



St. Paul's Lutheran Family, ELCA

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Rev. Mary Lou Petitjean, Interim Pastor



NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Family!

PRELUDE: He Touched Me by William Gaither

INTRODUCTION

Someone who isn't part of Jesus' own circle is casting out demons in Jesus' name, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in his name, even when it is not under his control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.**

In our desire to be first

we make distinctions among ourselves.

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

Draw near to us with grace in time of need,

and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,

our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ,
the source of eternal healing,
your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Hymn #580, How Clear Our Vocation, Lord – Four verses

1 How clear is our vocation, Lord,
when once we heed your call
to live according to your word
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all,
and will not let us fall.

2 But if, forgetful, we should find
your yoke is hard to bear;
if worldly pressures fray the mind
and life itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care:
our inward life repair.

3 We marvel how your saints become
in hindrances more sure;
whose joyful virtues put to shame
the casual way we wear your name,
and by our faults obscure
your pow'r to cleanse and cure.

4 In what you give us, Lord, to do,
together or alone,
in old routines or ventures new,
may we not cease to look to you,
the cross you hung upon,
all you endeavored done.

GREETING

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.

Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**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, alleluia.

**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, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER of the DAY

Let us pray.

Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD of GOD

FIRST READING: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. God provides manna in the wilderness, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders, yet two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?

⁴The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! ⁵We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

¹⁰Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. ¹¹So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? ¹²Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'? ¹³Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' ¹⁴I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. ¹⁵If this is the way you

are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.”

¹⁶So the LORD said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.”

²⁴So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. ²⁵Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

²⁶Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” ²⁸And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” ²⁹But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

A time of silence follows the reading

PSALM: Psalm 19:7-14, Refrain

The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)



⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | lives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom | to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;**
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,**
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb. R



¹¹By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is | great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's | own offenses?**
Cleanse me from my | secret faults.

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get
dominion | over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be**
acceptable | in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer. R



SECOND READING: James 5:13-20

Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.

¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: There is a Balm in Gilead, St. Paul's Choir

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.

³⁸John said to [Jesus], "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.

⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹“For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

(The gospel is proclaimed, concluding...)

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME – Traci Angel

SERMON – The Reverend Mary Lou Petitjean

HYMN of the DAY: Hymn #719, Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life – Six verses

- 1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
- 2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.
- 3 From tender childhood's helplessness,
from human grief and burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress,
your heart has never known recoil.

- 4 The cup of water giv'n for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view
the strong compassion in your face.
- 5 O Master, from the mountainside
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide;
oh, tread the city's streets again;
- 6 Till all the world shall learn your love,
and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heav'n above
shall come the city of our God.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence

We pray for the people of God in all places. Shape our witness to the good news of Jesus that we joyfully share your transforming love with all whom we encounter. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the healing of the earth. Renew oceans and seas, marshes and estuaries. Uphold the work of conservationists, oceanographers, and all who care for fragile ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for peace and cooperation among local and global communities. Bless the efforts of community organizers, international aid workers, and all those who work for justice and peace around the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all who are in any need. To all who grieve, bring consolation; to all who are weary or lonely, bring solace. By your grace, make your presence known among all who call to you for healing (*especially...*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for caregivers: doctors and nurses, home health aides and counselors, and those who care for loved ones (*other caregivers or individuals may be named*). Sustain them in their work and help us to build a health care system that supports all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the saints who now rest in your eternal presence. In thanksgiving for their lives of faithful service and witness, we commend them to your loving care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PASSING of the PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of that peace.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN: Hymn #692, We Are an Offering

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

Lord use our voices

Lord use our hands

Lord use our lives they are Yours

We are an offering

All that we have

All that we are

All that we hope to be

We give to You

We give to You

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.
By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

THE 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, that at all times and in all places we
give thanks and praise.

**Holy, holy, holy 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.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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 is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the
forgiveness of sin.
Do this in remembrance of me.

And now we are bold to 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,
the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table.
Come, here is your God.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Hymn #787, On Eagles' Wings – Four verses

1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear;
under God's wings your refuge,
with faithfulness your shield. *Refrain*

Refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

3 You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come. *Refrain*

Refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

4 For to the angels God's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Final refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand;
and hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Hymn #804, Come Down, O Love Divine – Four verses

- 1 Come down, O Love divine;
seek thou this soul of mine
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near;
within my heart appear
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

- 2 Oh, let it freely burn,
till worldly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

- 3 Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing--
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

- 4 And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the pow'r of human telling;
no soul can guess Love's grace
till it become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

PRAYER after COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Holy God,

**you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.**

**Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

BLESSING

God all mighty,
God most merciful
✠ bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Choir practice is at 6:00 p.m. every Wednesday. If you would like to join the choir or learn more about serving in this ministry, please contact Carol Arneson at carol_arneson@yahoo.com or 775 781-5057.

Confirmation Class is held on each Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Contact Pastor Paul for more information.

Thanksgiving and Farewell of the Intentional Interim Pastor

Louise Griffith: Today we offer our thanks and farewell as Pastor Mary Lou Petitjean concludes her time as Pastor of our congregation, grateful for the ministry she has done among us.

Pastor Mary Lou has served St. Paul's Lutheran Family faithfully for one year as our Pastor. The Congregation Council and our members therefore wish to have her ministry recognized with our thanks.

It is important that we within the fellowship of Christ recognize the endings and beginnings that are so often a part of our life together. We now say thanks over what has been and invoke God's blessings on what will be. You have been a blessing to us, and we thank you. We wish you every blessing as you leave us.

Pastor Mary Lou Petitjean: I thank St. Paul's Lutheran Family, its members and leadership, for the love, kindness, and support that you have shown me. I am grateful that you received my ministry, and that we were able to work together to accomplish many good things. I am confident that God has already forgiven any mistakes we made and that God blessed the work we did.

Congregation: We thank you for the compassion, wisdom, energy, and faith you brought to our congregation. You helped us in our time of need as a servant of Christ and blessing to God's people.

Louise Griffith: Will you, members with me of St. Paul's Lutheran Family, now release Pastor Mary Lou from the duties of intentional Interim Pastor?

Congregation: We do, with thanks to God.

Louise Griffith: Will you pray for her as she continues in ministry in a new place?

Congregation: We will, with thanks to God.

Louise Griffith: Will you, Pastor Mary Lou, release and commit the shepherding of this congregation to its next pastor?

Pastor Mary Lou Petitjean: I do, with thanks to God.

Louise Griffith: Will you pray for us as this congregation looks forward to the future?

Pastor Mary Lou Petitjean: I will, with thanks to God.

Congregation: O God, your everlasting love for us all is trustworthy and sure. Give us confidence to go forward into the future, grateful for the goodness you have shown us in the past. Bless this servant of Christ, and bless our community of faith, for the sake of Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Louise Griffith: Go now, Pastor Mary Lou, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The congregation and staff of St. Paul's
wish to thank Pastor Mary Lou from the bottom
of our hearts for her love and dedication to our church.

She selflessly came to us in our time of need and has been a
wonderful pastor and friend to us all.

Enjoy all the new adventures that lie ahead!

Godspeed!



SENDING SONG: Hymn #540, Go, Make Disciples – Sing two times

"Go, make disciples,
baptizing them, teaching them.
Go, make disciples,
for I am with you till the end of time.
Go, be the salt of the earth.
Go, be the light for the world.
Go, be a city on a hill,
so all can see that you're serving me.
Go, make disciples."

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

See you next week!

POSTLUDE: It is No Secret by Stuart Hamlin

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeter – Rachel Olson

Reader – Nick Cotsonis

Communion Assistant – TBA

Ushers – TBA

Counters – Shirley Rickard and Deanna Fine

Acolytes – Clay Woslum and Greg Griffith

Youth Acolytes – TBA

Live-streaming Team – Nick Cotsonis and Holly McPhail

Musician – Dave Lingsjo

Altar Guild: Mary DeFelice and Lorayn Walser

CHURCH ATTENDANCE STATS: Sunday, September 22, 2024:

Adults: 49, Children: 3, Online: 2

PRAYERS for COPING and HEALING

David Wilson, recovering from heart surgery; Brian Marley, severe back pain; Katherine Poline, friend of Judy McPhail's oldest daughter Heather, diagnosed with breast cancer; Anna Little, a high-risk pregnancy with due date in October; Ray Patrick, Wayne and Jean Opperman's son-in-law, cancer treatment; Wayne Opperman; Denise Muller; Marie Boone, a fall; Vera Logie; Tom, a friend of St. Paul's; Joan Yeskie; Edward Yoho; Fern Yoho; Maxine McGregor, and a special prayer for all those living with devastating diseases and life-threatening injuries.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Jim Kennett; Gayle Kennett; Pat Thunder; Audrey Stroub; Bev Steinert, ongoing vision issues; Bob Stroub; Bill Sandell; Frank and Shirley Bartlett; Carol Kalleres, continued health issues; James Wilson, continued health issues; Mary Ann Adamik, healing; Ellen Harrell, medical issues; Betty Razor, healing; Karen (Hone) Nolte; and Diana Johns.