

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

*Gathering at St. John's Episcopal Church
1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL 33764*

**Sunday, September 15, 2024
Lectionary 24, Year B**

ZOOM Faith Sharing
and Bible Study
Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM

Use the QR Code to get to our
FaithTalk@7 webpage for more
information and links.



FaithTalk@7



Introduction

Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of *messiah*) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

Prayer of the Day

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 116:1-9

I will walk in the presence of the LORD. (Ps. 116:9)

¹I love the LORD, who has ¹heard my voice,
and listened to my ¹supplication,

²**for the LORD has given ¹ear to me
whenev- ¹er I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave ¹came upon
me;

I came to ¹grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name ¹of the LORD:**

“O LORD, I pray you, ¹save my life.” R

⁵Gracious is the ¹LORD and righteous;
our God is full ¹of compassion.

⁶**The LORD watches o- ¹ver the innocent;
I was brought low, ¹and God saved me.**

⁷Turn again to your rest, ¹O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt ¹well with you.

⁸**For you have rescued my ¹life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my ¹feet from stumbling;**

⁹I will walk in the presence ¹of the LORD
in the land ¹of the living. **R**

Second Reading: James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

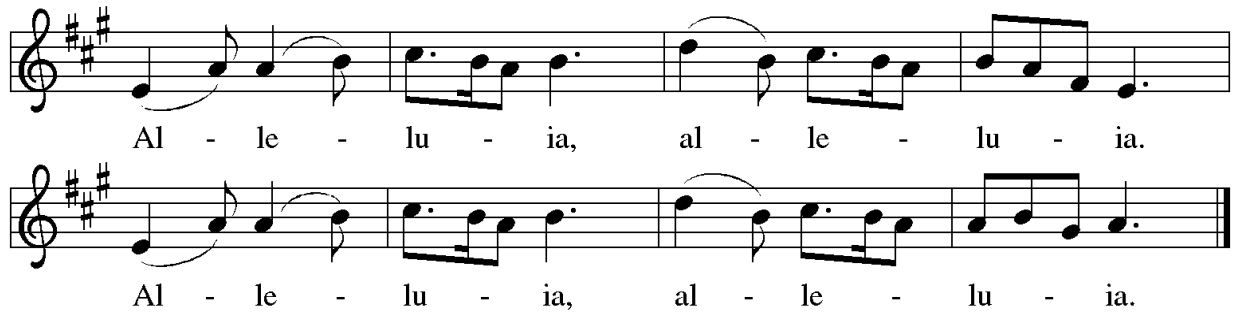
A reading from the letter of James.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to

become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



St. Paul's Spirituality Center

an outreach ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Wednesday Contemplative Worship

Evening Prayer

September 11 - 7:15 PM

Gathering at
St. John's
Episcopal Church

1676 S. Belcher Rd.
Clearwater, FL 33764



St. Paul's

Silver Foxes Luncheon

Wednesday, September 18
1:00 PM

Capogna's Dugout
1653 Gulf to Bay Blvd.

Please sign up by
Sunday September 15



WELCA

Women of the ELCA Bible Study

Wednesday, September 18
11:00 AM

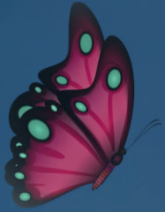
Ladies, join us for our monthly Bible Study
from Gather Magazine.
We will join Silver Foxes for lunch afterwards.

Please reach out to Phyllis Berlage
for more information.



St. Paul's Spirituality Center

an outreach ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church



Tuesday Grief Forum

Where education and grief support meet

Facilitated by Rebecca Bass, Certified Grief Educator and Spiritual Director

Gathering at St. John's Episcopal Church 1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater



St. Paul's Book Club

meets every 4th Wednesday of the months

Our next meeting: September 25

Clearwater Family Restaurant, 1844 N. Highland Ave

Our next book: *The Sigma Protocol!* by Robert Ludlum

A thriller that involves international intrigue, deception, and potential world destruction.



For more information use our QR code
or go to webpage:
<https://stpaulsclearwater.org/book-study>

JOIN US!

TAMPA DEMOCRACY FORUM WEEKEND

Friday, September 13 to
Sunday, September 15

St Paul Lutheran Church in Seminole Heights

5103 N Central Ave, Tampa, FL 33603

813-239-3113

www.StPaultampa.org

● **Movie on Dangers of Christian nationalism, "God and Country"**

Friday, September 13 - 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Director Dan Partland examines the implications of Christian Nationalism and how it distorts not only the constitutional republic, but Christianity itself.

● **Democracy Fair**

Saturday, September 14, 10 am - 2 pm

Nonprofits promoting Democracy, the environment, civil rights, and voting rights and education will be speaking and be staffing booths. Food and entertainment will be provided.

● **Voter Registration**

Sunday, September 15, 11:30am -12:30pm

Register to vote after Sunday's service.



For further information contact: Rev. Brian Scott, Reverend Emeritus at 301-514-2841 or BScott9744@aol.com

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A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a Reconciling in Christ congregation, embodies God's love, and promise of salvation through faith in Christ by extending inclusion and welcome to all.

We welcome the full, active participation of all who worship and minister with us. If you are interested in learning more about Jesus, God's life and action in the world and our lives, the Lutheran faith, or this congregation and how you can be more involved, please reach out to Pastor Anne.

Phone Number: 727- 446-7718

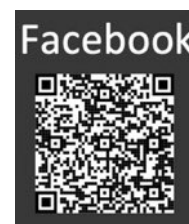
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To reach Pastor Anne
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From sundaysandseasons.com.

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