St. Paul's Epistle – September 2026

While It Is Day

Mark Klein, Elder at St. Paul

> In these days of spiritual and moral decay the question is often asked, "What's wrong with the Church?" And this question, while often presented by those who have never given the church a fair trial, is, in a general way, warranted; for there is no institution in the entire world that can do so much good and has such high and holy responsibilities as the church. Where else shall the world turn, which is so torn by doubt and fear? Where else, if not to the church with its saving Gospel, the only message of hope? Yes, the world is sick, and the church has the only remedy that can cure its ills. And in these days when the battle between Christianity and the world is becoming harder and harder and the line of demarcation separating the two is becoming more and more indistinct; when worldliness is making such terrible inroads in the Church; when love is becoming cold and indifferent and laxity are paralyzing Christian activities; when, as the Savior predicted, there are all the indications that the world's destruction is near, in this our evil time, what does the Church itself need more than a deeper appreciation for the Gospel and a reconsideration to the spreading of this Gospel? The need in our church is not, primarily, more men and means, nor more churches and members, but congregations filled with a greater soul-winning spirit, members with a deeper passion for blood-bought souls, members, we repeat, who realize that an actually overwhelming responsibility rests upon them and that their sacred and supreme duty in this world is to testify for Christ by word and deed and thus to help save souls!

Do the above words sound familiar and accurate? Could they have been written about our world today? Actually, they are quoted from a foreword written by P. G. Prokopy to a book entitled, "While It Is Day" by Paul E. Kretzmann published in 1926, one-hundred (100) years ago! Maybe the good old days weren't quite as good as we 'remember' them! The title comes from John 9:4, where Jesus states," As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work". MayLSB hymn 826 "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling," be our response to this great calling!

Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting-Who will bear the sheaves away
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward He offers thee
Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, Send me, send me!

Let none hear you idly saying," There is nothing I can do".
While the multitudes are dying And the Master calls for you
Take the task he gives you gladly, Let His work your pleasure be.
Answer quickly when he calleth, "Here am I, send me, send me! (sts. 1&4)

WORSHIP NOTES

Worship involves our entire being-- engaging all our senses. In the explanation to the First Article of the Apostles Creed we profess, "I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them...For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him". Rev. Ed T. Harkey of New Hampshire, a writer of an August 2023 Portal's of Prayer devotion, speaks about how each of our senses are engaged in the Lord's Divine Service especially during Communion. "Sight. Sound. Smell. Tasting and touching the mystery. If you believe there is a sixth sense, it's engaged also: Faith, created and fostered trusting God's promise of grace". Did you **hear, see, taste, smell** and **touch** it also? What a precious blessing—WORSHIP!

Sunday, September 6th is the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost. We hear from Matthew 18:1-20 as the Gospel reading and text for the Sermon titled, "Who Is the Greatest?".

Sunday, September 13th we continue our meditations in Matthew Chapter 18, verses 21-35 and hear a Sermon emphasizing "The Importance of Forgiveness".

Sunday, September 20th the Sermon text is Matthew 20:1-16 and is titled, "Fair is Fair".

Sunday, September 27th we hear from Matthew 21:23-27 as the Gospel reading with the Sermon asking "By What Authority?"

Celebrating the privilege to worship our Lord and Savior,

Karen Broach, Worship Committee