

## The Gospel - Matthew 14:22-33

***Celebrant:*** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to John.

**People:** Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.



*Today's Stewardship Pearl*

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

-Galations 5:13

## EVENTS

**Aug. 11, 6:00pm—7:00pm—Meet the Teacher night at SPES**  
**St. Paul's Episcopal School**

**Aug. 13**      **6:00pm—School Board Meeting**

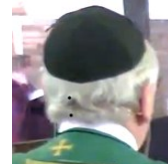
**Aug. 15**      **8:00am—Noon—** St. Joseph's Guild  
                  **9:00am—Noon—** DOK-Daughter's of the King  
                  **3:00pm—4:00pm—** Windy Hill Birthday Party

**Aug 16 Noon-2:00pm—Vestry Meeting**

**Aug 30, Potluck following service  
2:00 –3:00pm, Greenville Gardens**

## From The Zucchetto - a.k.a. Zucchini by the PiC

This week's question for the Zucchetto comes from Jennifer Faunce who asks, "After reading Genesis 32:22-31, was it more of an expression of divine Grace or divine Mercy that God gave Jacob when he changed his name to "Israel?" The SHORT answer is both! But to get the full picture and answer, please read Genesis 32:22-31 which, for your convenience, is printed here.



“Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.” Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.” The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.”

Jacob's life is pivotal in the biblical narrative, as he is considered the father of the Israelites. His twelve sons became the progenitors of the twelve tribes of Israel, and his story reflects themes of struggle, divine promise, and the complexities of family relationships. Jacob's journey from deception to faithfulness illustrates God's sovereignty and the unfolding of His covenant with His people. Jacob's unexpected grappling match with a mysterious man symbolizes his own spiritual needs, and foreshadows the basic outlines of the gospel. Jacob's past is rife with lies and deceptions (Genesis 25:29–34; 27:30–35). He doggedly wrestles with this stranger until dawn, when his opponent lands a crippling blow to his hip (Genesis 32:25). Even then, Jacob will not submit, demanding a blessing. In response, the man demands to know Jacob's name. Possibly realizing that this combatant is God, in some form, Jacob finally admits who he truly is. In response, God changes Jacob's name to Israel, which means "God fights." The man, God, tells Jacob this is because Jacob has fought with God and with men and has prevailed. This, much as with verse 25, raises controversy when not carefully understood.

First, we should note that Jacob did not "win" the grappling contest. In fact, he seems to have been permanently crippled by it (Genesis 32:25; 32:31). He did, however, refuse to give up. And, when all was said and done, Jacob came out of the match "better off" than when he went in: he obtained a blessing from God. Looking at the deeper symbolism of the name Israel, it's also true that Jacob's greatest successes have come when he trusted God to plan and provide. There, too, Jacob has "prevailed" in his struggles. This change of Jacob's name is significant on several levels. Most immediately, it is yet another confirmation from God that Jacob will be protected and provided for in his perceived conflict with his brother Esau. Jacob's prayer (Genesis 32:9–12) will be answered. He need no longer fear his brother.

Second, the name Jacob—Ya'aqōb in Hebrew—carries a meaning of cheater or deceiver. This is not an unfair point, since it's exactly what Jacob did to Esau 20 years earlier. His name, in part, described his character. This new name is intended to describe a new character, based on the fact that God fights for him and, importantly, for the nation that will come from him. Finally, this name given to Jacob by God will become the very name of God's people. The nation will be called Israel from this moment on. It's no small coincidence that this nation of people will continue to "struggle" with God, demonstrating human weakness as well as the graceful mercy of God. Both! Grace and Mercy. Thanks be to God!

Gary D. Hill+

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church*

*Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost*

*August 9, 2026*



Above the boat the Latin inscription says

*IHESUS SUPER MARE AMBULAT ET PETRUM  
MERGENTEM ALLEVAT,*

*"Jesus walks on the sea and lifts up the sinking Peter."*

12th-13th century [Mosaic, Cathedral of the Assumption, Monreale, Sicily](#)

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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**903-455-5030    [www.stpaulstx.org](http://www.stpaulstx.org)    [secretary@stpaulstx.org](mailto:secretary@stpaulstx.org)**

## Jesus Christ, *Head of the Church*

The Rt. Rev. Robert P. Price, *Bishop*

The Rev. Gary D. Hill, *Priest In Charge*

(available on Friday by appointment, 469-849-8317)

The Rev. Gordon Miltenberger, *Assisting Priest*

Nancy Kilroy, *Parish Administrator*

(Office Hours: 8am - 2pm; Wed, Thurs. & Fri.)

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Christy Wolff, *Music Director*

Cathy Hargrave, *Organist*

Service Times at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

SUNDAY

10:30 am. . . . . HOLY EUCHARIST  
11:45 am. . . . . FELLOWSHIP, CLARDY HALL

WEDNESDAY

10:30 am. . . . . MORNING PRAYER II  
6:00 pm. . . . . BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY

8:00 p.m. . . . . COMPLINE SERVICE <http://stpaulstx.org> select Facebook

FRIDAY

9:00 am. . . . . CHILDREN’S CHAPEL

Sunday, August 2nd

|                           |                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LEM/ Lay Readers          | Debbie Shaffer                                                                                                               |
| Reader                    | Nancy Hill                                                                                                                   |
| Acolyte                   | Jim Pence                                                                                                                    |
| Thurifer                  | Nancy Hill                                                                                                                   |
| Vestry Person of the Day: | Frank McKee, Matt Wolff                                                                                                      |
| Intercessory Prayer:      | Suzanne Taylor                                                                                                               |
| Tech Team:                | Director-Jeff Faunce; Titles-Jennifer Faunce;<br>Audio-Brad Mathis; Cameras- Nick Stone;<br>Social Media-Georgianna Harrison |
| Altar Guild:              | Jennifer Faunce, Elena Mathews, Laurel Pence,<br>Nancy Wyant, Georgianna Harrison                                            |

Attendance & Offering Last Sunday: 40 / \$782.50

Hymns and Songs for the Day

|                          |                                  |        |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| Procession:              | Praise to the Living God         | H372   |
| Gospel:                  | I Sing the Almighty Power of God | H398   |
| Offertory:               | Shout to the Lord                | A3-143 |
| Sensing of the altar:    | Spirit of the Living God         | A3-152 |
| Communion:               | Sing Alleluia to the Lord        | A3-145 |
| Procession to the World: | This Little Light of Mine        | A3-178 |

Holy Eucharist

Collect

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Holy Eucharist

First Lesson – 1 Kings 19:9-18

Reader: A reading from 1 Kings

At Horeb, the mount of God, Elijah came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:8-13

Read responsively by whole verse

- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Sung by all

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Second Lesson - Romans 10:5-15

Reader: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

“The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel Hymn  
The Gospel hymn will be announced

Pray for the Church and the Body of Christ

The Daughters of the King are dedicated to supporting the prayer needs of 1St. Paul’s. They are available in the west corner of sanctuary every Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. worship service for private prayer. Please pray for:

Repose of the Soul of Julia Gibson,  
Rhonda Lunney, Heather Green, Fr. Gordon

