # 748 (From the blue 'With One Voice' hymnal)

[Refrain]

**Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together, Lord;
bind us together in love.**

Hymn # 748 (From the blue 'With One Voice' hymnal)

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 God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

⁶ When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.

¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 68:1-10, 32-35

Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds. (Ps. 68:4)

¹ Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;

let those who hate God flee.

² **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

³ But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before
God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴ **Sing to God, sing praises to God's
name; exalt the one who rides the
clouds;
I Am is that name, rejoice before
God!**

⁵ In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of
widows;

⁶ **you give the solitary a home and
bring forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in desert
places.**

⁷ O God, when you went forth before your
people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
⁸ **the earth quaked, and the skies
poured down rain, at the presence
of God, the God of
Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of
Israel.**

⁹ You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it
languished.

**¹⁰ Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have
made provision for the poor.**

³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.

**³³ You ride in the heavens, O God, in
the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your
mighty voice.**

³⁴ Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength
is in the skies.

³⁵ **How wonderful you are in your holy
places, O God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your
people! Blessed be God!**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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 John 17:1-11

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶ “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.

¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



CHILDREN'S
SERMON

Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley



Hymn of the Day

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!”

Hymn # 392

**¹ Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.**

Hymn # 392

**Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."**

Hymn # 392

**³ Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day.**

Hymn # 392

**Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.**

Hymn # 392

**Final Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.**

Hymn # 392

**Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."**

Hymn # 392

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, heal the sick and we remember our friends and family members before you.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment, and accompany us in our prayers during these times.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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 Becky and Paul in Malaysia, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Florence, Alabama.

Especially today we celebrate and lift before you the ministry of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pflugerville, Texas and their pastor, Keith Weise. May your grace flow through them as they share your Good News.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

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

“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”

Hymn # 817

**1 You have come down to the
lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the
wealthy,
but only asking for me to follow.
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 817

[Refrain]

**Sweet Lord, you have looked into my
eyes,
kindly smiling, you've called out my
name.**

Hymn # 817

[Refrain Cont]

**On the sand I've abandoned my
small boat;
now with you, I will seek other seas.**

Hymn # 817

**2 You know full well what I have,
Lord:
neither treasure nor weapons for
conquest,
just these my fish nets and will
for working.**

Hymn # 817

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

**Sweet Lord, you have looked into my
eyes,
kindly smiling, you've called out my
name.**

Hymn # 817

[Refrain Cont]

**On the sand I've abandoned my
small boat;
now with you, I will seek other seas.**

Hymn # 817

**3 You need my hands, my
exhaustion,
working love for the rest of the
weary,
a love that's willing to go on
loving.**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 817

[Refrain]

**Sweet Lord, you have looked into my
eyes,
kindly smiling, you've called out my
name.**

Hymn # 817

[Refrain Cont]

**On the sand I've abandoned my
small boat;
now with you, I will seek other seas.**

Hymn # 817

Final You who have fished other
waters;

**you, the longing of souls that are
yearning;**

**O loving Friend, you have come
to call me.**

Hymn # 817

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

**Sweet Lord, you have looked into my
eyes,
kindly smiling, you've called out my
name.**

Hymn # 817

[Refrain Cont]

**On the sand I've abandoned my
small boat;
now with you, I will seek other seas.**

Hymn # 817

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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