

St. Paul's Epistle – September 2020

Through Much Muck and Mire

Are you aware of the Bible verse, “Through much muck and mire we enter the kingdom of heaven?” Well, that is not exactly what it says, but it does say, “through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22) John Newton, in *Amazing Grace* put it this way: “Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come.” Charlotte Elliott in *Just As I Am* put it another way: “Just as I am though tossed about, with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears, within, without.” And Samuel Stone, in *The Church's One Foundation* states: “Through toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she [the Church] waits the consummation of peace forevermore.” Many more “hymn” examples could be cited but the point is that there is a struggle that makes us grow weary of life here on earth and long for the heavenly land.

Sometimes the trials and tribulations are quite severe and bothersome. The devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh like a good fight. If they win, we lose, and we lose big because we lose out on eternal life. So, the stakes are high to fight the good fight of faith (2 Timothy 4:7) and remain faithful (Revelation 2:10b).

Come what may (pandemics, fires, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, health problems, emotional problems—you name it), “The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress” (Psalm 46:11). For Jesus, our Savior promises, “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20b). “I will never leave you or forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5b).

As Thomas Dorsey penned:

*Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.*

*When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall,
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.*

*When the darkness appears, And the night draws near
And the day is almost gone,
At the river I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

LSB 739:1-3

*Pastor
Poganski*

Worship Committee Notes

We begin our worship during the month of September on Sunday **September 6th**, the 14th Sunday after Pentecost. The question is posed "Who is the Greatest?" and in the Sermon based on the Gospel lesson from Matthew 18:1-20 we will discover the answer. Our other lessons are Ezekiel 33:7-9 and Romans 13:1-10. The Hymn of the day is "Father Welcomes" (LSB 605).

The second Sunday in **September, the 13th** we focus on "The Importance of Forgiveness". The text for this Sermon is taken from Matthew 18:21-35. We also hear from Genesis 50:15-21 and Romans 14:1-12. We will sing "I Lay My Sins on Jesus" (LSB 606) and "Chief of Sinners Though I Be" (LSB 611).

On **September 20th** we consider "Fair Is Fair" based on the Gospel reading from Matthew 20:1-16. Isaiah 55:6-9 and Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30 are our Old Testament and New Testament readings. We sing "Salvation Unto Us Has Come (LSB 555) and "Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling" (LSB 827).

The theme of the fourth Sunday of **September, the 27th**, is developed in the Sermon titled "By What Authority?" Matthew 21:23-27 is our text for addressing this question. We again hear from Ezekiel for the Old Testament lesson Chapter 18:1-4, 25-32 and Philippians 2:1-4 and 14-18 is our New Testament lesson. The hymns "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" (LSB 909); "Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" (LSB 655); and "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng" (LSB 813) support our theme.

NOTE: All services may be held outdoors, weather permitting. Also, the hymns listed above may be changed to better suit the outdoor setting.

**Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious, Binding all the church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever And our confidence alone.**

**Grant, we pray, to all Your faithful All the gifts they ask to gain;
What they gain from You, forever With the blessed to retain;
And hereafter in Your glory Evermore with You to reign.**

**Praise and honor to the Father, Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit, Ever three and ever one;
One in might and one in glory While unending ages run! LSB 909**

Blessings on your worship of our gracious God in heart, home and with one another,

Karen Broach, Worship Committee member

September Mission of the Month - LCMS Lutheran World Relief

The current fire season here in California is a time when agencies like Lutheran World Relief come into their greatest need for donations. We hear their name in connection with big natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods and the like, it is then that they spring into action to help those people who are affected by those disasters. In their mission statement they affirm God's love for all people, they work with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering. If you would like to give a gift, please use your offering envelope which states on it "Designated Gift for September". You may also give an earmarked gift to LCMS Lutheran World Relief. [Note: Please make any checks out to "St. Paul Lutheran Church"-Thanks]

September 2020 - St. Paul, Auburn

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Note: All services will continue outdoors until further notice. Also, we will have a voters' meeting toward the end of the month, also as an outdoor meeting following the church service.

			1	2		3	4	5
Pentecost 14 6 9 a.m. Outdoor Worship 11 Zoom Sunday School Noon- Zoom Adult Class			7	8	9	10	11	12
Pentecost 15 13 9 a.m. Outdoor Worship 11 Zoom Sunday School Noon- Zoom Adult Class			14	15	16	10 a.m. Zoom Ladies Bible Study	17	18
Pentecost 16 20 9 a.m. Outdoor Worship 11 Zoom Sunday School Noon- Zoom Adult Class			21	22	23	24	25	26
Pentecost 17 27 9 a.m. Outdoor Worship 11 Zoom Sunday School Noon- Zoom Adult Class			28	29	30			