

Vacation Bible School

Closing Program

June 19, 2022



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Serbin, Texas

PRE SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN: ♪“GOD HIMSELF IS PRESENT”

LSB 907

- 1 God Himself is present:
Let us now adore Him
And with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple;
All within keep silence;
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'ence.
He alone
On His throne
Is our God and Savior;
Praise His name forever!**

- 2 God Himself is present:
Hear the harps resounding;
See the hosts the throne surrounding.
“Holy, holy, holy!”
Hear the hymn ascending,
Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow Your ear
To us here:
Hear, O Christ, the praises
That Your Church now raises.**

- 3 Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Purify my spirit,
Trusting only in Your merit.
Like the holy angels,
Worshiping before You,
May I ceaselessly adore You.
Let Your will
Ever still
Rule Your Church terrestrial
As the hosts celestial.**

Text: Public domain

Stand

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

- Ⓟ** In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- Ⓟ** Let us pray

God, thank You for always working in our lives! We praise You that You created us, love us, saved us, and keep us now and forever because of Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for being with us at VBS and EVERYWHERE! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Sit

The Bible is the story of God's mission to save His creation through His Son, Jesus Christ. The Tree of Life: God's Promise of Salvation was the theme for our Vacation Bible School this summer. Each lesson covered a different Bible account that guides us through the epic story of salvation from creation, to the cross, to Christ's return on the Last Day.

Our small groups started together in the Opening, where they sang and watched skits. Then, the groups and their Leaders went to five sites: Storytelling, Bible Challenge, Snacks, Games, and Crafts. At each site, we heard about how Jesus does the impossible!

Check out some the pictures of what the children did in the gym following the service.

We began with creation and the fall into sin, which brought all the problems we experience in this world, including hate, prejudice, crime, war, sickness, and death. Then we will look at God's promise to send His Son to save us. That promise unfolded throughout the history of God's Old Testament people. We focused upon King David, and Daniel.

On Thursday and Friday our focus shifted to God's plan of salvation being completed for us. On account of Jesus' suffering and death, His resurrection, and His promise to return on the Last Day to judge the living and the dead we have hope. We have a future. We know what awaits us because of what God has done for us.

HYMN: ♪ "THE TREE OF LIFE"

LSB 561

**1 The tree of life with ev'ry good
In Eden's holy orchard stood,
And of its fruit so pure and sweet
God let the man and woman eat.
Yet in this garden also grew
Another tree, of which they knew;
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned
Against whose eating God had warned.**

- 2 **The stillness of that sacred grove
Was broken, as the serpent strove
With tempting voice Eve to beguile
And Adam too by sin defile.
O day of sadness when the breath
Of fear and darkness, doubt and death,
Its awful poison first displayed
Within the world so newly made.**
- 3 **What mercy God showed to our race,
A plan of rescue by His grace:
In sending One from woman's seed,
The One to fill our greatest need—
For on a tree uplifted high
His only Son for sin would die,
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread
To crush the ancient serpent's head!**
- 4 **Now from that tree of Jesus' shame
Flows life eternal in His name;
For all who trust and will believe,
Salvation's living fruit receive.
And of this fruit so pure and sweet
The Lord invites the world to eat,
To find within this cross of wood
The tree of life with ev'ry good.**

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THE BEGINNING OF OUR STORY

Monday: We begin with an examination of how God's beautiful, perfect creation came to be the shattered, messy world we are living in today. We will see the tragic moment when everything fell apart—when humanity was barred from the tree of life—and how God stepped forward with a plan, giving His very first promise to send His Son to restore His fallen creatures and the world in which we live.

C Psalm 139:14 "I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

P God made each of us special!

C Our voices are special. We can tell who is who by voice.

P We could probably guess our friends just by looking at their hair or maybe even seeing their shadows.

C We are God's wonderful creations, fearfully and wonderfully made.

SONG BY CHILDREN: ♪"GOD IS GREAT"

AriSon Records & Jennie Williamson

SLAYING THE GIANT

Tuesday: In this lesson, we look at the familiar story of the shepherd boy David fighting against the Philistine giant, Goliath. David's seemingly impossible victory shines a new light on Good Friday and the seeming impossibility of Jesus defeating our greatest enemies, armed with nothing but a cross made of wood.

C Nehemiah 4:14 "Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome"

P Why is God great and awesome?

C God is all powerful! When Jesus died and rose again, he rescued us from sin, death, and Satan.

SONG BY CHILDREN: ♪**"MY GOD IS SO BIG"**

(accapella) Author unknown

DELIVERED FROM THE LIONS

Wednesday: In this lesson, we see Daniel, a powerful and noble Jew, falsely accused, sentenced to death, and sealed in a tomb with a large stone. We will examine how closely Daniel's trials and judgment and "death and resurrection" matched those of Jesus Christ.

C Psalm 77:14 "You are the God who works wonders"

P The Statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil is considered one of the seven wonders of the world. A wonder is something that is amazing!

C Jesus is the one who works the best wonders – like saving us!

SONG BY CHILDREN: ♪**"DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN"**

AriSon Records & Jennie Williamson

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION COMPLETED AND JESUS CONQUERS DEATH

Thursday: We followed Jesus to the judgment hall of Pontius Pilate and to the tree of death, the cross, which He has made into our tree of life. After His death on the cross, Jesus was sealed in a tomb with a large stone. But He didn't stay dead. We talked about His empty tomb and what His resurrection means for our lives today and in the future.

C 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"

P It feels nice and fresh to clean our hands. Another word for clean is cleanse.

C Jesus cleanses us from all our sins. Jesus forgives us!

P Jesus loves everyone in the world and He loves you.

C I am special and loved by God

SONG BY CHILDREN: ♪**"OH WHAT A DAY THAT WILL BE"**

AriSon Records & Jennie Williamson

THE END OF OUR STORY

Friday: We close out The Tree of Life with a look at the end of human history in this present world—the day when Jesus Christ will return from heaven to raise all the dead and judge all of humanity. We look at His glorious promise to all believers that He will restore His perfect creation and that we will live with Him forever, feasting from the tree of life.

C Matthew 19:21 "You will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me"

P We all have wonderful treasures because of Jesus.

C We have life and forgiveness, and we will live in a perfect place someday!

OFFERING

SONG BY CHILDREN DURING OFFERING: ♪**"THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE"**

AriSon Records & Jennie Williamson

(Fathers are invited to stand to receive a small token of appreciation from the PTLs.)

- P** God is with us and blesses us through Jesus, our Savior. One of those blessings is the opportunity that we have to gather at His altar and partake of that body and blood shed for us and the forgiveness of all of our sins.

Stand

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.

CJ **And with thy spirit.**

- P** Lift up your hearts.

CJ **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

CJ **It is meet and right so to do.**

- P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

CJ **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

CJ **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

CJ **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

CJ **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ♪"I AM TRUSTING THEE"

LSB 729

Verse 1 – Children

- 2 I am trusting Thee for pardon;
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.**
- 3 I am trusting Thee for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy
By Thy blood.**
- 4 I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.**
- 5 I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.**
- 6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.**

Text: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ♪"JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY"

LSB 457

- 1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**
- 3 But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

- △ 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Text: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ♪"HOLY SPIRIT, EVER DWELLING"

LSB 650

1 Holy Spirit, ever dwelling
In the holiest realms of light;
Holy Spirit, ever brooding
O'er a world of gloom and night;
Holy Spirit, ever raising
Those of earth to thrones on high;
Living, life-imparting Spirit,
You we praise and magnify.

2 Holy Spirit, ever living
As the Church's very life;
Holy Spirit, ever striving
Through us in a ceaseless strife;
Holy Spirit, ever forming
In the Church the mind of Christ:
You we praise with endless worship
For Your gifts and fruits unpriced.

3 Holy Spirit, ever working
Through the Church's ministry;
Quick'ning, strength'ning, and absolving,
Setting captive sinners free;
Holy Spirit, ever binding
Age to age and soul to soul
In communion never ending,
You we worship and extol.

Text: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ♪"JESUS LOVES ME"

LSB 588

1 Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong. *Refrain*

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

**2 Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin,
Lets His little child come in. Refrain**

Text: Public domain

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

☩ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

☩ O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

☩ and His mercy endureth forever.

☩ Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

☩ The Lord be with you.

☩ And with thy spirit.

☩ Bless we the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

☩ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

☩ Amen, amen, amen.

**1 Sent forth by God’s blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended.
O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us
To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.**

**2 With praise and thanksgiving
To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us,
With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.**

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SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS