



**The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2026**

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grant Park, IL

Theme of the Day: The Beginning of the End: It's Time to Speak Truth to Power

Sometimes people get braver when they realize they are nearing the end. They speak things they couldn't or wouldn't say before, even to the powerful, because they realize they have nothing to lose.

The message of repentance and forgiveness of sins through Jesus' death on the cross has many powerful enemies. Sometimes those enemies are religious people, rebellious spirits and heretics. Sometimes those enemies are people of this world who worship their own personal desires and glory in their shame.

It doesn't matter how powerful the enemies are. God persists in speaking his truth and drawing our eyes to his Son, who will help us persevere to the end and speak truth to power.

Order of Service: Service Setting One (CW page 154)

Prayer upon entering church: O Lord, through the blood of Christ we now boldly approach your throne in prayer and know that you hear us for Jesus' sake. Lead us to make fervent use of this gift in our daily lives, adoring you for your goodness, confessing our sins to you, thanking you for all of the blessings and making known to you the desires of our hearts. Amen.

Opening hymn: I'm But a Stranger Here (CW 853)

Invocation and Confession

The Word

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7 – The Lord pictures his patient love in a story about the owner of a vineyard.

Let me sing for my loved one a song about my loved one's vineyard. My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile ridge. He dug it up and gathered the stones out of it. He planted it with the best vines. He built a tower in the middle of it. He also cut a winepress into it. He expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes, but it produced only sour grapes. So now, you residents of Jerusalem and you men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more could have been done for my

vineyard that I have not already done for it? When I expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes, why did it produce sour grapes?

Now, let me tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will take away its hedge, and it will become a pasture. I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled down. I will make it a wasteland. It will not be pruned or hoed. So briars and thorns will shoot up. I will also command the clouds not to pour rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Armies is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the planting that was pleasing to him. He expected justice, but instead there was oppression. He expected righteousness, but there was an outcry.

Psalms: A Beside the Streams of Babylon (Psalm 137)



1 Be - side the streams of Bab - y - lon we had our
2 How could we sing with - in their land when we were
3 Now in my times of grief and woe I will not
fill of sor - row, for we had left Je - ru - sa - lem,
bound and cap - tive? We could not sing at their com - mand,
cease my sing - ing; I'll praise the LORD with all my soul
and now, be - neath the wil - lows, we longed to walk
their tor - ments, all that hap - pened. O let us not
for ev - 'ry strength he gives me. All through my sor -
the cit - y streets and play our harps with - in its gates,
for - get your name nor all your ways, Je - ru - sa - lem:
row I will sing new songs of praise to God my King,
with tem - ple can - dles shin - ing. They laughed to see
you gave us joy and plea - sure. We will re - mem -
the mu - sic he has giv - en. So I can still

us far from home; for months we'd stum - bled on the road.
 ber you with thanks, our hearts in mourn - ing when we sang,
 re - mem - ber him and sing of my Je - ru - sa - lem:

How could we sing of Zi - on?
 re - mem - ber - ing your trea - sures.
 it is my star, my heav - en.

Text: Wolfgang Dachstein; tr. Gracia Grindal

Tune: Wolfgang Dachstein

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Second Reading: Philippians 3:12-21 – God prompts us to respond to his grace by living differently from the enemies of the cross of Christ.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus also took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it yet, but there is one thing I do: Forgetting the things that are behind and straining toward the things that are ahead, I press on toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, let all of us who are mature continue to think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this to you too. Only let us think the same thing and walk in line with what we already have attained.

Brothers, join together in imitating me and in paying attention to those who are walking according to the pattern we gave you. To be sure, many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. I told you about them often, and now I am saying it while weeping. Their end is destruction, their god is their appetite, and their glory is in their shame. They are thinking only about earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. We are eagerly waiting for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. By the power that enables him to subject all things to himself, he will transform our humble bodies to be like his glorious body.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation *Ephesians 2:10*



Refrain



Tone



Refrain

For we are God's hand - i - work, created in Christ Jesus to do good works.

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Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43 – Jesus tells the parable of the tenants to call leaders to repentance.

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. He leased it out to some tenant farmers and went away on a journey. When the time approached to harvest the fruit, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. The tenant farmers seized his servants. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then the landowner sent even more servants than the first time. The tenant farmers treated them the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance!’ They took him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. So when the landowner comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?”

They told him, “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end. Then he will lease out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him his fruit when it is due.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? “That is why I tell you the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruit.

The Gospel of our Lord
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (CW 603)

Sermon: Press On (Philippians 3:12-21)

Nicene Creed (CW 162-163)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering: We give our gifts to the Lord and sing “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (CW 713 vs. 1) in response to our offerings.

Lord’s Supper (CW page 165)

Communion Hymn: This Is My Will (CW 728)

Communion Hymn: O Church, Arise (CW 870)

Prayer and Blessing (CW page 170)

Closing hymn: Sent Forth by God’s Blessing (CW 932)

Announcements

Welcome in Jesus' name to our guests and visitors here with us today. It is a joy to be able to worship with you. Help us to remember your visit by signing our guest book. Ask an usher if you need help finding the book. If you would like more information about our church please speak with pastor after church. If you need a hearing device, please speak to a greeter. Please come again!

Weekly Preview next week we'll celebrate the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost. Our lessons will be from Isaiah 25:6-9, Romans 1:16,17 and Matthew 22:1-14. Our sermon will be based on Romans 1:16,17 with the theme: The Gospel's Power.

Hospitalized/Homebound members/people to keep in your prayers: Elmer Guritz, Myrna Vandergriff (Windward Pointe Senior Living, Portage, Indiana) David Moeller, Dorothy Riechers (Beecher Manor) and Don Genge.

Forward in Christ and Meditations are available in the narthex.

Bible Class will look at Matthew 22:1-14 next week.

Mark your calendars our yearly Friendsgiving will be held on Sunday, November 15 starting at 4pm.

July Financial Report Current: \$8,423, Missions: \$1,450, Christian Education: \$208, WLCFS: \$225. Total: \$10,306.

Communion Service In the Lord's Supper, our Savior offers unworthy sinners a personal pledge of forgiveness of sins through his body and blood. As he draws repentant sinners to himself, he also draws them into a special bond of fellowship with one another. In the WELS, we demonstrate this special fellowship bond in what is called "close communion." Thus, if you have never communed with us before, we ask that you first speak with our pastor. He will share with you the steps toward establishing communion fellowship. Thank you for respecting our practice.

This week at St. Paul

Today: Worship with communion 9am

Sunday School after worship

Bible Class after worship

Tuesday: Circuit Meeting at Trinity

Sunday: Worship 9am

Sunday School after worship

Bible Class after worship

Organist: Thank you to Doreen Romadka

Last Week's Attendance: Worship 44

Bible Class 12

Sunday School 4

St. Paul Evangelical (Gospel Centered) Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

9954 N16000 E Rd. Grant Park, IL 60940

Pastor Paul Micheel, Pastor

Phone: 815-465-6906 (church)

Email: pastor@stpaulgrantpark.net

Web Site: <http://www.stpaulgrantpark.net>