

THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL

TODAY (September 15) **WORSHIP**.....8:00 am
MON (Sept 16) Choir6:30 pm
NEXT SUN (September 22) **WORSHIP (HC)**8:00 am
NEXT SUN (September 22) Sunday School Begins8:00 am

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Sept 8 Plate offering | \$2297.00 |
| Sept 8 Installation service | 341.00 |
| Electronic Offerings | \$100.00 |
| Total Offerings this past week | \$2738.00 |



(Give electronically by visiting stpauldale.com or scan Q-R code above)

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: If you happen to see the following members this week, wish them a "Happy Birthday" **September 15** – Casey Laabs **September 17** – Amy Danke **September 19** – Samantha Dederer **September 21** – Kristin Ashauer, David Thiel

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Sunday School start has been moved one week to Sept. 22, 2019. Parents - please register your child/children on our church website, stpauldale.com under the Sunday School registration link.

PLEASE NOTE : SERVICE TIME CHANGE – Effective Sept. 15, 2019 St Paul service time has changed to **8 AM** on Sundays. St. Peter– Larsen service time will be at 10 am.

NEEDED – 1–2 people to teach Sunday School. Please see Bob Grunwald if interested.

FORWARD IN CHRIST MAGAZINE – If you are interested in receiving this magazine, there is a signup sheet on the entryway counter so we can determine how many people have interest.

FVL GIVING DAY 2019 - is coming on 9/17! The goal is to meet the first Let the Children Come mortgage payment of \$475,000 by 10/31. Thank the Lord that \$257,000 has already been given. That leaves \$218,000 by the deadline. A special matching fund will be available and donors can use our new service that carries no fee – meaning 100% of your gift goes to this need. Please remember this effort in your prayers and gifts. Visit fvlhs.org for more info or to donate.



“Making Friends for Eternity”

Est.1859

ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Member Congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

Rev. Paul Ibisch, Pastor, St Paul Office Phone 920-779-6777

Pastor Ibisch Cell Phone 608-799-0990

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 15, 2019

TODAY’S WORSHIP - The way to heaven is narrow. Mere outward attachment to the family of God is not sufficient—only through faith in Christ can we enter heaven. The door is narrow and Christ commands us to make every effort to enter it, so the Church prays, “that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command.” Although the door is narrow, it is open to all, and the saints will come from all nations to behold the glory of the Lord.

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS—

We're glad you joined us today! If you have any needs or questions during your visit with us this morning, let us try to help. Just ask an usher or the person next to you.

We use the red hymnals entitled, *Christian Worship*. In the front portion of our hymnals you will find outlines for different services. Today, we will use **Service of the Word on page 38**.

When you see the word "Hymn" turn to the back portion of the hymnal where you will find songs of praise which are marked with their titles and a large number instead of page numbers. Today’s hymns: **226, 339, 404 and 399**

The Psalms we use are found in the front of the hymnal just past the orders of service. Today we will sing **Psalm 72** in unison. It is found on **page 93**.

The restrooms are located downstairs, just past the fellowship hall. There is also television & viewing area in the foyer near there with seating if your little one needs a break or you need to be close to the restrooms. Before you leave today, please take a moment to sign our guest registry in the entryway & visit again soon!

BELLS AND WELCOME

ORDER OF WORSHIP: *The Service of the Word, page 38 in the front of the red hymnals.*

Opening Hymn: #226 *“To Your Temple I Draw Near”*

Psalm of the Day: Ps. 72 page 93 *(Sing in Unison)*

Hymn of the Day #339 *“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”*

Hymn #404 *“Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven”*

Closing Hymn: #399 *“To God Be the Glory”*

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Spoken by Pastor)*



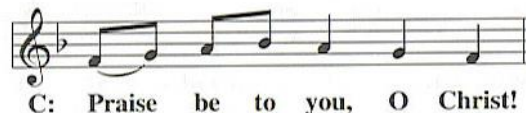
Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



+ **GOD'S WORD** +

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 66:18-24

The chosen nation of Israel had rejected the narrow door of the Lord. Yet in this last chapter of Isaiah (along with much of the last half of Isaiah) comes the promise of spiritual and eternal deliverance. This promise comes to the faithful remnant and those who are being gathered from the ends of the earth. Even in the midst of such beautiful and invitational gospel, there is warning for those who remain in their apostasy. God's mercy is broad and deep, but it found in only one place, the promised Messiah.



HYMN OF THE DAY: #339 *“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”*

THE MESSAGE TODAY: *Based on Luke 13:22-30*

“THE NARROW DOOR”

1. ONLY A FEW SAVED?
2. IS KNOWING JESUS ENOUGH?

After the Sermon rise for “The Apostles Creed” printed on page 41 in the front of the hymnal.

THE OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #404 *“Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven”*

PRAYER AND BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: #399 *“To God Be the Glory”*



^{v.18} “And I, because of their actions and their imaginations, am about to come and gather all nations and tongues, and they will come and see my glory. ^{v.19} “I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations. ^{v.20} And they will bring all your brothers, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD—on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels,” says the LORD. “They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the LORD in ceremonially clean vessels. ^{v.21} And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites,” says the LORD. ^{v.22} “As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,” declares the LORD, “so will your name and descendants endure. ^{v.23} From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me,” says the LORD. ^{v.24} “And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.”

PSALM OF THE DAY - Psalm 72, pg. 93 (Sing in unison)

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 12:18-24

The giving of the Old Covenant left the Israelites quaking in fear at the foot of Mt. Sinai. Divine justice would not leave the guilty unpunished. But the New Covenant invites all the nations to come to Mt. Zion in joyful assembly with the confidence that they have been judged innocent and made perfect through Jesus, the Messiah. Sprinkled with blood, we enter the narrow door to paradise.

¹⁸ You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; ¹⁹ to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, ²⁰ because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.” ²¹ The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.” ²² But you have come to Mount Zion, to the

city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia. (1 Timothy 1:10b cf. NIV)

SING VERSE OF THE DAY “ALLEULIA’S” ON PAGE 40.

GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 13:22-30 (Sermon Text)

The narrow door to eternity is open only to the spiritual children of Abraham. The Chosen Nation of Israel thought that they had every right to enter through the door. After all, they were part of the Old Covenant. But their lack of faith in Christ and reliance on themselves left them locked out from paradise. In the new Covenant, entrance into the Kingdom of God is open only to those with faith in the Christ.

“Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?” He said to them, “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’ “But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ “Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ “But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’ “There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.”

God's Word for This Week

Many think numerous roads lead to eternal glory. "It doesn't matter what religion you practice—or whether you have none," they say. "All that matters is that you try to treat others well and do the best you can." Yet while religions may espouse some noble goals for earthly living, all these goals lead people away from Christ. All fall far short of what God demands for entrance into heaven: perfection. (See Matthew 5:48.) The good news is Jesus came to be perfect in our place. He has given us his perfection in God's sight. (See 2 Corinthians 5:21.) Through faith in him we have eternal life. Jesus is the only way, the narrow door.

First Lesson – Isaiah 66:18-24

What is being described in these verses?

The Lord is describing the gathering of the Christian Church from all nations. In particular, he is describing that gathering as it will take place on day of judgment.

What important point is the Lord making through Isaiah?

The Church will be gathered into heaven from all nations, both Jew and Gentile. Faith in Jesus is the determining factor. Those who reject the salvation God provides through his Son "will be loathsome to all mankind."

Second Lesson – Hebrews 12:18-24

What does the scene described in verses 18-21 represent?

It represents the approach to God by means of the law (symbolized by Mt. Sinai). Attempting to approach God by means of obeying the law apart from faith in Jesus will only bring gloom, trembling, and ultimately death.

What does Mount Zion represent and by what means can we approach this "mountain?"

Mount Zion represents the holy Christian Church in heaven and on earth. We approach this mountain through faith in Jesus, who has made us perfect in God's sight by the sprinkling of his blood. He's the narrow door.

Gospel – Luke 13:22-30

Why does Jesus describe the entrance into heaven as being a "narrow door," and how does one enter through this narrow door?

The door into heaven is "narrow" because there is only one way into heaven, not many ways. Jesus said, "No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Apart from trusting in Jesus as your Savior, you will not be saved. (See Mark 16:16 and Acts 4:12.) In another respect, however, the door into heaven is "wide" because Jesus has paid for the sins of all people (1 John 2:2), and because of his sacrifice God has declared all people "not guilty" in his courtroom (Romans 3:24). Only those who trust in Jesus for salvation receive the benefit of his sacrifice. Those who do not enter into glory cannot blame God. The fault will be entirely their own.

True or false: Many people will be surprised come day of judgment that they stand condemned.

True. Sadly, many will be surprised at the final judgment. Both here and in Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus shows that many will be shocked at being shut out of heaven. Such will be the destiny for those who rely on anything or anyone but Jesus to be rescued from the fire of hell which we all deserve.