

# ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –  
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



*THE PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS*

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**20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
OCTOBER 18, 2020**

# **ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Thomas Schuetze, pastor (303-428-5524)  
Ed Chiappetti, president – Mike Sprengeler, SS Superintendent

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP: SERVICE OF THE WORD**

*(printed on insert inside front cover of maroon hymnal)*

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 25 (pew bible, p.492)
- ◆ The Hymns: 915, 731, 497, 698
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Ezekiel 18:1-4,15-32; 2 Corinthians 13:5-14
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 80

**Sermon Text – Matthew 21:23-32**

### ***JESUS' PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS***

Which of the Two Sons Are You?

1. The one with empty words?
2. The one with repentant action?

- ◆ Prayer & Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (698)

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*Large print bulletins are available on the shelf by  
the tract rack or by request from an usher.*

*You may contribute an offering for God's kingdom work by  
putting it in the collection plate located by the back pew.  
There will be no offering collection during the service.*

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

### First Lesson – Ezekiel 18:1-4,15-32

1 The word of the LORD came to me: 2 “What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: “‘The fathers eat sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? 3 “As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. 4 For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son—both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die. 25 “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, O house of Israel: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? 26 If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin, he will die for it; because of the sin he has committed he will die. 27 But if a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he will save his life. 28 Because he considers all the offenses he has committed and turns away from them, he will surely live; he will not die. 29 Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust? 30 “Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. 31 Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

### Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 80

**P** Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel:  
**C** You who lead Joseph like a flock.  
**P** You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth:  
**C** Awaken your might; come and save us.  
**P** Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand:  
**C** The son of man you have raised up for yourself.  
**P** Then we will not turn away from you:  
**C** Revive us, and we will call on your name.  
**P** Restore us, O LORD God Almighty:  
**C** Make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

### Second Lesson – 2 Corinthians 13:5-14

5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? 6 And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. 7 Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. Not that people will see that we have stood the test but that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. 8 For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. 9 We are glad whenever we are weak

but you are strong; and our prayer is for your perfection. 10 This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down. 11 Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. 12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. 13 All the saints send their greetings. 14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

### **Sermon Text – Matthew 22:23-32**

23 Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?” 24 Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 25 John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?” They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ 26 But if we say, ‘From men’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” 27 So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 28 “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ 29 “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. 30 “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. 31 “Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

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**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS** worshipping with us this morning! The members of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church consider it an honor and privilege to share with you the words of eternal life in Jesus Christ, the world's only Savior. Please sign the guest register in the front entry and come worship with us again!

**SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE TODAY**

- ◆ Organist: Carly Meyer
- ◆ Ushers: Ed Chiappetti, Don Claeys
- ◆ Elder: Larry Reed

**THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL**

Today (10/18)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School (Daniel in the Lion's Den, OT 56)
	10:45 am	Mary/Martha Ladies' Meeting
Sat.	8:00 am	Fall Clean-Up Day
Sun (10/25)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School
	10:45 am	Quarterly Voters' Meeting

**EXTENDED CALENDAR**

- ◆ Daily Savings Time Ends: Sunday, Nov.1
- ◆ Front Range Reformation Festival Service: Sunday, Nov.1, 3:30 pm (hosted by Redeemer, Cheyenne)
- ◆ Thanksgiving Day Worship: Thursday, Nov.26, 9:30 am

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CHEYENNE** is hosting this year's From Range Reformation Festival Service on Sunday afternoon, November 1. They are asking our Lakewood congregation to bring dessert for the after-service meal. If you would like to help out even if you won't be attending, you are welcome to send along a dessert with someone who will be going.

**NOVEMBER 8 IS CHAD SEYBT'S** last Sunday serving as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, as he has accepted a call to Wisconsin. Redeemer member Allison Collins is hosting an open house farewell to him & his family at her home on Nov. 8 from 1 to 4 pm. St. Paul's congregation is invited to attend! Allison's address is: 1130 Morningside Dr., Cheyenne, WY 82001.

## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS**

### **OCTOBER 19-24**

**Mon Isaiah 5:1-7** begins sweetly: God had prepared a warm spot on fertile ground for His people, had hedged them in, and nurtured them for a good harvest. BUT His chosen people cheated God of His expectations, and so they had to face the penalty for cheating (5-7). Any nation, race, or political party that cheats on God will get what it deserves, too. Lord, have mercy on us!

**Tues Matthew 21:33-43** Centuries after Isaiah, Jesus added the lurid details – that the Jews murdered a whole line-up of God’s messengers, and finally they butchered His own Son (35-39). So God closed heaven against those assassins but opened heaven to others who would flourish under His care (40-41). It has happened before, and it is still happening in our world. (Got it?)

**Wed Philippians 3:12-21** God is preparing each of us for the day He transfers us to the heavenly Jerusalem congregation—and as each day brings us one day closer to Harvest Home (12-16), we walk in the footsteps of the saints who have gone on ahead (17), avoiding evil companionship and looking forward to our reunion with Jesus (20), who will transform our earthly bodies into heavenly bodies that will resemble His. Hallelujah!

**Thurs Psalm 118** Since Christians want to share God’s goodness with others, we invite them (2-4) and confess how we feel about God (5-9). (Verses 10-13 were not a digression for David but maybe they are for us.) We share David’s confession and affirmation (14-20) before we cycle back to Jesus (22-24), in whose Name we pray, praise, and give thanks (25-29). Got it.

**Fri Luke 9:21-27** Why did Jesus warn His friends to refrain from confessing Him in public? At that time they needed strengthening before they could share what Jesus was facing (22). In fact, they needed to stifle self-interest, suffocate the innate urge to save their lives, and to grow joyful in being His disciples. It might take years for God to bring some of them to personally experience what He could do for them (27). Got it!

**Sat Acts 17:22-34** When we witness to others, it might help to start out by giving some small credit where credit is due (22-23a) before we segue into God’s Bible agenda (22b). Then (as befits the audience) we might move ahead with God as Creator and Supervisor of the Universe (26), proactive for all humanity (27-28), who is certainly not a crafty artifact (28). Then proceed to advise them that on Judgment Day everyone will have to face Jesus, resurrected and fully functional (30-31). Some won’t get it (32), but God will rescue a few from Satan and get them home to heaven (33-34). Lord, have mercy on our generation!