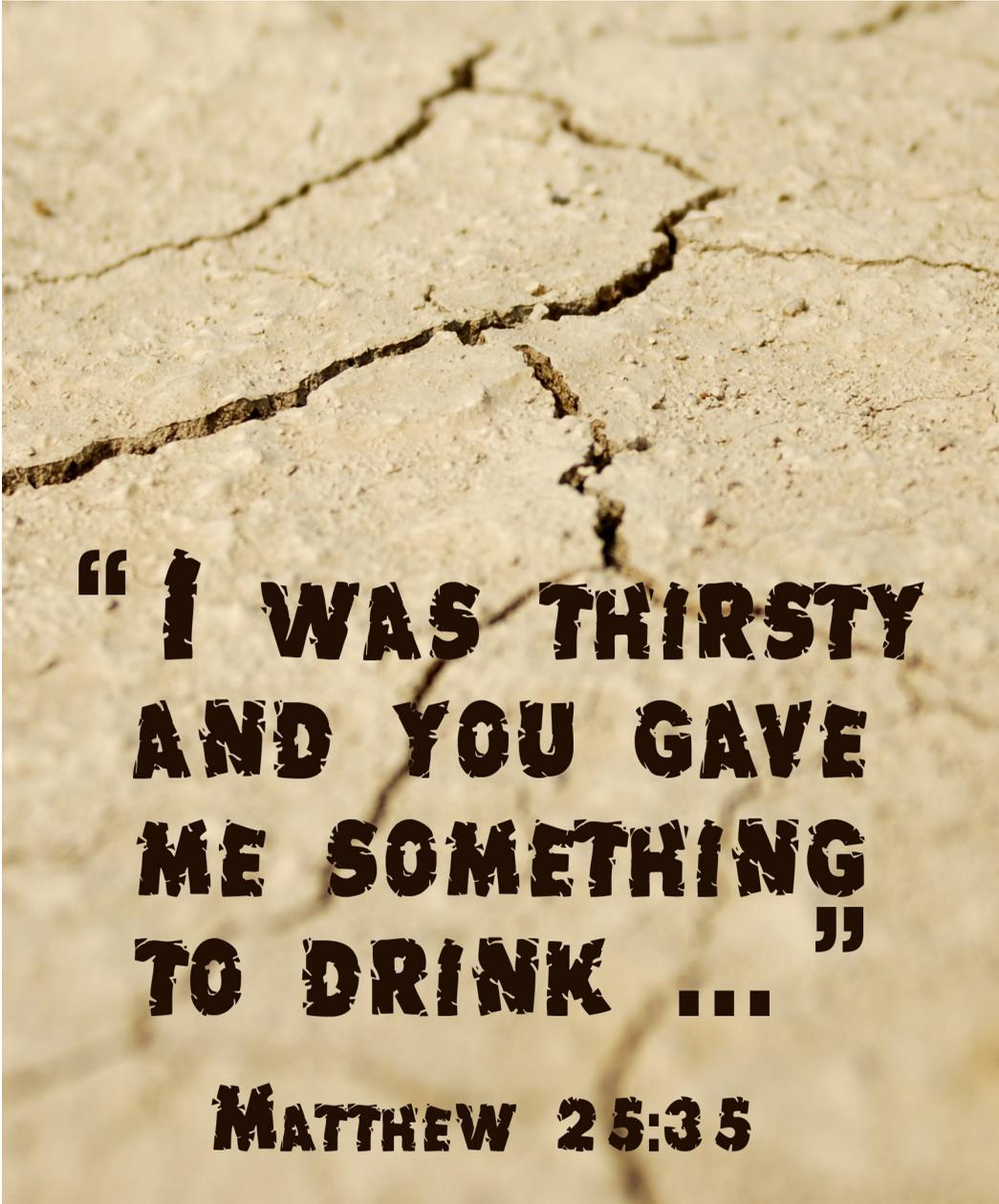


St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325
www.siouxcitystpauls.org



**“ I WAS THIRSTY
AND YOU GAVE
ME SOMETHING
TO DRINK ... ”**

MATTHEW 25:35

*10:45 a.m. Sunday, November 22, 2020
Sermon: “Sheep Vs. Goats” Matthew 25:31–46*



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- A Family to Whom You Belong -
Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

10:45 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, 2020

Servants of God's House Today:

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu

Praise Team Accompanist: Doris Hill

Ushers: Bob Grothaus Team

Missionaries: Charles Cortwright, Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf,
Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump, Rev. Paul Flo

Reader: Cheney Neff

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

AS WE GATHER We pause to consider our brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those who have been ignored or mistreated. We are reminded today that Christ has chosen us to be His people, to be heirs with Him of salvation. Such grace gladdens our hearts and emboldens us to help our brothers and sisters in need.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Heavenly Father, You care for all people regardless of their wealth or heritage, and You have made us heirs of Your salvation. Strengthen us, that we care for the poor, weak, and lonely, and that all our neighbors may know Your gracious love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Worship Service

(The congregation is invited to respond in the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

The Wave of Fellowship

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Sentences *Psalm 95:1-3a, 6-7*

P: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

C: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

P: Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving!

C: For the LORD is a great God.

P: Oh come, let us worship and bow down.

C: For He is our God,

P: and we are the people of His pasture,
C: and the sheep of His hand.

Opening Song "I Can Only Imagine"

I can only imagine what it will be like when I walk by Your side.
I can only imagine what my eyes will see when Your face is before me.
I can only imagine.

Surrounded by Your glory, what will my heart feel?
Will I dance for You, Jesus, or in awe of You be still?
Will I stand in Your presence or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah? Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine,
I can only imagine.

I can only imagine when that day comes and I find myself standing in the Son.
I can only imagine when all I will do is forever, forever worship You.
I can only imagine,
I can only imagine.

Surrounded by Your glory, what will my heart feel?
Will I dance for You, Jesus, or in awe of You be still?

Will I stand in Your presence or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah? Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine,
I can only imagine.
Words and Music by Bart Millard. CCLI #11440148 and 20162974.

Apostles' Creed

First Lesson Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 (God will search for His sheep.)

<p>¹¹ “For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹² As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land.</p>	<p>¹⁴ I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁶ I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.</p>
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²⁰ “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹ Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, ²² I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. ²³ I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 15:20–28 (The last enemy to be destroyed is death.)

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. ²⁸ When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

(Please stand, as you are able, for the Gospel)

Holy Gospel Matthew 25:31–46 (The separation of the sheep and the goats)

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ ⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

<p>⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’</p> <p>⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a</p>	<p>stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’</p> <p>⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ ⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”</p>
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Confession and Absolution

P: Indeed, our heavenly Father has called us to be His people. He has led us to green pastures and still waters. Yet, there have been times when we have treated our fellow sheep with disdain, when we have wandered away from our Shepherd. But our Good Shepherd does not abandon us, and we confess our sins before Him and one another.

(Silence for reflection)

P: Heavenly Father,

C: we confess that we have wandered away from You. We confess that we have acted shamefully toward our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might follow You to the green pastures and still waters of everlasting life.

P: Our heavenly Father has heard Your confession and sent His only Son, Jesus, to be our Good Shepherd. Jesus searches for each one of His sheep. He brings back those who have strayed. He binds up the injured. He even lays down His life for the sheep. By Christ’s death and resurrection, God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. We are sought by our Shepherd. We are forgiven in Christ.

Children’s Message

The Song of Instruction “Knowing You”

All I once held dear, built my life upon,
 all this world reveres and wars to own.
 All I once thought gain I have counted loss,
 spent and worthless now compared to this.

Refrain: Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You,
 There is no greater thing,
 You’re my all, You’re the best,
 You’re my joy, my righteousness, and I love You, Lord.

Now my heart's desire is to know You more,
to be found in You, and known as Yours.
To possess by faith what I could not earn,
All surpassing gift of righteousness. (refrain)

Oh, to know the pow'r of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings.
To become like You in Your death, my Lord,
So with You to live and never die. (refrain)

(Words/music by Graham Kendrick, 1997 Make Way Music, Ltd, Integrity Music, used by permission CCLI
11440148 and 20162974)

The Word “Sheep Vs. Goats” Matthew 25:31–46

WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul's members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings.

Please place your offerings in the box upfront.

To our guest: Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please put your **Welcome Card** in the box at the back of the church.

Leviticus 27:30—Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord.

Offertory “Mighty to Save

Ev'ryone needs compassion, a love that's never failing. Let mercy fall on me.

Ev'ryone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior, the Hope of nations.

Chorus: Savior, He can move the mountains. My God is mighty to save,
He is mighty to save. Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave, Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as You find me, all my fears and failures. Fill my life again.
I give my life to follow ev'rything I believe in. Now I surrender. (chorus)

Shine Your light and let the whole world see. We're singing for the glory of the risen King.

Jesus shine Your light and let the whole world see. We're singing for the glory of the risen King. (chorus)

(Words/Music by Reuben Morgan & Ben Fielding, arr. By Carol Tornquist, 2006 Hillsong Pub., CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Prayer of the Church

P: For those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries that they remain faithful to your Word including; Marty Figge, Lyla Holland, Jennifer Popken, Lauren Budzinski, Chris Meek, Rylee Wagner, Joyce Haines, Brandon Figge, Steve Lyons, Taylor Meek, Meghan Orr, Zuria Ramirez, EC Van Cura, and Caitlyn Haller. Lord in Your mercy.

C: Give ear to our cry.

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Going Out Song “Forever”

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King, His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things, His love endures forever
Sing Praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise.

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm, His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn, His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise, Sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful, Forever God is strong, Forever God is with us – Forever,
Forever.

From the rising to the setting sun, His love endures forever
By the grace of God, we will carry on, His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise, Sing praise, sing praise

Forever God is faithful, Forever God is strong, Forever God is with us, Forever
Forever God is faithful Forever God is strong, Forever God is with us – Forever
Forever

(Words & music by Chris Tomlin, 2000 *Worshiptogether.com Songs/Six Steps Music/*

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624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325
www.siouxcitystpauls.org

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“*Sheep* vs. *Goats*”

Date: 11/22/20

Text: Matthew 25:31-46

Verse for Meditation

“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40

Points to Ponder

1. Can you tell sheep from goats?

2. What does God want us to do while waiting for His return?
 - Matthew 25:1-13
 - ◇ The Parable of the Ten Virgins – Are you ready?

 - Matthew 25:14-30
 - ◇ The Parable of the Talents – Are you using your talents?

 - Matthew 25: 31-46
 - ◇ The Final Judgement

3. How does God tell sheep from goats?
 - ◇ v34 – Inherit the kingdom

 - ◇ v41 – Eternal fire

4. Not just Sunday Morning only Christians...