

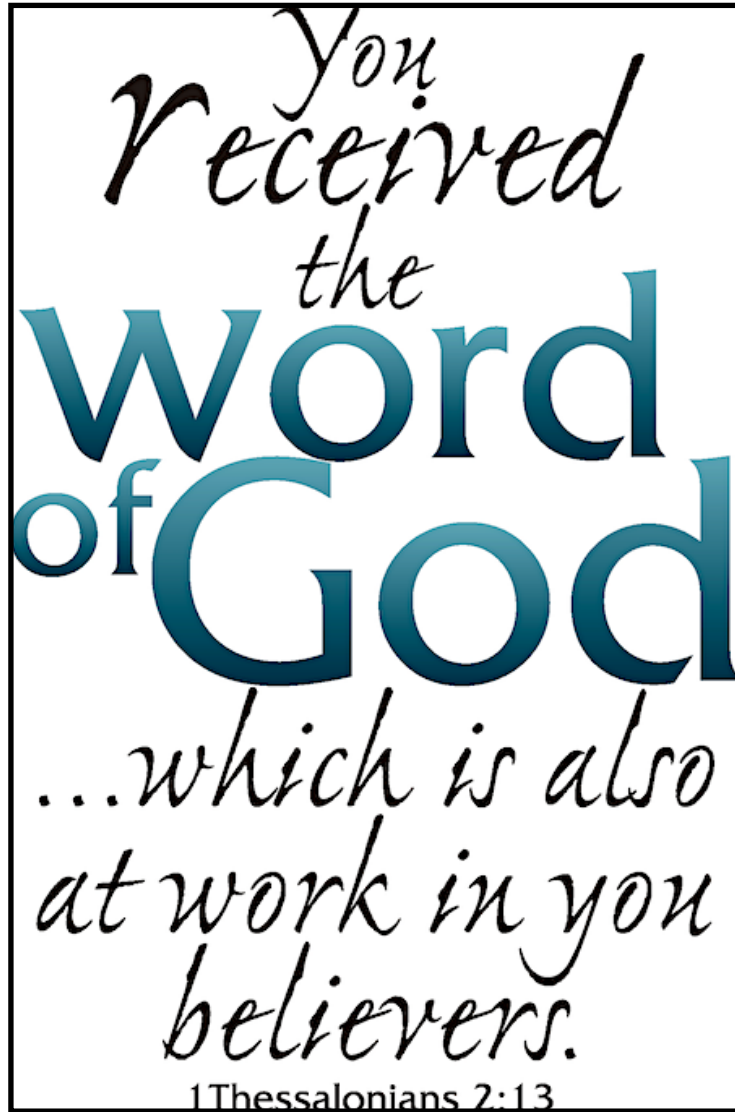
# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

*2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214*

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Sunday School Superintendent: Derek Barthels



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**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – July 7, 2024**

# **Order of Worship**

## **Service of the Word & Sacrament**

Find today's order of service printed on the liturgy insert tucked inside the front cover of the maroon *Lutheran Service Book* (in the hymnal rack). Large print copies of the order of worship and worship bulletin are on the shelf under the tract rack or speak to an usher who will be happy to share them with you. A warm welcome in Christ to all worshipers!

### *Serving Us Today*

Organist Carly Mess; Ushers Wayne Ruegge, Bob Rankin  
Communion Usher Wayne Ruegge

- ◆ Pre-service Devotion: Psalm 143 (pew bible, p.556)
- ◆ The Hymns: 793, 426, 585, 780 (tan hymnal)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Mark 6:1-6
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 139
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed  
*(printed on last page of liturgy insert)*

### **Sermon Text – Ezekiel 2:1-5**

### **Theme – "God Commissions His Prophets"**

1. By preparing them to preach His Word.
2. By revealing the scope of their work.
3. By assuring them of *the Lord's* effectiveness.

- ◆ Special Petitions / Altar Prayer / Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Communion Liturgy (liturgy insert, pp.17-21)
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (780, tan hymnal)

# Today's Scriptures

## First Lesson – 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

*Paul's Vision of Paradise and  
His Thorn in the Flesh*

1 I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. 3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— 4 and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. 5 On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— 6 though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. 7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

## Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 139

*God's Perfect Knowledge of Man*

P O LORD, you have searched me and known me!:  
C **You discern my thoughts from afar.**  
P You search out my path and my lying down:  
C **And are acquainted with all my ways.**  
P Even before a word is on my tongue:  
C **Behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.**  
P Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:  
C **It is high; I cannot attain it.**  
P Where shall I go from your Spirit?:  
C **Or where shall I flee from your presence?**  
P If I ascend to heaven, you are there!:

**C** If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!  
**P** If I take the wings of the morning:  
**C** And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
**P** Even there your hand shall lead me,  
**C** And your right hand shall hold me.

**Second Lesson – Mark 6:1-6**

*Jesus Rejected at Nazareth*

1 He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 2 And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. 4 And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” 5 And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

**Sermon Text – Ezekiel 2:1-5**

*Ezekiel’s Call*

1 And he said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.” 2 And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. 3 And he said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. 4 The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ 5 And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them.

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**To our guests seeking an altar at which to commune**

We believe the Lord's Supper is an expression of outward unity in the faith as well as inner union with Christ. For this reason we practice "Fellowship Communion" (we ask only those who are communicant members of our fellowship to come forward to receive the Sacrament). We follow this practice in loving obedience to the Scriptures, not in judgment of anyone's faith, sincerity, or standing before God. If you would like more information or are interested in becoming a St. Paul member, please speak to the pastor. Thank you.

**This Week at St. Paul**

Today (7/7)	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sun (7/14)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Mary/Martha Ladies Meeting

**Church Meetings Up-Coming in July**

Church Council: Sunday, July 21, 8:30 am  
Quarterly Voters: Sunday, July 28, 10:45 am

**In Our Prayers:** CLC Mission Helpers (*see note below*). <> Missionary Peter Evensen who was hospitalized last week in Lincoln, NE, with a knee ailment. He has been diagnosed with septic arthritis of the right knee. He underwent surgery last Wednesday. Please pray for God's blessing on the medical treatment he is receiving and a quick and complete recovery.

**A Lunch** will be held today shortly after the service in honor of high school graduate John Sprengeler at the home of the Sprengeler's in Arvada. All are welcome to attend. John graduated on May 18 from Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI. We thank the Lord for bringing John to this important milestone and pray for His blessing on John's path of life ahead. *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths"* (Proverbs 3:5-6).

## **Young Adults Bible Study**

Next Tuesday, July 16, in a reserved room of the Douglas County Library in Castle Pines. The reservation is for 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The plan for our first session is to share ideas for topics or sections of the Bible to study in coming months. If you have questions speak to Derek Barthels or the pastor. All young adult members and friends of St. Paul are invited. See pastor if you need transportation.

## **East Africa Mission Helper Trip**

Twelve CLC Mission Helpers (Elinor Gbedey, Catherine Gbedey, Lauren Gurgel, Nicole Hansen, Fletcher Hughes, Kaylee Koenig, Gary Peters, Sam Radermacher, Jeff Radichel, Ulrika Speckman, Noah Sydow, and Amy Tester) along with three team leaders (Pastors Mike Gurath, Tom Naumann, and Missionary Ohlmann) will depart on an evening flight from Chicago on Monday, July 8. The Mission Helpers will travel together as far as Doha, Qatar. From Doha, they will divide into three teams and fly to the East African nations of Kenya/Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia. The Tanzania team will be welcomed and joined in their work by Missionary Bruce and Paula Naumann. The Mission Helpers will spend the next few weeks proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to an estimated 6,000 children. They will focus their efforts in some of the towns and villages where the Kenya-CLC, Uganda-CLC, Tanzania-CLC, and Zambia-CLC have or are working to establish congregations and preaching stations. You can follow along with the Mission Helpers through the trip blog at [www.2024clcmhteastafrica.blogspot.com](http://www.2024clcmhteastafrica.blogspot.com). Your prayers are requested and much appreciated.

**Convention Essays & Summary:** Hard copies of the two essays presented at the June CLC Convention have been printed as well as a "Convention Snapshot" prepared by CLC Secretary Wayne Eichstadt. The snapshot provides a synopsis of significant decisions made at the Convention. Find the copies by the tract rack in the entry. Help yourself.

**The Church Work Day** originally scheduled for last Saturday, July 6, will be rescheduled on a date TBD. Stay tuned.

**Spokesman Delay:** *Lutheran Spokesman* subscribers may experience a delay in receiving the July issue as a duplicate of the June issue was mailed out mistakenly by the publisher. The editor apologizes for the delay.

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions – July 8-13

**Mon Matthew 19:16-26** A young man who thinks that he is spiritually rich (kept all commandments) is taught by Jesus that he lacks even the very first commandment (love God above **all things**)! Truly it takes God to save us!

**Tues Acts 14:8-18** Whatever we most love and trust is our god. When a man is healed, the people of Lystra give the credit to their gods. Thankfully, Paul and Barnabas have the truth about God to share with them.

**Wed Genesis 25:7-10** How the Lord blessed Abraham! The “father of believers” (Rm4:11-12) is buried in the cave where Sarah is buried. But Moses says that he is “gathered to his people,” suggesting to us that he remains among the faithful, and the Lord is still his God (cpLk20:37-38).

**Thurs Proverbs 11:23-31** “Whoever trusts his wealth will fall” (v28), for it is not the purpose of wealth to uphold us, but God intends to bless others through us and to bring them to life (v30).

**Fri 1 Timothy 6:6-10** The greatest gain is not earthly wealth, for it will never satisfy in the long run. But if we are blessed with contentment, then whatever wealth God may give us will serve to bless us and others.

**Sat 1 Kings 3:5-14** What if God told us, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you”? Young Solomon prayed for discernment to serve God’s people well. God was pleased with his petition and blessed him far beyond his request.

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions – July 1-6

(catching up from last week)

**Mon Matthew 7:24-29** The key to the blessedness described by Jesus is the hearing of His word and following it. Through His word comes the strength to withstand all the forces bent on destroying us.

**Tues Acts 9:1-9** Saul may have told himself that he was serving God, but when Jesus' word came to him on the road to Damascus, he learned whom he was really persecuting. Now blind, he could think about that word and begin to see the truth.

**Wed Acts 9:10-16** Ananias is ready to hear the word which the Lord speaks to him, and free to express his concerns about going to see Saul. But there is no mistake! Saul is praying, and it is he who will learn to suffer for Jesus' name this time, not Ananias.

**Thurs Acts 9:17-19** Ananias not only heard the word of Jesus, but followed it, and laid his hands on Saul to bring him great blessing. Saul received freedom from the darkness of physical blindness as well as freedom from spiritual blindness. He got up and was baptized!

**Fri Genesis 19:15-26** Lot lingers over his present life as the angels urge him to run for his life. He thinks he has a better idea than the angels' "Escape to the mountains!" and is granted the refuge of Zoar. Alas, his wife does not want to go even that far.

**Sat 1 John 1:5 - 2:2** The message of Jesus brings light, and calls us to walk in the light. It brings us cleansing from all our sin and darkness. If we think we need no cleansing, we are deceived and ignoring Christ's word. But He is the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world!



## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions – June 24-29

**Mon Matthew 5:7** To be sympathetic or kind to someone suffering affliction is to feel some measure of their pain. Jesus did that (Heb.2:17) for us, and His followers reflect that mercy from which they will forever benefit.

**Tues Matthew 5:8** The clean heart for which we pray in Ps. 51:10 did not bring our Lord a life of ease, but it brings us into God's own presence (Ps.24:3-4), where is fulness of joy and blessedness.

**Wed Matthew 5:9** As God in Christ took the initiative to restore peace between God and humanity, so children of God are happy to bring about reconciliation among people and thus reflect the spirit of their heavenly Father.

**Thurs Matthew 5:10-12** Who would ever consider persecution a blessing? We certainly would not go seeking it! Yet if we are persecuted for being on God's side, then we may rejoice for that, and know that we are not alone.

**Fri Acts 8:26-38** The Lord sends His messenger Philip to an isolated area to bring the good news of Jesus (v35) to one lone man from Ethiopia. Although the Lord calls thousands to life and joy, each one is important and brings joy to the angels (Lk15:10).

**Sat Genesis 18:20-33** The Lord is merciful to let Abraham in on plans for Sodom and Gomorrah, and shows His mercy throughout their discussion. And even though the cities will be destroyed, the Lord's followers (the righteous) will be rescued.