



**August 9, AD 2020  
Tenth Sunday after  
Pentecost  
8:15am**

Saint Paul Lutheran Church  
250 Trinity Road  
York, PA 17408  
[www.saintpaultrinity.org](http://www.saintpaultrinity.org)

(P=Pastor, AM=Assisting Minister, C=Congregation,  
\*=please stand) (The order of service and several hymns are found in the green book –LBW, purple-W&P or  
in the blue book-WOV. Please silence all electronic devices as we give our attention to God's presence in  
this holy place.)

Music Meditation

Chimes

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer Concerns

*(During the prelude, anyone who would like to receive a special prayer and the laying on of hands may  
bring their concern with them and kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive this blessing.)*

(acolytes light the candles during the prelude music)

Prelude: Fanfare on "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" -- Wold

*(During the prelude you may wish to reflect on the following prayer: Gracious God you have told us to fear  
not, trusting in you for our deliverance. Grant that as we pass through the storms of life we would find peace  
and comfort, courage, and solace in your presence and in your Word. We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen).*

\*Invocation and Order of Confession and Forgiveness §

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Loving God, we thank you that even though we are often unreliable and disobedient you never break your promises to us and you keep your covenant forever. Hear our prayers this day as we seek to more closely walk in the light of your presence.

*(please kneel or stand and observe a time of silence for self-examination.)*

P: Gracious God,

**C: we confess that we are sinful and unclean. We do not rejoice in your commands, but instead often choose to go our own way. Forgive us we pray and conform our lives to your will so that we may live and serve you in newness of life.**

P: God has sent his only begotten Son Jesus to be our Savior and our King. Because of his sacrifice on the cross and his victory over death and the grave our sins are forgiven and we are given new life. Receive this gift of new life today in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn: **Baptized and Set Free WP # 14 (see insert)**

\*Apostolic Greeting §

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

**C: And also with you.**

\*\*Opening Dialogue

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,

**C: for in your wisdom you have formed us.**

P: You feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

**C: We bless you and praise your name forever.**

P: You set free those who are bound.

**C: We bless you and praise your name forever.**

P: You raise up those whose courage falters.

**C: We bless you and praise your name forever.**

P: You provide for our every need.

**C: Accept our grateful praises.**

P: You have called us from all peoples.

**C: We rejoice and bless your name forever.**

P: You bless your people with peace.

**C: We bless you and praise your loving grace.**

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,

**C: for in your wisdom you have formed us.**

\*The Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty and merciful God, only by your gift of grace can the faithful offer service that is worthy of you and deserving of praise. Keep us from stumbling as we run to receive your promises; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### First Lesson: **Job 38:4-18**

(Job has made his case to God, saying that he does not deserve to suffer in this way. God hears him out and then speaks the bold truth of who is in charge, citing the creation as God's design and handiwork of which Job had no knowledge or part. These poetic words humble Job and all humanity by explicating our smallness and insignificance in contrast to the creative power and might of God.)

4“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. 5Who determined its measurements — surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, 7when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? 8Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, 9when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, 10and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, 11and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed’? 12Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, 13that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? 14It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. 15From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken. 16Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? 17Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? 18Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm: **18:1-6 (read responsively)**

(The psalmist praises the Lord for being his strength and deliverer. Even though he was near death when he cried out to God, he was rescued from Sheol. The God of salvation is the psalmist's rock and fortress, his shelter from the storms of life.)

L:1 I love you, O Lord my strength, O Lord my stronghold, my crag, and my haven.

**C:2 My God, my rock in whom I put my trust, my shield, the horn of my salvation, and my refuge: You are worthy of praise.**

L:3 I will call upon the Lord, and so shall I be saved from my enemies.

**C:4 The breakers of death rolled over me, and the torrents of oblivion made me afraid.**

L:5 The cords of hell entangled me, and the snares of death were set for me.

**C:6 I called upon the Lord in my distress and cried out to my God for help.**

### Second Lesson: **Romans 10:5-17**

(St. Paul teaches the Roman Christians about faith in Christ, saying that if one believes from the heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, that person will be saved. This good news goes out to any who believe, for there are no distinctions between Jew and Greek. Simply by calling on the name of the Lord, one is saved.)

5Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. 6But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) 7"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." 12For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" 16But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" 17So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*Alleluia Verse

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

\*Gospel Announcement

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 14th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Gospel: **Matthew 14:22-33**

(Immediately after Jesus feeds five thousand men, plus women and children, he sends his disciples across to the other side of the lake. Jesus sends the crowds away and goes to the mountain to pray. Soon after, the disciples' boat is battered by a storm. Jesus approaches the boat on the water and calls out to them.)

22Immediately {Jesus} made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. 25And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. 26But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. 27But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." 28And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. 30But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." 31Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon: Pastor Sally Gausmann

\*The Votum

\*Hymn of the Day: **Have No Fear Little Flock LBW# 476 (See insert)**

### \* **The 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 into hell. 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.**

\*The Prayers

**C: Amen.**

\*Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.** (We share the peace with one another. Please stay in your pew and greet without hand shaking.)

Offertory: Voluntary -- Travers

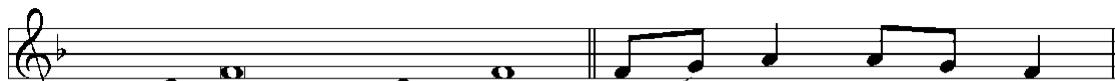
\*Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray...

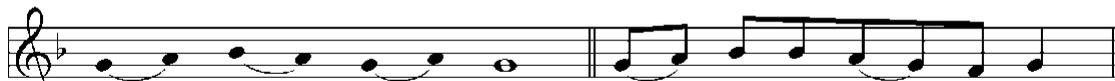
P: Blessed are you,

**C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*Great Thanksgiving



♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

\*The Proper Preface

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by His death atoned for our sins and by His glorious resurrection saved us to everlasting life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

\*The Sanctus



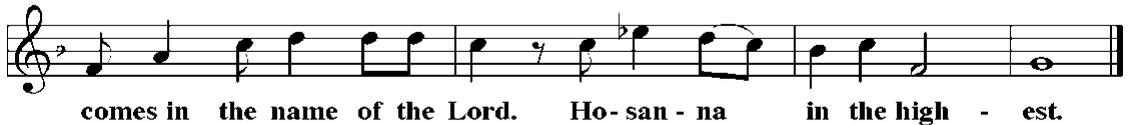
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



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.

#### \*Eucharistic Prayer

P: Blessed are You, O Lord eternal, and blessed be Your name. In Your great love, You sent Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be the promised Savior, whose power was shown in love and whose life of service fulfilled Your will and completed the work of salvation. With thankfulness, we receive the blessings He has obtained for us. Gather into one, we pray You, all Your people who now join at Your holy Table. Bless and nourish us, so that all we who partake of Christ's holy body and blood be strengthened to serve You and our neighbor, as You would have us do. To You, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in Your Holy Church forever and ever..

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

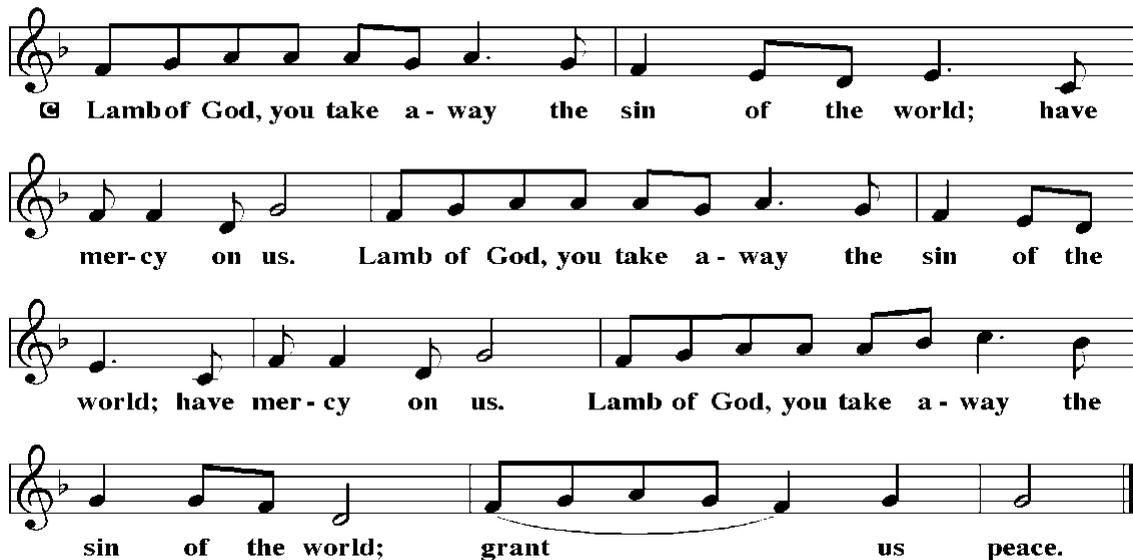
#### \*The Words of Institution

#### \*The Lord's Prayer

\*P: Lord remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray...

**All: 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.**

## Lamb of God

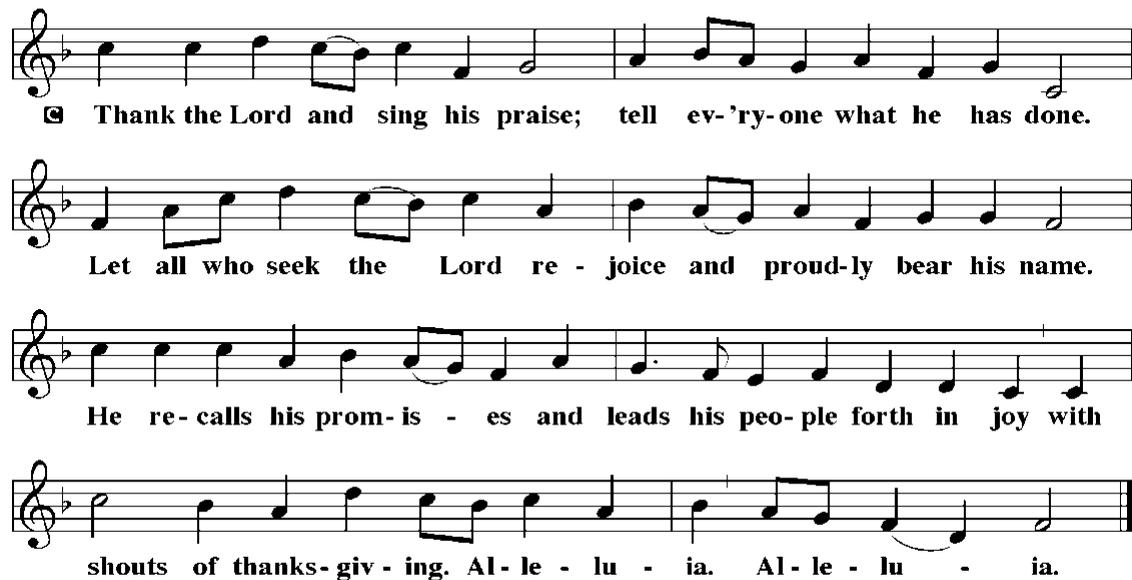


☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Distribution of Holy Communion (Carol plays special music)

\*Blessing

\*Post Communion Canticle:



☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.  
He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

\*Post Communion Prayer: +

P: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the Church. And we ask You to help us by Your Holy Spirit that we continue in this fellowship and do the good works You desire us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**C: Amen.**

\*Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

(acolytes extinguish the candles during the hymn)

\*Recessional Hymn: **He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought #501** (see insert)

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Psalm 19 --Marcello

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**WELCOME!** Thank you for joining us for worship! **In the name of Jesus Christ, Saint Paul Lutheran Church is committed to praising, praying, and proclaiming the Word of God.** All baptized Christians who have received their first communion are invited to join us for Holy Communion believing as we do that Christ is truly present in this holy meal. Please follow the ushers instruction for when to leave your pew. Receive the wafer with open hands and then take a communion glass from the tray. If you have trouble coming forward **please inform the usher and communion will be brought to your pew.** Please join us again.

**Thought for the day:** The disciples in their small boat are being thrashed around by a storm, and, seeing Jesus, they cry out, thinking he is a ghost. Peter calls to him and ventures onto the water, but fear gets the best of him and he plunges into the waves. When the storms of life seek to engulf us, we can be sure that Jesus will be there to stretch out his hand and pull us up. God who is in charge and he calms the wind and waves.

### **Lord's Helpers**

**Head Usher:** Lawrence Smyser

**Lay Reader:** Lawrence Smyser

**Altar Guild:** Linda Sherman

**SPONSORSHIPS to the Glory of God: ALTAR FLOWERS** in memory of Dale Lynn by Randy & Donna Barshinger **BASKET** in honor of Noah's baptism by Dad, Mom, Charlotte, & Lucy **BULLETIN** in honor of our service men and women by Richard & Mary Keller **BREAD & WINE** in honor of our family by Richard & Mary Keller **MAILING:** in loving memory of Katie A. Bare and Mr. and Mrs. G. Edward Akins by Charlotte Hoffman & family **PARISH MESSENGER:** in memory of Delores, by Carl **SANCTUARY LAMP:** To the glory of God by the Concordia Sunday School Class

**SPECIAL APPEAL FOR: August  
Technology Special Appeal**

Typically, we have used August for our CYC appeal but since that ministry is on hold right now, we thought that this would be another opportunity to build up our funds for this new aspect of our ministry. Thanks to the generous time and resources of many of our members we have been able to live stream and do our outdoor service with a nice new speaker system. But as you know, with technology, there is always one more thing that is needed to make the system work smoothly. Please consider giving to the Technology Appeal. If you are using the envelopes provided please indicate where you intend the money to go, since the envelopes were printed in advance with the CYC cause on them.

**SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**250 Trinity Road York, PA 17408 792-1650**

PASTORS Rev. Sara "Sally" Gausmann e-mail: [pastorsally@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:pastorsally@saintpaultrinity.org)

Cell phone – 717-487-1790

Rev. Paul Gausmann

e-mail: [pastorpaul@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:pastorpaul@saintpaultrinity.org)

Cell phone -717-495-6582

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Kate Frye church office: 792-1650

e-mail: [parishadmin@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:parishadmin@saintpaultrinity.org)

Website: [www.saintpaultrinity.org](http://www.saintpaultrinity.org) WIFI: John3:16

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-2:00pm

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Carol Moscony -[musicdirector@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:musicdirector@saintpaultrinity.org)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Carol Frey -[financialsecretary@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:financialsecretary@saintpaultrinity.org)

MINI SEXTON: Jack Hall -[minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org)

Missionaries: Andy Stump in Haiti, Luke & Ruth in the Philippians

**OUR DAILY BREAD:** Our dessert for August is going to be cupcakes, any type you wish to make! If you are able to contribute, we will need 30 dozen by August 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you!

## Activities for the week of August 9, 2020

Sun.	8/9	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:15am Divine Worship Service -Indoors 10:00am Divine Worship Service – Outdoors / Baptism
Mon.	8/10	9:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Sunday School Task Force Meeting
Wed.	8/12	6:30pm Upholstery Sample Meeting 7:15pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting
Sat.	8/15	9:00am Quiet Communion Worship Service – Masks Required
Sun.	8/16	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 8:15am Divine Worship Service -Indoors 10:00am Divine Worship Service – Outdoors Blessing of the Backpacks



**Please call the Pastors** if you or a loved one are in the hospital, we do not usually get informed of your stay by any of the hospitals even if you are registered under our congregation's name, and we want to make sure you get pastoral care. Thank you!

**Attention Men:** Just so you know we are planning to have Men's Group again in the fall with a return to a popular theme we had several years ago "Stuff they didn't teach you in Sunday School". This year we will have a different edition of it, this time of the Prophets. We will also have short presentations from members and guest alike as they fill in this statement "my life as a \_\_\_\_\_." Should be engaging, often times kicking off with breakfast. Watch for the kickoff date in the August newsletter.

**If you are receiving a copy of the Sunday bulletin by regular mail** and would no longer like to receive one, please contact the church office.

## BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK BLESSING SUNDAY AUGUST 16



School age boys and girls should bring their backpack to church and they will receive a tag for their packs and a blessing for the start of the school year.

## Listening for the Promise Weekly Devotional

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost - August 9, 2020**

*Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?  
Declare, if you know all this.  
- Job 38:18-*

We human beings, mere mortals that we are, sure do ask a lot of questions of God. We want to know why he isn't there when we need him, how could he let tragedies happen, and why won't he answer when we call? We sure do think a lot of ourselves, don't we? That we would be so bold as to demand an answer from the One who created everything out of nothing is either very brave or totally audacious. Who do we think we are anyway?

Job was considered to be an upright man, according to God. In this saga, the enemy, Satan, questioned God as to the motivation of Job's faithfulness. As the story unfolds, Job loses just about everything as he is put to the test. He suffers great pain and hardship and grows weary of his circumstances. Everyone around him seems to have an answer, many blaming Job himself for the pain he's experiencing. By chapter 13, Job challenges God saying, "Then call, and I will answer; or let me speak, and you reply to me. How many are my iniquities and my sins? Make me know my transgression and my sin. Why do you hide your face and count me as your enemy?" (Job 13:22-24) Job cannot imagine what he has done to deserve such a fate.

God takes his time when it comes to answering Job. His response is more of a question turned back on the sufferer. God's reply points to our human audacity toward him as we, too, question the one who laid the foundations of the earth, the one who set the stars in space, the one who speaks through a whirlwind. God asks Job, "Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it?" (Job 38:12–13) "Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?" (Job 38:16–17)

God's challenging questions put us in our proper place. We are part of the creation. We are not on par with the Creator! God's ways are too wonderful for us! But therein lies the awesomeness of it all. Next time when we get to questioning Him, someone might want to remind us of this. Amen.

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**Attention Friends! The Church Office has new emails!! Please contact us at these new address...**

**Pastor Paul – [pastorpaul@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:pastorpaul@saintpaultrinity.org)**

**Pastor Sally – [pastorsally@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:pastorsally@saintpaultrinity.org)**

**Kate Frye – [parishadmin@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:parishadmin@saintpaultrinity.org)**

**Carol Frey – [financialsecretary@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:financialsecretary@saintpaultrinity.org)**

**Carol Moscony – [musicdirector@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:musicdirector@saintpaultrinity.org)**

**Jack Hall – [minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org)**

If you are checking out yard sales this summer. please remember that we need flat sheets, thin curtains without plastic backs, tablecloths and cotton material for the quilts we make for Lutheran World Relief. Any donations can be marked 'for quilts' and placed in the quilting closet in the conference room by the elevator. Thank you!



**MOVIE NIGHT in the YARD! August 28 at 7 pm.** Snacks and drinks will be provided as we watch TOY Story (the original) in the church yard. You may come dressed as a Toy Story character! Be prepared to have fun (outdoors, social distancing!)

**We are putting together a new Church Phone Directory!!** It will include the current address, phone number, cell phone number, and email address that we have on hand for you and/or your household. If we do not have that information for you and you wish to provide it, please send it to [parishadmin@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:parishadmin@saintpaultrinity.org) We would also like to publish a new PHOTO directory soon!! We are able to do this ourselves with our new updated system, so please consider submitting a photo to us! Thanks!



**Today we welcome through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism** Noah Martin Gausmann, son of William and Alyssa and brother to Charlotte and Lucy. Noah is the grandson of Marty and Sandra Albright and Pastors Paul and Sally Gausmann and great-grandson of Charlotte Hoffman We pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon him!

## Sermon for the 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 2020

Lord, save me. Matthew 14:30b

Matthew 14 gives a good explanation of infant baptism – Jesus saves helpless people!

- Peter was a capable man but he could not save himself from drowning.
- Baby Noah is also completely dependent
- Even the most talented doctor, scientist, explorer, athlete cannot stop disease or disaster from affecting their lives

Jesus has many saving events in Peter's life and in ours:

1. The chief event being saving us from sin, death and the devil through his death and resurrection
2. Other saving events for Peter include: Restoring/forgiving Peter after the resurrection  
Acts 12 – release from prison
3. Other saving events for us happen week after week as we receive forgiveness and new life through God's word and Holy Sacraments

We like Peter and saved and then given a mission:

- Go and preach – baptize and teach (Matthew 28)
- Let your light shine

When we are called on by Christ the task we are given is both physical and spiritual. Just like Jesus took care of the crowd in the feeding of the 5000 he preached, healed and fed them. We are called to address the physical and spiritual needs of the world around us. (How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news! Romans 10:15b)

Working for the kingdom can be dangerous: The disciples were tossed around in a boat.

Nurses, store clerks, garbage collectors are among those who are putting their lives at risk by exercising their professions.

God's promise is not that there won't be storms – His promise is rather that He will be with us through the storms. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

He will never leave us or forsake us.

That is the ultimate reality underlying this baptismal event. None of us knows the number of our days on this earth but what we do know is that God is holding us in His mighty hands every single day. We will be His precious children now and forever. Amen.



## **TAKING FAITH HOME – August 9, 2020 AD**

**These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.  
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.**

Sunday Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus walks on water

Monday Job 38:1-11 God halts the waves

Tuesday Psalm 107:23-32 He stilled the storm

Wednesday Matthew 8:23-27 Jesus stills the storm

Thursday Genesis 7:11-8:5 Noah saved from the flood

Friday 2 Kings 6:1-6 An ax head floats

Saturday Psalm 18:1-19 God saves from the waters

Sunday Matthew 15:21-28 A woman's faith

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

But Jesus quickly spoke to them, "Have courage! It is I. Do not be afraid."  
Matthew 14:27 (NCV)

### **SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus, please take hold of us when we are scared. Keep us from taking our eyes off you. Amen. (Matt. 14:29-31).

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

You who walked upon the sea, come and join our meal, we plea. Thank you for your care this day; lead us, Jesus, in your way. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord Jesus take hold of you when you are scared. May he give you faith to trust in him. Amen.

### **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you found yourself out of your "comfort zone" or "sinking." How did you feel?
- Matthew 14:29-30 tells us that Peter stepped out of a boat to walk on water, but he soon became scared because of the wind and waves. What are some "winds" or "waves" in your life at the moment?
- How does Jesus help us when we are in trouble? In what ways has he calmed the "winds" or "waves" of your life?

## **DEVOTIONS**

Peter was sinking, but Jesus reached out his hand and caught him (Matthew 14:31). In your home devotional times this week, share your fears or concerns with one another. After each person has shared, join hands with them and say these words: *“Take courage. Jesus is with you. Do not be afraid.”* Give your worries to Jesus in prayer.

## **SERVICE**

Romans 10:15 says, *“The feet of those who bring the Good News are beautiful.”* Do you know of a fellow Christian who is serving as a missionary overseas or in another part of your country? Find out their address and put together an “encouragement package” to send to them. Let them know that you are praying for them, and commit to doing so during your household prayer times over the coming weeks.

## **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Jesus came to the disciples in the middle of the night and calmed their fears. Bedtimes are special opportunities for household members to talk, listen, share and pray with one another. This week, make an effort to engage with one another around bedtime. Pray that Jesus will come and remain with you during the night, and calm any “storms” that those in your household may be experiencing. Recite together the words: *“I can lie down and sleep soundly because you, Lord, will keep me safe”* (Psalm 4:8).

**People and issues to pray for in your devotions this week:** For Noah and all the newly baptized, for an end to this pandemic, and for those mentioned today including \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.