

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:

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8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 7, 2011

WELCOME to all who are visiting today! Our greatest desire is to share that wonderful message of forgiveness and eternal salvation for all in Jesus' name. We pray you will be drawn closer to Christ as the Holy Spirit nurtures us through God's Word in this service. Before you leave, please, take time to sign our guest register in the entrance way, and we hope you will join us every week as we gather as God's family in worship.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC + WELCOME

HYMN: #339 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" vs. 1,3,6,7

INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION:

P. Loved by the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord;

C. WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH.

P. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C. AND YOU FORGAVE THE INIQUITY OF MY SIN.

CONFESSION: (Spoken together)

O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me a poor sinful being.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE: (From Psalm 65)

P. Praise awaits You, O God, in Zion

C. TO YOU OUR VOWS WILL BE FULFILLED.

P. O You who hear prayer, to You all men will come.

C. WHEN WE WERE OVERWHELMED BY SINS, YOU FORGAVE OUR TRANSGRESSIONS.

P. Blessed are those You choose and bring near to live in Your courts!

C. WE ARE FILLED WITH THE GOOD THINGS OF YOUR HOUSE, OF YOUR HOLY TEMPLE.

P. You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness,

C. O GOD OUR SAVIOR, THE HOPE OF ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!

SONG: "Wonderful Merciful Savior"

1. Wonderful merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend; Who would have thought that a Lamb, could rescue the souls of men? Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

Chorus: You are the One that we praise, You are the One we adore. You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for; Oh our hearts always hunger for.

2. Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace; You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way, Oh, we hopelessly lost the way. (*Chorus*)

3. Almighty infinite Father, faithfully loving Your own; Here in our weakness You find us falling before Your throne, Oh, we're falling before Your throne. (*Chorus x2*)

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OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 55:10,11

10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, 11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because

they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 He who has ears, let him hear.” 18 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20 The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. 22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. 23 But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

I believe in God the Father, the creator of all things, the source of all goodness and love. He is our God and we are his people.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, true God and true man. He was crucified, died and was buried for my sin and the sins of all people. His sacrifice of love was done that we might be free and know the joy of life. He was raised on the third day, victorious over sin, death, and the devil. He ascended into heaven. He now lives to come again in power and glory, to judge both the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, true God, who brings the gifts of the risen Savior to us, stirring faith in our hearts through His Word and the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. As the Comforter, the Spirit works to keep us in faith, with the whole Christian church on earth, until Jesus comes in glory to take us to be with him forever. Amen.

HYMN: #660 "I'm But a Stranger Here"

SERMON: Romans 8:18-23 "Not Worth Comparing!"

(A sermon outline with the Scripture reading is printed on the back of the bulletin to aid your meditation on God's Word)

SONG: "My All in All" (Colossians 3:11)

You are my strength, O God; You are my help, O God; You are the One on whom I call. You are my shield, O God; my life I yield, O God; for You will ever be my all in all. *(Repeat)*

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THE OFFERING + RITE OF FELLOWSHIP

(Please sign book at end of pew.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

P. Lord God, You have taught us through Your word that it does not return to You empty.

C. THE INCARNATE WORD, JESUS CHRIST, HAS SAVED US FROM OUR SIN AND THROUGH HIM WE ARE HEIRS IN YOUR KINGDOM.

P. We trust Your direction in our lives, Lord.

C. WE KNOW THAT YOUR PURPOSES WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED FOR GOOD.

P. Lord God, teach us to look with great hope toward the coming of Your kingdom.

C. HELP US TO SHARE THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST THAT OTHERS MIGHT HAVE THAT HOPE AS WELL.

P. Today, we lay before You these special concerns...*(special prayer requests)*...May all for whom we pray be comforted in knowing You Jesus as a loving and merciful Lord.

C. INTO YOUR HANDS, O LORD, WE COMMEND ALL FOR WHOM WE PRAY, TRUSTING IN YOUR GOODNESS AND POWER TO DELIVER YOUR PEOPLE IN ALL SITUATIONS.

P. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, O Christ, now and forever. Amen.

REFLECTION ON THE LORD'S PRAYER:

P. We pray "Lead us not into temptation." Who is it that seeks to lead us into temptation?

C. GOD DOES NOT TEMPT US, THOUGH HE MAY TEST OUR FAITH TO BRING US CLOSER TO HIMSELF. THE DEVIL, THE WORLD, AND OUR SINFUL NATURE HOWEVER DO TEMPT US, AND TRY TO MISLEAD US INTO FALSE BELIEF, DESPAIR, AND OTHER GREAT SINS.

P. What do we ask God to do for us when we pray this petition?

C. WE ASK OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN TO GIVE US STRENGTH TO RESIST AND OVERCOME TEMPTATIONS.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (Spoken together)

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SONG: "I Am Crucified With Christ"

I am crucified with Christ, therefore I no longer live, Jesus Christ now lives in me. I am crucified with Christ, therefore I no longer live, Jesus Christ now lives in me. *(repeat)*

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THOSE DESIRING COMMUNION: *The Bible teaches under the bread and wine of Communion Jesus gives His real body and blood to assure us of forgiveness. (Mt 26:26-28) It also teaches in receiving this meal together, we are by that act professing a unity of faith with the church at whose altar we commune. (1 Cor 10: 16-21) While Communion is meant as a blessing, we can however misuse it to our harm. Those who eat without repentance or recognizing the presence of Jesus' body and blood sin against the Lord. (1 Cor 11:27-29). Also, when fellowship at this meal is practiced with others who hold beliefs contrary to God's Word, the church is weakened and the truth God tells us to guard is compromised. (Ro 16:17, 2 Thess 3:14) In an effort to avoid these sins and follow God's Word, before communing anyone we first seek to teach them about Christ's meal, and have them make a public profession of their agreement with us in the faith. As a matter of loving spiritual care then, not judgment, we invite to commune with us today confirmed members in good standing of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, or the American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC) who have received instruction, and by current membership in one of these sister churches confess a unity of faith with us here at St. Paul's.*

NON-ALCOHOLIC COMMUNION WINE: *Out of consideration for those who have difficulty with alcohol a few glasses in the center ring of each Communion tray contain non-alcoholic white wine.*

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

BLESSING: *(Adapted from Revelation 7)*

P. The uncountable multitude of saints in heaven who trusted in Jesus as their Savior stand

before the Lamb upon his throne and cry out with a loud voice,

C. SALVATION BELONGS TO OUR GOD, WHO SITS ON THE THRONE, AND TO THE LAMB!

P. And all the angels around the throne worship him saying;

C. BLESSING AND HONOR, GLORY AND THANKSGIVING, POWER AND MIGHT BE TO OUR GOD FOREVER AND EVER! AMEN.

P. And all the creatures of the earth shout;

C. AMEN!

P. And all the saints and angels shout;

C. AMEN!

P. The grace of the risen Lord Jesus be with God's people.

C. ALLELUIA! AMEN.

HYMN: #36 "Now Thank We All Our God"

ANNOUNCEMENTS + POSTLUDE

PRAISE BAND SCHEDULE FOR MONTH OF AUGUST:

August 14th and 28th at 10:30 Service

Romans 8:18-23

"Not Worth Comparing!"

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

1. Why isn't it worth comparing some things?

2. Why is the created universe waiting for the sons of God to be revealed?

3. When was the world subjected by God?

4. What makes us groan inwardly?

5. What do we learn as Jesus cries in front of Lazarus' tomb?

6. Why did Jesus suffer the curse of death himself?

7. How can we say we are freed from the curse of death if we still die?

8. What will our resurrected bodies be like?

9. What does Jesus plan on doing with the world at the end of time?

10. What will our lives be like following Jesus' coming in glory?

11. What does the glory awaiting us in Christ do with the "bad" things we go through now?