

GOSPEL: LUKE 13:1-9

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?” ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?” ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” ⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’” ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

PSALM 63.1-8

A Psalm of David, when he was in the Wilderness of Judah.

¹O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. ²So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. ³Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. ⁴So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. ⁵My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips ⁶when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; ⁷for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. ⁸My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

Pray for these we know to be in need of resolution, healing, support and comfort:



The Cisneros family; Ivy & John Conklin; Austin Marsh; Ewalani Odachi; Brian Kurihara; George Aspeitia; Jim Gagne; Ed Sais; Carol & Larry Sullivan; Hazel Booth; Aki Fukui; Lily Fukui; Karri Padilla; Susan and Gene Ramirez; Margarete Schwall; Millie Powell; Mai Madrigal and her family; Phil Stanton; Meher Montessori School; and all who are sick from COVID-19 in our nation and across the globe; for all businesses who are reopening to full capacity; for those who are struggling with returning to normalcy financially, emotionally, or mentally; for those who face discrimination; and for our country, our military and first responders. Bless all who prepare for and lead us in worship during this Season of Lent and all who contribute to our worship life here at St. Paul’s; watch over those who are effected by the war in Ukraine. May all families be reunited and let there be a peaceful resolution.

Third Sunday in Lent March 20, 2022

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Sunday Service at 9:30AM

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Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

We are happy to be open for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am.

While LA County has formally rescinded the masking order as of 3/4/22, masks are still being recommended for use in public settings, such as our worship space. For the safety of our at-risk members and our current visiting pastor, please wear a mask and maintain social distancing for the time being.

If you have forgotten a mask, we do have extras, in both adult and kid sizes, in the Narthex.

News and Needs

- **The Lord's Supper**, our sharing of the bread and wine as Jesus invites us to do, is open to all who accept the presence of Jesus in this simple meal. Jesus comes to us with forgiveness independently of our human understanding. We continue to use pre-filled communion chalices for a sanitary, safe, and traditional communion experience. We rejoice in our opportunity to join together in praise and thanksgiving to God. Newcomers among us are invited to participate in every aspect of our worship. Any questions? Please ask.
- **Welcome again to our presiding pastor, David Berkedal**, as he leads us in worship today! Pr. Berkedal and his wife, Rev. Sally run a YouTube channel called "Streams of Living Water" which can be found at the following link: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB7KnYS1bpHKaL2OseQWCnw>), and a blog (<http://pastorberkedalsblog.blogspot.com/>) that you are welcome to check out as well.
- **We are still collecting items for our Lenten project of Care Packages for Lutheran World Relief!** Elizabeth will coordinate the effort of putting together the care packages on Saturday, April 2nd at the church starting at 10am. Help is still needed! We are planning to reach a goal of 25 kits and still need: **4 towels, 12 bars of soap, 16 toothbrushes, 16 combs, & 18 nail clippers**. If you have any extra boxes we can use for shipping, we have a need for those as well. Please sign-up to let her know you will be coming. If you are making the kits on your own, please take photos of your work so we can share it with our congregation, community, and the Synod. "God's work. Our hands."
- **March 22 is World Water Day!** Southwest California Synod and Green Faith Team will be hosting a seminar called "Faith and Science in Conversation." Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.
- **SoCal Synod Women's Organization invites you to join our Winter Gathering Zoom event Saturday, March 26 • 8:45am -12 noon.** Register for this event with Julie Jensen at juliejnsn1@roadrunner.com. Give Julie your name, address, phone number and email plus your church and city. Julie will send you the Zoom link prior to the event. The theme will be: "Called to Deal with Difficult Issues"
- **American Legion Post 397 needs our help!** From Karen Suarez: "We are in need of help getting our hall/kitchen/bar back open as soon as possible to bring to joy of celebrations back to our facility! We continued to give back during the last two years but 2 years but now we need assistance!" To send money from Zelle: post397mpk@gmail.com. For Venmo: **post397mpk**. For GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/cb3293d4> . If you would like to make a check donation, you can either send it to them or give it to Elizabeth to deliver. **Please make the check out to: American Legion Post 397.** Their address is 338 S. Ramona Avenue Monterey Park, CA 91754.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 55:1-9

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts..

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- **Lenten Study - Week 3: Vulnerable in the Wilderness** - which extends today's lessons and provides reflection questions. Copies of the study materials are on the table in the Narthex. Let Elizabeth know if you'd like a digital copy.

