

**October 18, AD 2020**  
**St. Luke, Evangelist**  
**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: This is My Father's World, English Melody / Handbell Choir**

(During the prelude you may wish to reflect on the following prayer: Almighty God we thank you for the witness of Saints and martyrs who have gone before us in the faith. Today, we especially thank you for St. Luke and his blessed ministry of healing. Send us your healing today and make us instruments of your mercy to all those who are longing for good news through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

**\*Invocation and Confession and Absolution +**

**P:** In joy and thanksgiving we begin our worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure. The LORD lifts up the humble; ...His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor His pleasure in the legs of a man, but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love. (from Psalm 147)

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

**P:** In fear and hope let us confess our sin to God, our gracious Father.

**C: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we humbly confess our sins to You. We have not followed Your law in our thinking, speaking, or doing. We have followed our own ways and have not obeyed Your commands. We have not always been merciful, meek, or peaceable. We repent of our transgressions and ask Your forgiveness. Have mercy upon us, O Lord.**

**P:** In His mercy, God hears our confession and responds with forgiveness and love. As a called and ordained servant of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.

**C: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty LBW# 543 vs. 1-3 (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:** You are the treasured people of the Lord,

**C: a people holy to the Lord our God.**

P: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.**

P: One does not live by bread alone.

**C: But by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

\*The Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, you inspired your servant Luke the physician to reveal in his Gospel the love and healing power of your Son. Give your Church the same love and power to heal, to the glory of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

First Lesson: **Isaiah 35:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;<sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.<sup>8</sup> And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: **124 (read responsively)**

L:<sup>1</sup> If it had not been the LORD who was on our side let Israel now say—

**C:<sup>2</sup> if it had not been the LORD who was on our side when people rose up against us,**

L:<sup>3</sup> then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;

**C:<sup>4</sup> then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;**

L:<sup>5</sup> then over us would have gone the raging waters.

**C:<sup>6</sup> Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth!**

L:<sup>7</sup> We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped!

**C:<sup>8</sup> Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

Second Lesson: **2 Timothy 4:5-18**

<sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the

Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

<sup>9</sup> Do your best to come to me soon. <sup>10</sup> For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. <sup>11</sup> Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. <sup>12</sup> Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. <sup>13</sup> When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments.

<sup>14</sup> Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. <sup>15</sup> Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. <sup>16</sup> At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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 Luke, the 10th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Gospel: **Luke 10:1-9**

<sup>10</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy-two<sup>[a]</sup> others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. <sup>2</sup> And he said to them, "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. <sup>3</sup> Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. <sup>4</sup> Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. <sup>5</sup> Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be

to this house!' <sup>6</sup> And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. <sup>8</sup> Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon: Pastor Sally

\*The Votum

\*Hymn of the Day: **Built on the Rock LBW# 365 vs. 1-3 (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.)

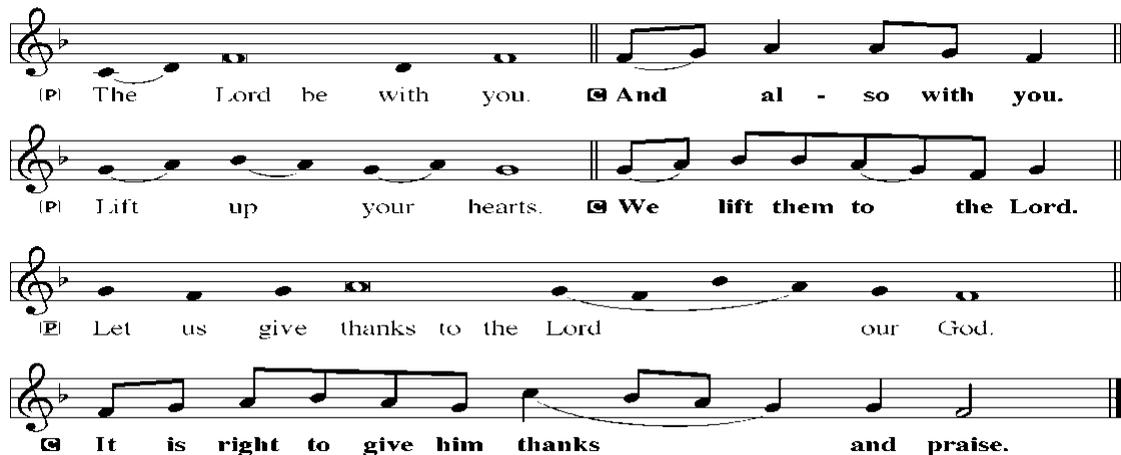
Offertory: We Sing the Mighty Power of God – Fedak

\*Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray... Lord God

**C: we give you thanks for the wondrous gifts you have so freely given us. You are the source of our lives, our work, and our possessions. In an act of worship we offer back to you what you have first given to us, that our sacrifices in some small way, might express our devotion to you and be used to spread the Gospel message in the world. In the name of Jesus, our Master and Lord. Amen.**

### \*Great Thanksgiving



(P) The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

(P) Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

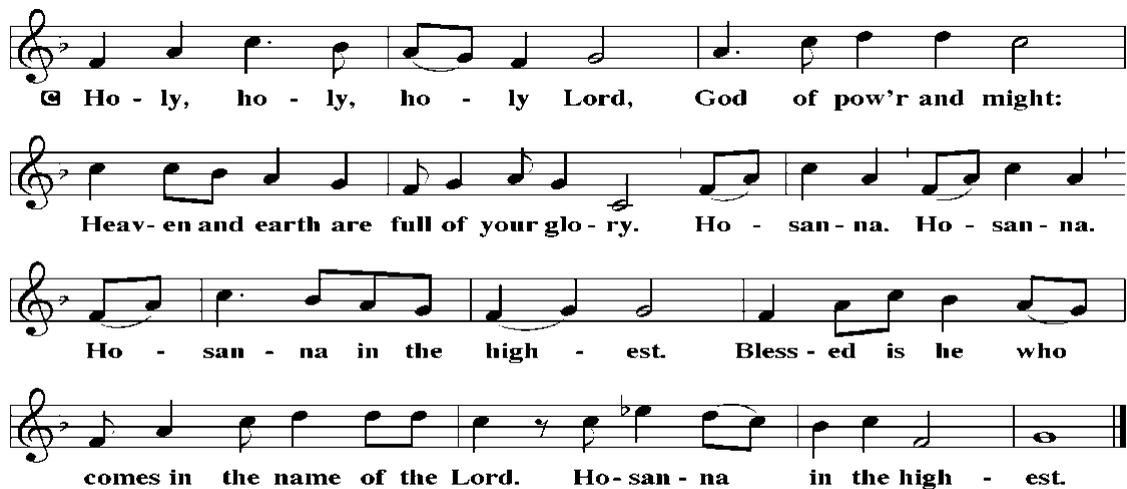
(P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ 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, Lord, our God, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son for our salvation. Pour out upon us the gift of Your Spirit, that we may receive Your blessings with thankfulness. Grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as the guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom where, with the blessed evangelist Luke and all the saints, we shall enjoy Your eternal kindness. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and so we lift our voices 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, almighty Lord, for calling us as Your people. You know us as individuals and have graciously given each of us Your special gifts to use to Your glory. We thank You for the example of the blessed evangelists, including Luke, and for granting us the grace needed to fulfill our various vocations. We thank You as we are strengthened in faith toward You and in active love for one another. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer our thanksgiving

**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. Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. As we follow our Lord Jesus Christ, grant us opportunities to proclaim Your love to all the world. Bless us day by day and keep us firm in faith and joyous in life unto Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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: **O God Beyond All Praising WOV# 797 (see insert)**

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Toccata in E Minor –Pachelbel

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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:** “Luke the beloved physician greets you,” writes St. Paul in his Letter to the Colossians. Each year on October 18, the Church takes note of and gratefully remembers Luke the Evangelist. His Gospel account of the life of Jesus and the history of the Early Christian Church, which he shares through the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, are as beloved as is their writer. Luke brings what he calls an “orderly account” of the life, death, resurrection, and ministry of Jesus and its urgent importance. Luke then follows it up with his singular account that profiles the work of Peter, John, Paul, and other apostles. In his carefully crafted manuscripts, we find faith-supporting history and are given an eyewitness account of God at work for us. We thank God that by the working of the Holy Spirit, the message of St. Luke has reached us today!

**Lord’s Helpers:**

**Greeter:** Linda Sherman

**Head Usher:** Brenda McCleary

**Lay Reader:** Deb Smyser

**Altar Guild:** Deb Smyser

**SPONSORSHIPS to the Glory of God: ALTAR FLOWERS** in memory of Pauline & Robert C. Haner and Barbara Haner by Bob Haner & family **BULLETIN** in memory of Richard K. & Marie Smyser by Rodney & Joyce Smyser and family **BREAD & WINE** in honor of Martin Albright’s birthday by Mom, Dad, Savannah, Alyssa, Will, Charlotte, Lucy, and Noah **MAILING:** in memory of Delores, by Carl Smyser **PARISH MESSENGER:** in honor of family and friends and in memory of loved ones by Kenny, Lisa, Nathan & Kara Hoke **SANCTUARY LAMP:** in memory of Delores, by Carl Smyser

**SPECIAL APPEAL FOR October  
North American Lutheran Seminary**

This seminary is operated by the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), in which our pastors are co-rostered. Located in the Pittsburgh area, NALS offers short courses and seminars for pastors, seminarians and laity in theological and liturgical topics. Funds collected for this month’s appeal will be donated to NALS in support of their work.

**SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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WIFI: John3:16

OFFICE HOURS

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

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MINI SEXTON: Jack Hall

[minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org)

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

**How many new things can we have in one year?**

Well we are trying something special for the younger kids for Halloween since most community events are cancelled. **Wear your costume to Sunday School on Reformation Sunday (October 25)** – we'll have a little parade to the older classes and the Christian Education Committee will provide a small bag of treats. No scary or ugly donkey costumes – keep it fun and simple!

**Yesterday we welcomed** Kylie Lenker by Affirmation of Faith and her daughter Aubrey by Holy Baptism. Aubrey is the granddaughter of Vonda Lenker and the great granddaughter of Kay and Wayne Adams. Welcome Kylie and Aubrey!

**Is there anything we can help you with?** We know that everyone and especially families with young kids are stressed because of all the changes in life and scheduling due to COVID. Please use the tear off below or e-mail or text us with any thoughts of things that might be a blessing to your life. Know that we are praying for you!

\*\*\*\*\*

I/We could use/need/pray for:

### **Activities for the week of October 18, 2020**

|        |       |  |
|--------|-------|--|
| Sun.   | 10/18 | Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost<br>8:15am Divine Worship Service<br>9:30am Sunday School<br>10:30am Divine Worship Service                                  |
| Mon.   | 10/19 | 6:30pm Zoom 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Meeting  |
| Tues.  | 10/20 | 10:30am Bell Choir practice<br>2:30pm Hymn Selection Committee Meeting   |
| Wed.   | 10/21 | 1:00pm Women of the Word   |
| Thurs. | 10/22 | 10:00am Bible Study at the church<br>7:00pm Bible Study on Zoom  |
| Sat.   | 10/24 | 9:00am Quiet Communion Worship Service / Holy Baptism<br>10:30am 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Meeting at the church   |
| Sun.   | 10/25 | Reformation Sunday / First Communion<br>8:15am Divine Worship Service<br>9:30am Sunday School – children can wear costumes<br>10:30am Divine Worship Service |

### **Bible Study for October (two opportunities)**

One of the enriching features of church life is our common desire to delve further into the Holy Scriptures. This fall we all can engage in a study entitled *Words that Matter*, a look at the deeper meaning behind several words found in the Scripture. Rather than just a study of one book, this allows us to trace the rich meaning of the word from one book to another and, in the course of doing so, come to a more profound understanding of what conveys to us through His Word. So join us in person or by Zoom on Thursdays, the morning session is held here at the church in the Parlor at 10AM, the evening Zoom session is held at 7PM, the invitation to which will be included in the Wednesday and Thursday daily devotion e-mail for that week. The September Bible Sessions will be held on **October 22, and 29.**

Women of the Word will continue their monthly Bible Study on Wednesday, November 18th at 1:00 pm. We are continuing our "*Living in Jesus*" Bible study. This month we will study "*Refreshed in Him*". We invite all women to join us in for study and fellowship.

**The Samaritan Purse Christmas Shoe Box Ministry** has begun here at our church. Please pick up your box and information in the Narthex. You can go online at [samaritanpurse.org/occ](http://samaritanpurse.org/occ) for detailed information or call Connie Dunklebarger at (717) 487-0492. Box collection is due by Nov. 11 to our church. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this worldwide ministry for children.

## **NEW FAITH BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES AT SAINT PAUL**

We are launching a new way of doing Sunday School that will be safe and fun! The kids will be in small groups with age appropriate activities, all based on growing and strengthening our lives of faith!



If you are in grades 5-9 **EPIC** is the group for you!  
Short video learning  
question of the week reporting  
and acting as leaders for our younger groups  
will all be part of the experience.

(We meet in Fellowship Hall!)

**QUEST** is the group for grades 1-4. (rooms 3-4) Join with church friends in: Bible based lessons, projects and crafts in our quest to learn more about God and one another!



**GATEWAY** is for all those three-year old through Kindergarten and guess what...We will be: Opening a gate to Faith, learning Bible stories and Bible verses, and engaging in active learning to better understand Bible lessons. Each child will have their own colorful pencil case with their own personal scissors, glue and crayons, supplied by the church.

Our youngest friends will be **BUSY BEES** back in the nursery with toys and Bible stories just right for them! This all takes place in a joy-filled environment as we rejoice in the Good News of what it means to be Jesus' precious children!

**Senior High and Young Adults will be connecting with one another and reflecting on some Christian Music in the Youth Room each Sunday!**

### **Let's not forget the ADULTS!**



There are lots of Faith Building opportunities for them as well!  
**Lutheran Theology** has returned to the large Conference Room- focusing on that great confessional work the Formula of Concord.  
**The Concordia in-depth Bible Study Class** is meeting in the new Library.

**Parents of Faith** is meeting in the stage classroom.

**Pastor Paul** will hold his Households of Faith class in the Parlor.

**each week from 9:30 – 10:15 am on Sunday!**

# Listening for the Promise

## Weekly Devotional

Pentecost 20 - October 18, 2020

*“For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.”*

- 1 Thessalonians 1:8 -

When I was a young person, I never would have thought of myself as being a missionary. As I've gotten older and more mature in the faith, I have come to recognize that all of us are missionaries for Christ, even if we don't leave our own hometown. Wherever we go, we carry with us the message of the Good News of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. It is so much a part of us that we cannot help but proclaim the goodness of the Lord and the promises that have been fulfilled in his son, Jesus.

As missionaries, each of us has a circle of influence - those people that we interact with regularly, who look with favor on us, and who listen when we speak. It is to those people that we share the news of Christ most often and most easily. These are the ones who are most receptive to the message.

As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Thessalonica, he commended them for their “missionary” work. He described the word being spoken as a trumpet sounding a clarion call. Their faith was strong and steady, and they did the work of sharing it with those in their circle of influence. That circle was Macedonia and Achaia, and beyond.

I don't know about your town, but where I live it's a pretty small community when compared to the big, bustling cities that many are used to. Word spreads quickly here. Sometimes I learn about something I did before I even know I did it! (Just kidding!) But, seriously, news does travel fast around my town. It isn't always accurate, but it does move swiftly. Oh, that the Gospel message would travel so fast and be so interesting to talk about on the front porch of all who live around me. Oh, that the best news of all, Jesus' love for us, would spread like wildfire in the way that some rumors and gossip do. Wouldn't it be wonderful to hear through the grapevine that people were receiving the news about Christ and responding to his love and mercy by the droves? That would make my day! Or my year! But sadly, we tend to chat about others sorts of news when we could be spreading the gospel. Jesus helps us sound forth his saving word! May we be missionaries in our own neighborhoods! Amen.

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## Sermon Notes for October 18 – St. Luke

The Lord appointed 72 others and sent them on ahead of him.... Luke 10:1

We have a mission given to us by Jesus just as the 72 did. This is good news – we all need a purpose in life.

As Christian our purpose is driven by our mission to share the Good News. There are some challenging things about this mission:

- Sent out (even now when we are told to stay in)
- Lambs in the midst of wolves (Lambs are helpless in the face of a wolf)
- Take nothing with you (really?)
- You are supposed to heal
- You will be rejected

What's easy about this mission – everything

- Two by two – we are not alone in our mission
- We are lambs but we have a Good Shepherd
- We are provided for by God
- Jesus is the healer
- Even when things are not going well – Jesus is near

That is a key kernel of truth in the Christian message – God has come near to us in Jesus Christ. We don't have a distant, distracted, detached deity, we have a God who so loved that world that he came among us in human flesh and gave his flesh for the sins of the world. God came near and bore the weight of the whole world's sin on the cruel cross – God knows rejection, but he has not rejected us, God knows abandonment, but he has not abandoned us.

We are drawn into his loving embrace and then we are released, not to go it on our own, but to go forth in Jesus name, with Christ above us, before us, beside us – directing our footsteps along right pathways for his name sake.



## **TAKING FAITH HOME – October 18, 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 22:15-22 The question of paying taxes  
Monday Matthew 17:24-27 Jesus pays the temple tax  
Tuesday Jeremiah 29:1-7 Advice to the exiles in Babylon  
Wednesday Daniel 1:3-21 Daniel in the king's court  
Thursday Romans 13:1-7 Duties towards state authorities  
Friday Titus 3:1-8 Doing what is good  
Saturday Psalm 2 A warning for earthly rulers  
Sunday Matthew 22:34-46 Loving God and neighbor

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

“Give the Emperor what belongs to him and give God what belongs to God.”  
Matthew 22:21 (CEV)

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

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

We praise you Lord, for you are wise and compassionate. There is no other god. Amen.  
(Psalm 96:1-9; Isaiah 45:5-6)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

All thanks to God who gives us food and blesses all our days. To God who rules from heaven above, we offer heartfelt praise. Amen.

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

May God fill your life with power through the Good News of Jesus. May he give you faith, hope and love and keep you strong in following him. Amen. (1 Thessalonians 1:3,5)

### **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What symbols or images are on the coins you use? Which is your favorite?
- Jesus said, “Give the Emperor what belongs to him and give God what belongs to God” (Matthew 22:21). What belongs to earthly rulers? What belongs to God?
- How does God use earthly rulers to take care of us? Why is it important to support them? How can we do that?

## **DEVOTIONS**

Paul wrote that the Christians in Thessalonica had become “imitators” of Jesus (1 Thessalonians 2:7). Play a game of “Simon Says.” Then, have a discussion about ways in which we “copy” others in our lives—both in good and bad ways. Discuss what it means to imitate Jesus and to be an example of Christian faith, hope and love to others. Pray for one another, giving thanks for the good work God is doing in and through each person in your home.

## **SERVICE**

Prepare an appreciation card to send to elected officials in your community, state or nation. Thank them for all they are doing to serve your community. Let them know that you are praying for them.

## **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

An important faith practice or ritual is regular giving to the Lord through Sunday offerings. Discuss together what your household gives to the Lord. If you have not already done so, develop a regular pattern for setting aside each week what you will give in Sunday offerings. Include each household member in the practice of giving (even very young children can be involved).

**People and issues to pray for in your devotions this week:** For the safety and encouragement of all medical personnel and their patients, and for those mentioned today including \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### **All Saints Sunday, November 1 at the 8:15 service**

We will remember those who have passed away since last All Saints Sunday.

We give thanks to God for the lives of our loved ones and for the hope of the resurrection through Christ our Lord!

We would also like to include (at the time of prayers of the church) the names of other loved ones that we know who have passed away since last All Saints Day. If you have a name you would like us to include that day, please contact the church office either by calling during office hours, or by email.

**Our Annual Church Budget Meeting** is on **November 15th** at 9:30am, please plan to attend! We will have a modified Sunday School that day with activities for the children in the Library/Gathering Area. Please remember that we need to have a quorum in order to conduct an official meeting. Your church needs you. We will practice the same social distancing that we do during worship and ask members to be diligent about the use of masks when moving through the building.