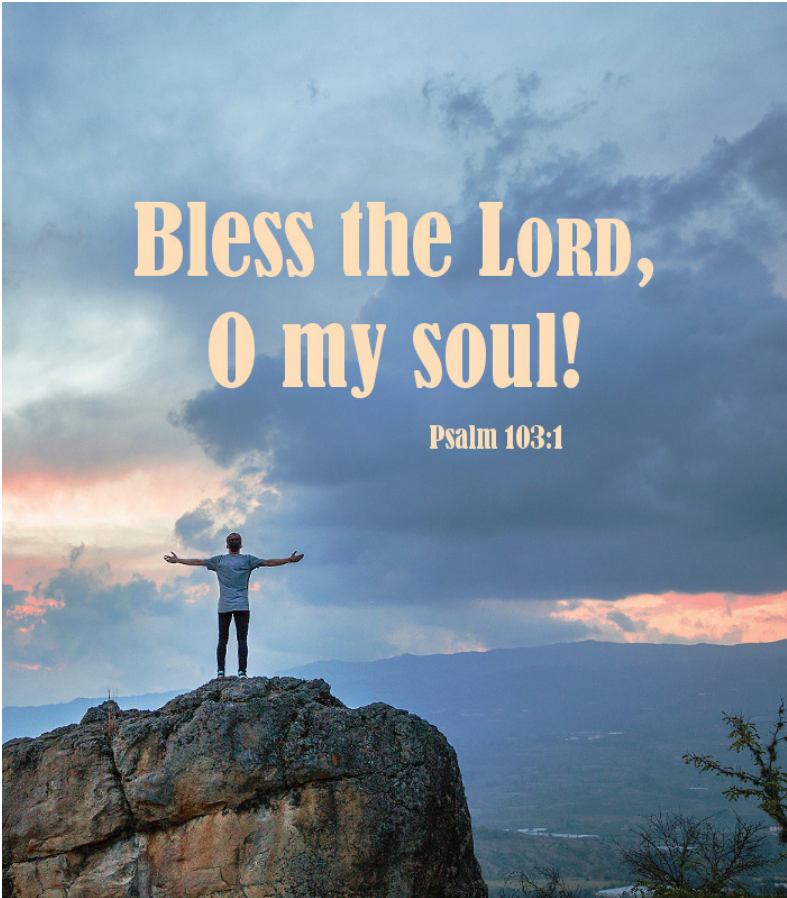


A photograph of a person standing on a large, dark, rocky outcrop. The person is seen from behind, wearing a light blue t-shirt and dark pants, with their arms outstretched horizontally towards the horizon. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, with a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting or rising sun visible on the left side. In the background, a range of mountains is visible under the same sky.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Psalm 103:1

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

205 St. Paul's Church Road, Salisbury, NC

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Lindsey Whisnant • Crucifer: Zoe Wells

Cantor: Stan McConnell • Lector: Terri Powlas

Preacher: Perry Bernhardt

Communion Assistants: Bonnie Hinson,

Wayne Taylor, Bethany Whisnant

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “O God Beyond All Praising”

Anna Laura Page

The Ten Commandments *Please stand.*

The Lord is God, our God, and has brought us out of bondage to sin and death, commanding us to observe our conduct before him and our neighbor.

¹You shall have no other gods before me.

**²You shall not take the name
of the Lord your God in vain;
for the Lord will not hold guiltless
those who take his name in vain.**

**³Remember the Sabbath day
to keep it holy.**

**⁴Honor your father
and your mother,
that your days may be long
in the land which the Lord
your God is giving you.**

⁵You shall not kill.

⁶You shall not commit adultery.

⁷You shall not steal.

**⁸You shall not bear false witness
against your neighbor.**

**⁹You shall not covet
your neighbor’s house.**

**¹⁰You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife,
his workers, his livestock,
or anything that is your neighbor’s.**

Confession and Absolution

Hymn: “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Greeting and Kyrie Eleison

74

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

75

Leader:

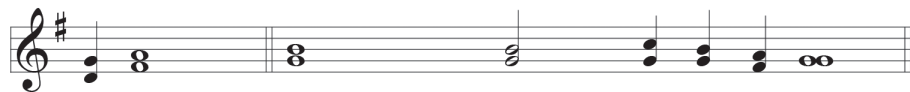


Glory be to God on high!

Congregation:



And on earth peace, good will toward all. We praise you, we bless you,



we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory,



O Lord God, heaven - ly King, God the Father Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God,

Son of the Father: You take away the sin of the world, have mercy
on us. You take away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.
You sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy on us.
For you are holy; you on - ly are the Lord; You only, O Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

77

Leader: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

O Lord, help your people to avoid the infection of the evil one, and with pure hearts to follow you, our only Lord. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Please be seated.

A - men.

First Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷"Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus, he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 103:1-12

¹Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and forget not | all his benefits.**

³He forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your infirmities;

⁴**He redeems your life | from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and | lovingkindness;**

⁵He satisfies you | with good things,
and your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.

⁶**The LORD ex- | ecutes righteousness
and judgment for all who | are oppressed.**

⁷He made his ways | known to Moses
and his works to the chil- | dren of Israel.

⁸**The LORD is full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and | of great kindness.**

⁹He will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will he keep his an- | ger forever.

**¹⁰He has not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor rewarded us according | to our wickedness.**

**¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so is his mercy great upon | those who fear him.**

**¹²As far as the east is | from the west,
so far has he removed our | sins from us.**

Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God.

⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

The word of the Lord.

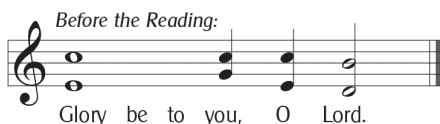
Offering

Anthem: "Sing Forever to the Lord"

Adult Choir



The Holy Gospel is written in the 18th chapter of Matthew.



Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.” ²³Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly

Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

80

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate
from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at
the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

Children's Chat

Prayers of the Church

Following each prayer: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Exhortation

Preface and Sanctus

86-88

Leader *Congregation*

The Lord be with you. And with your spir - it

Leader

Lift up your hearts.

Congregation

We lift them to the Lord.

Leader

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God—through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, our Lord and Savior, who ascending above the heavens and sitting at your

right hand, poured out the Holy Spirit upon the chosen disciples as he had promised, causing the whole earth to rejoice.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you, and saying:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na
in the high - est Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est

The Lord's Prayer

90

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

¹hallowed be thy name,

²thy kingdom come,

³thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

⁴Give us this day our daily bread;

⁵and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

⁶and lead us not into temptation,

⁷but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: Take, and drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Agnus Dei

91



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin
of the world, have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world,
grant us peace. A - - - - - men.

Distribution of Communion

92

Remain seated after the distribution.

May the body and precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in true faith to everlasting life.

Nunc Dimittus

92

Lord, now let your servant de- | part in | peace,
ac- | cording to | your | word.
For my eyes have | seen your sal- | vation,
which you have prepared before the | face of | all | people:
A light to | lighten the | Gentiles
and the | glory of your | people | Israel.
Glory | be to the | Father,
and to the | Son, and to the | Holy | Spirit,
As it | was in the be- | ginning,
is now, and ever shall be, | world without | end. | A- | men

Thanksgiving

We thank and praise you, almighty and loving Father, for feeding us with the body and blood of your beloved son, Jesus Christ. Having received this holy Sacrament with our mouths, may our faith in you apprehend and enjoy your grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ and his Church, and everlasting life. Send your Holy Spirit to remind us of these promises throughout the week, and keep us in the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Benedicamus

93

Leader: Congregation:

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

Leader: Congregation:

Bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Praise to the Lord the Almighty"

Mark Thewes

We remain seated, worshiping silently during the postlude, standing at the end of the postlude to face the processional cross, now at the rear of the sanctuary.

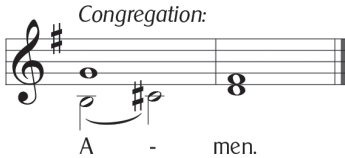
Benediction

93

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace.



*We extend our love, sympathy, and prayers to the
family of Charles Ray (Chuck) Hess.
Mr. Hess died Tuesday, September 12, 2023.*

Recent prayer needs:

- Cindy Alligood – Baptist Hospital
- Jasper Eller (12-year-old grandson of Myra Jane and Terry Eller) – Cancer
- Lisa Phelps – Recovering at home
- Vaughn Wilhelm – Recovering at home

Please see the monthly Epistle for a complete list of prayer needs for members, homebound, family, and friends.

Time and Talent Forms—Time and Talent forms are used to help committees and other groups in the church plan for the coming year. The chairpersons and coordinators need to know who they can call to help. Please take a moment to choose how you would like to serve, and turn in your form before October 1st.

Stewardship

General Fund Offering (9/10)	\$8,974
Other Offering (9/10)	\$751
Children's Mission (3rd qtr. St. Paul Lutheran Seminary)	\$1,752.50
Sunday School Attendance (9/10)	62
Worship Attendance (9/10)	192

Lutheran Men's Fish Fry

Saturday, September 23RD

6:00PM in the Picnic Shelter

It's that time for another of our congregation's favorite annual events. St. Paul's Men's Fish Fry will be held on Saturday evening, September 23rd at 6:00pm. Tickets will be available on the lawn after service on today.

Proceeds from this year's fish fry will benefit Binns-Counts Community Center. A minimum donation of \$12 for adults, and \$6 for those under 12 is requested. Children under 3 years of age are free. There will be no drive-thru pickup, however takeout boxes will be available.

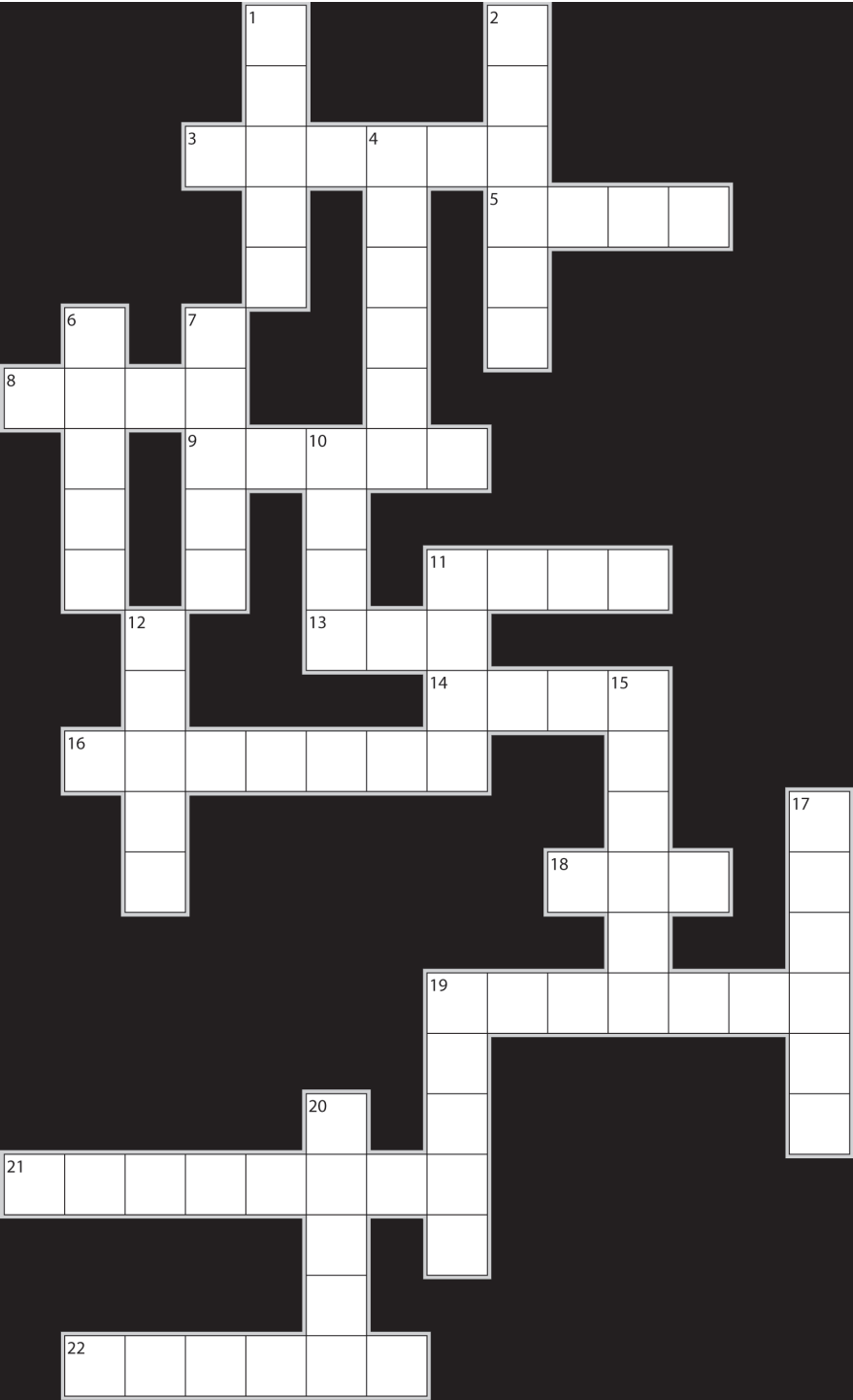
To make sure there's more than enough for you to enjoy, only a very limited number of tickets will be sold at the event. Thank you for your understanding.

We look forward to another great fish fry. Plan to come for great food, great fellowship, and best of all, showing God's love to benefit Binns-Counts. This is another great opportunity for you to invite those friends and family to come and experience our St. Paul's church family!

Christmas Concert—Christmas is right around the corner, and we need your help! This year, on Saturday, December 23 at 4:00 pm, St. Paul's will be hosting a fun and festive (yet to be named) Christmas concert. We are looking for volunteers to help with music and production. If you play an instrument, love to sing, can help with the production, or are willing to be a reader, please let us know your interest by October 1, 2023.

You can grab a sign-up form in the Narthex, go to this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/Hrh3fvtVLh>, or call/email Heather or Michael Canup to volunteer.

Heather Canup - 336-408-0500; heather_canup@outlook.com
Michael Canup - 336-529-5203; michael_canup@outlook.com



Pentecost 16A

Find the answers in today's four Scripture lessons.

It may help with the Psalm if you use the English Standard Version instead of the old Psalter in the bulletin.

ACROSS

3. The fellow who refused to forgive was sent there.
5. Think. Jesus represents forgiveness as paying a...
8. How many of us lives to himself
9. The Lord is slow about this.
11. What Joseph did when he heard his "father's" message
13. We are the Lord's whether we live or...
14. The psalmist says this blesses the Lord.
16. Each of us will give this to God.
18. The Lord redeemed Joseph's and your life from there.
19. What did the brothers want Joseph to do?
21. We will all stand before this seat.
22. What God does to you with steadfast love and mercy

DOWN

1. We should extend forgiveness because God has extended this to us.
2. How Joseph spoke to his brothers
4. The kingdom of heaven is compared to a king wishing to do this with his accounts.
6. The Lord made his way known to him.
7. Each must forgive from his...
10. The brothers meant evil but God meant...
11. God removes our transgressions as far as the east is from the...
12. Who was dead in our OT lesson?
15. Christ is the Lord of the dead and the...
17. Who did the brothers think might hate them?
19. Welcome those weak in the...
20. We must forgive 77 times, not this many.

Sunday, September 17

- Finance Committee, 9am
- Men's Choir practice, 4pm
- Handbell Choir practice, 5pm
- Kathy Ketchie Circle, 5pm
- No Vespers tonight
- **Chairpersons of the Standing Committees** meet at 6pm
(Standing committees are: Christian Education, Finance, Outreach, Property, Worship & Music, Youth & Family)

Monday, September 18

- After school program for Faith Academy, 1–3pm
- Council meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesday, September 19

- Friendship Club daytrip to The Orchard at Altapass
- Staff meeting, 5pm
- Adult Confirmation Class, 6pm
- Girl Scouts, 6:45pm

Wednesday, September 20

- Classical Conversations homeschool 8:30am–3:30pm
- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm

Thursday, September 21

- Bible Study, 10am and 6pm

Saturday, September 23

- Lutheran Men's Fish Fry, 6pm

Sunday, September 24

- District Youth gathering, 4pm
- Men's Choir practice, 4pm
- Handbell Choir practice, 5pm
- Finance Committee, 5pm
- No Vespers tonight
- **All members of the Standing Committees** meet at 6pm
(Standing committees are: Christian Education, Finance, Outreach, Property, Worship & Music, Youth & Family)
- Council meeting, 7pm

The Unfailing Love of the Lord

Find the 30 bold words from Psalm 103:6–14.

E T W T D R R A F S L O W T J
E V D L L E E B R O M E L U H
G X O X O H M U I L I A S T I
F P E L C T O N G Z E T S I N
C R H C S A V D H D I A Z D I
B B A T U F E A T C E P R E Q
E Y U M R T D N E A N I L S U
L O R D E A E T O S E T U N I
S I N S B A E S U R R I F E T
Q S E S O M N O S A D E I P I
D B S U B X I G N E L S C M E
U C R I S C H G E F I B R O S
S N E V A E H D S R H A E C F
T Y I R W E S T S N C C M E Z
S Z G N I L I A F N U L K R N

The **LORD** **executes righteousness** and **justice** for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to **Moses**, his acts to the children of **Israel**. The LORD is **merciful** and **gracious**, **slow** to anger, and **abundant** in **unfailing love**. He will not always **scold**, nor will he hold on to his **anger** forever. He has not **dealt** with us according to our **sins**, nor **recompensed** us according to our **iniquities**. For as high as the **heavens** are above the **earth**, so great is his unfailing love toward those who **fear** him. As far as the **east** is from the **west**, so far has he **removed our** transgressions from us. Like a **father** **pities** his **children**, so the LORD **pities** those who fear him. For he knows our **frame**; he remembers that we are **dust**.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

OUR MISSION

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922

Email: secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman, Pastor
pastor@stpaulslutheran.church

Pamela Cottingham, Secretary
secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

Perry Bernhardt, Council President
perryhbernhardt@gmail.com

John Brock, Music Director
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Johnsie Taylor, Organist
jtaylor783@aol.com

Judy Lowman, Treasurer
jlowman1@carolina.rr.com

Alison Moore, Girl Scout Coordinator, 704-467-9191

Next Sunday's Lessons: Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 27:1-9; Philipians 1:12-14, 19-30; Matthew 20:1-16

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