

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Bella Vista Christian Academy
9th Sunday after Pentecost
“Grace Stoops the Lowest”
Vicar Joel Rockemann
August 7, 2022**

Scripture: Psalm 130, Eph. 2:4-10, John 8:1-11

Welcome & Invocation: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

10:00 a.m. Opening Songs: *Glorious Day, Firm Foundation, Great Are You Lord*

Introit – Based on Psalm 119 & Psalm 86

P: Your word is a lamp to my feet

C: and a light for my path.

P: Teach your way, O Lord

C: and I will walk in your truth.

P: Give me an undivided heart,

C: that I may fear your name.

P: I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart.

C: I will glorify your name forever.

P: For great is your love toward me

C: you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

C: and to the Holy Spirit

P: as it was in the beginning

C: is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: Your word is a lamp to my feet

C: and a light for my path.

Collect

Grant us, O Lord, the gift of your Holy Spirit to enable us to think and do all things that are pleasing in your sight. We recognize that without you we are unable to do anything that is good, anything that is lasting. Empower us to live according to will in all that we say and do. We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson ... Psalm 130

Psalm 130, “Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!

² O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

³ If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,

O Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,

that you may be feared.

⁵ I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the Lord

more than watchmen for the morning,

more than watchmen for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,

and with him is plentiful redemption.

⁸ And he will redeem Israel

from all his iniquities.” ESV

The Second Lesson ... Ephesians 2:4-10

Ephesians 2:4-10, “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have

been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” ESV

The Holy Gospel according to John Chapter 8, beginning at verse 1

John 8:1-11, “They went each to his own house, but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. ³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and placing her in the midst ⁴ they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So, what do you say?” ⁶ This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷ And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸ And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.” ESV

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was

incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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Traps in which we find ourselves and traps set for each other...
The same trap in which Jesus finds Himself in John 8:1-11.

The only One who is righteous and qualified to judge this woman does what?!?

Jesus stoops low...and levels the field.

“Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her” (Jn 8:7)

Forgiveness *IS* given because...

ALL have sinned (Romans 3:23)

So, we ALL need forgiveness graciously given by a God who loves us.

Eph 2:4–5 “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...”

Jesus makes Himself more vulnerable and lets the ones accusing us do to Him what they would have done to us.

Grace stoops the lowest. Grace happens at the cross of Christ; in His death and in His grave.

Grace is *given* there. Grace *happens* there.

OFFERING is collected at door and online

Prayers

Holy Communion / Confession / Absolution

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those that 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, For ever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you
May the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you
May the Lord, lift up his countenance upon you
And give you peace. Amen.

10:00 a.m. Closing Song: *You Are Good*

Announcements



Join us on **Saturday, August 20 at 10:00 am for Joel Rockemann's Ordination & Installation** as St. Paul's Missional Pastor. There will be a luncheon with delicious street tacos & fixings following the service. RSVP # to attend lunch on attached connection card or click the QR code. If you can provide a dessert for the lunch, indicate that on the card, the electronic invite or call the Church office 209-835-7438.

Join us on Sunday, August 21 from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm for an **Open House Farewell for Stacey Minor** at Pastor & Lori Waetzig's home, 1460 Divine Lane in Tracy. Bring a salad or dessert to share.

Grief Share Support Group. Grieving the loss of someone close to you? Find comfort & support at Grief Share. Mondays at 6:30 pm starting August 22 in the Parish Hall at St. Paul's. Pick up a postcard in the Church entryway.

Scoop Ministries Inc. will be hosting their women's conference, **Girlfriends In God** at St. Paul's on Saturday, September 10, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Attend in person or virtually. \$20 per person. Register online at sharethescoop.org or call 209-629-2506.

CLASS 101 - Discovering Our Church Family Seminars. This course will run over 4 Sundays from September 11 - October 2, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm in the Admin conference room. In this basic introduction to our church family, you'll learn about our beliefs on salvation, purpose, strategy and structure & the five biblical truths necessary to fulfilling God's calling for your life. You will also be invited to join as members alongside the St. Paul's church family. Your instructor will be Pastor Kal Waetzig. Indicate interest on Connection Card.

English Language Classes starting again soon! If you are interested in learning or improving your English, or know someone who might be,

we will be starting classes again in the Parish Hall on Wed, Sep 14. Our beginner class will be meeting from 9:00 - 11:00 am and our intermediate learners will be meeting from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. We also need people who are willing to support this ministry by providing meals. To attend as a student or to get involved with supporting this ministry by providing meals, contact Joel Rockemann at jrockemann@stpaulstracy.org or 209-835-7438 ext. 116.

This week at St. Paul's

Sunday, 8/7

8:30 & 10:00 am - Worship Services - Church
10:00 am - Live Stream of In-Person Church

Thursday, 8/11

10:00 am - Pastor Kal's Bible Study - Admin Conf Room

Sunday, 8/14

8:30 & 10:00 am - Worship Services - Church
10:00 am - Live Stream of In-Person Church

Remember in Prayer

To the family of Nelson Amaral on the passing of his mom
To the family of Curt & Phil Pearce upon their passing (brother in law & nephew of Joyce Pulliam)
Prayers for our country
Prayers for the people of Ukraine
Ashley - Chemo treatments (step mom of Darby McMahon)
Shawn Bailey - Surgery recovery
Bryson - Surgery recovery (grandson of Marjorie Maciel)
Don Castellon - Healing
Amy Cook - Recovery (daughter in law of the Arbuckles)
Roger Cuning - Healing
Kyle deSterke - Help with addiction & depression
Carol Devine - Recovery
Sue Fava - Surgery recovery
Kelly Ferree - Treatments (brother of Janis MacDonald)
Sara Gamache - Surgery recovery

Harv Goldhammer - Recovery
Emilio Guzman - Healing
Gale Heinrich - Healing
Geri Knoernschild - Surgery recovery
Megan Krause - Treatments (wife of Matt Krause)
Dennis Maddix - Strength & healing (husband of Martha Maddix)
Martha Maddix - Healing
Melissa Martin - Healing & restored health (daughter of Actkinsons)
JD McCain - Healing & strength (father of Steve McCain)
Ron Plummer - Recovery & to regain his strength (father of Melanie Kunz)
Al Renner - Test results & discernment (husband of Sue Renner)
Quentin Rios - Successful treatments for cancer (extended family of Gamaches)
Gayle Scheuerlein - Recovery
Jon & Debbie Schmidt - General prayers
Nickie Utvick - Surgery recovery (daughter of Martha Moffett)
Kevin Vraa - God's will (brother of Karyn Zblewski)
Stephen Williams - Cancer treatment
Winston - Health (friend of Marjorie Maciel)

Join us as a church body as we **read through the scriptures**. Here is our reading schedule (Year 1) for the week of August 8:

Monday, August 8

Acts 26 & Ruth 1

Tuesday, August 9

Acts 27 & Ruth 2

Wednesday, August 10

Acts 28 & Ruth 3-4

Thursday, August 11

Romans 1 & 1 Samuel 1

Friday, August 12

Romans 2 & 1 Samuel 2

Saturday, August 13

Romans 3 & 1 Samuel 3

Sunday, August 14

Romans 4 & 1 Samuel 4