

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

Should you not have had mercy ...



*as
I
had
mercy
on
you?*

Matthew 18:33

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)
www.clclutheran.org

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: 554, 779 (tan hymnal), 685:1-3, 685:4
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Colossians 3:12-24, Matthew 18:21-35
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 103

Sermon Text – Genesis 50:15-21

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRISTIAN FORGIVENESS

1. It is a fruit of faith.
2. It is forget-full.
3. It goes the extra mile.

- ◆ Prayer & Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Installation of the Sunday School Staff
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (685, stanza 4)

† † †

*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 in the foyer. There
will be no offering collection during the service.*

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

First Lesson – Colossians 3:12-24

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. 18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. 22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 103

P Bless the LORD, O my soul:

C **And all that is within me, bless His holy name!**

P Who forgives all your iniquities:

C **Who heals all your diseases.**

P Who redeems your life from destruction:

C **Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies.**

P He has not dealt with us according to our sins:

C **Nor punished us according to our iniquities.**

P For as the heavens are high above the earth:

C **So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him.**

P As far as the east is from the west:

C **So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**

P As a father pities his children:

C **So the LORD pities those who fear Him.**

P For He knows our frame:

C **He remembers that we are dust.**

P Our days are like grass, as a flower of the field:

C **For the wind passes over it, and it is gone.**

P But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him:

C **And His righteousness to children's children. [NKJV]**

Second Lesson – Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” 22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. 23 “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 26 “The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ 27 The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. 28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. 29 “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ 30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. 32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

Sermon Text – Genesis 50:15-21

15 When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?” 16 So they sent word to Joseph, saying, “Your father left these instructions before he died: 17 ‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” When their message came to him, Joseph wept. 18 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said. 19 But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. 21 So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

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A WARM WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS worshiping 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: Larry Reed, Bob Rankin
- Elder: Mike Sprengeler

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

Today (9/20)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School (Naaman & Elisha, OT 50)
	10:45 am	Adult Bible Class (Session 2 of 5 on the Great Commission)
Sun (9/27)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class

EXTENDED CALENDAR

- Church Council Meeting: Sunday, Oct.4, 8:30 am
- Mission Festival Service at St. Paul: Sunday, Oct.11, 9:30 am
- Church Movie Night: Friday, Oct.16, 7:00 pm
- Mary/Martha Ladies' Meeting: Sunday, Oct.18, 10:45 am
- Fall Clean-Up Day: Saturday, Oct.24 (8:00 am to noon)
- Quarterly Voters' Meeting: Sunday, Oct.25, 10:45 am
- Front Range Reformation Festival Service: Sunday, Nov.1, 3:30 pm (hosted by Redeemer, Cheyenne)

(note date changes for the Mary/Martha and Quarterly Voters' Meetings)

IN OUR PRAYERS: Brianna Bryson, who underwent a surgery last Tuesday at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. The procedure went well and she is now recuperating in the hospital. Lord-willing she will return to Denver later this month and continue her recovery at home. May the Spirit fill her heart with hope and patience.

THE BOARD OF DOCTRINE meets this week Monday and Tuesday on the campus of ILC, Eau Claire. Colloquies with two former Wisconsin Synod pastors will be conducted at these meetings. The two men are Luke Willitz, a member of Grace, Sleepy Eye, MN and Johnathan Schnose, a member of Mt. Zion, Detroit, MI. Pastor Schuetze is a member of this board and plans to attend, leaving today. He will return to Denver, God-willing, on Sept.29. after taking several vacation days visiting family in Minnesota. In an emergency you can reach him on his cell phone or through one of the elders (see church directory for numbers).

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS
SEPTEMBER 21-26

Mon Ezekiel 33:7-11 is a sample of God's dealing with His people during their exile in Babylon. God had put them where they needed to be so that they would welcome anything God had to say to them. They needed to realize that living under the conditions of slavery and social humiliation were less important than living in repentance and spiritual recovery. First things first! Why go to hell when God is reaching out to you with His strong hand (11)?

Tues Matthew 18:15-20 You or I may be able to help a stumbling fellow Christian recover his balance by a one-on-one private visit, after which more Christians may tune in. In the extreme case of a person clinging to his/her sin, we may finally get to the point of saying: "Since you want to cling to your sin, you're stuck with it, and we won't see you in heaven (18). However, we won't quit praying for/about you, even if we are just a few prayer warriors (19-20)."

Wed Romans 13:1-10 We sinners are proud (aren't we?) in not wanting to yield to mandates during the COVID-10 pandemic, and we might even excuse mob violence. If we are tempted that way, God here reminds us that government is His servant, authorized by Him to serve us for our good (4). No matter what political agenda or level of skill is functioning, government law-and-order serves us so that we may serve God. We are conscience-bound on this!

Thurs Psalm 51:1-9 When we face up to God, we begin by appealing to His loving-kindness and tender mercies (1-2), no longer trying to evade the awful truth about ourselves (3-4). It's the awful truth that we are what we are because we were born that way (5-6), and the only soaking, scrubbing, and rinsing that will help us is in God's hands. Repeat (8-9). Amen.

Fri Luke 17:3-4 You may have noticed that the Matthew account (Tuesday's devotion) does not contain the words repent or forgive. However, repent is implicit in the words if he hears you, and forgive is implied in the words whatever you loose on earth. Here Jesus makes it crystal clear how He wants things to go: "and if he repents, forgive him" . . . over and over again (4).

Sat Acts 16:35-40 Let's understand the dynamics going on here: Evidently the city magistrates had caught on that they were in trouble with God, so they were trying to save face by backing away from the whole debacle. Paul, however, caught on to that maneuver and forced a show-down, from which he came out the winner. To put things to the test, he left town only when he was ready to do so – after a few days of peaceful visiting with his friends. Bottom line: Sometimes we may make use of our rights as citizens to get fair treatment from others—including city officials. Stay tuned.