



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

October 2025

SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY - 10:00 A.M.

OCTOBER 5
MORNING PRAYER
Lay Reader - Sandy Meier

OCTOBER 12
HOLY EUCHARIST
The Rev. Harv Sanders
Lay Reader - Don Kiefer

OCTOBER 19
HOLY EUCHARIST
The Rev. Don Compier
Lay Reader - Kate French

OCTOBER 26
MORNING PRAYER
Lay Reader - Ruana Gladfelter

A Message from the Bishop's Warden



Dear friends in Christ,

I have been listening to a podcast (or reading it) that comes out on Friday Mornings by The Right Rev. Jake Owensby for the Diocese of Western Louisiana. While reading the Episcopal News Service, I found that diocese's ministry, *Allies for Immigrants*,. (Very worthwhile if this area is a concern for you.)

He began with a discussion of French philosopher and playwright Jean-Paul Sartre's play *No Exit*. In this play, we follow three deceased persons who are confined to their own individual little rooms that serve as their own private hells. Instead of finding solace in each other, they only add to each other's torment by constantly observing and judging each other. The play supports Sartre's philosophy that "hell is other people."

Bishop Owensby's message on this is worth reading, and that is going to be my submission for the newsletter today. I hope you enjoy it.

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CHURCH INFORMATION

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 453 Clinton, MO 64735

GPS Address: 1837 E Hwy 7 Clinton, MO 64735

Bishop; The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafleur Meaux, Diocese of West Missouri

diowestmo.org

Bishop's Warden: Kate French, kfrench357@gmail.com

St. Paul's Email: st.pauls.clinton@gmail.com

Our spiritual habits have an eternal trajectory

Surprisingly, Jesus could also say that hell is other people. Only, he would mean something vastly different from what Sartre had in mind. And he would add that it's true for heaven as well.

Whether other people become heaven or hell depends on the spiritual habits we've accumulated. To see what I mean, let's look at the Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man (Luke 16:19–31).

First, about the title. You may have heard it called "The Parable of Lazarus and Dives." But Dives just means rich in Latin. The man has no actual name — and that turns out to be crucial.

Here's the story:

A rich man wears designer clothes and lives on a palatial estate. He dines like a king at every meal. Lazarus — homeless, starving, and covered with sores — lies outside the gate.

The implication is that the rich man ignores Lazarus entirely. He's absorbed in his own comfort. Lazarus simply doesn't register. As far as he's concerned, the man at the gate isn't even there.

Then the scene shifts to the afterlife. Lazarus is taken into heaven. The rich man lands in hell. Lazarus has a name. The rich man still doesn't.

Here's what I take from this:

Jesus calls us to recognize and honor the dignity of every human being — for two closely related reasons.

First, each of us is the Beloved of God. Period. God's unrelenting love gives every human being eternal worth. Jesus urges us

to **recognize that reality** in each person we meet.

Second, we ourselves can only truly experience being "the Beloved" when another human being sees us that way. Only "**a somebody**" can recognize another **somebody**. If we look at everyone else as a nobody, then — in a very real sense — there's nobody there to see **us**. We become invisible to ourselves.

In what may seem like a paradox, we come to know ourselves as the Beloved **only when we also recognize others as the Beloved**. How we see others becomes a spiritual habit. And spiritual habits have an eternal trajectory.

The afterlife scene gives us a God's-eye view. On earth, Lazarus possessed nothing — no status, no power. None of that finally mattered. He is God's Beloved simply because **God**. And Lazarus knew it.

The rich man has no name. He can't see himself as God's Beloved — because he never learned to see anyone else that way. He loved **things**. And there's nothing wrong with loving things as **things**.

But he never learned to love people as people — vulnerable, fragile beings who need love and offer love.

So yes — **hell is other people**. And **heaven is other people**. It depends on the spiritual habits we've cultivated. — The Right Reverend Jake Owensby, Diocese of Western Louisiana

So, DUH, the story of Lazarus and the rich man is a story of our baptismal promises

- Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

- Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

- Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

- Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

- Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Notice these are not easy promises. We answer that we will **WITH GOD'S HELP.**

We cannot do it alone. Think of the people who cross our paths in life that we maybe could be "heaven" to, and maybe God can help us see something we can do, stepping beyond the comfort of our own lives. Our lives are so blessed, even though so many of us are facing health concerns right now.

For despite what we are going through, we know God walks right beside us, loving us, giving us HIS STRENGTH so we do not bear it all alone, and giving us our wonderful church family so we can encourage each other and hold each other in prayer.

Heaven is other people.

In Christ,

Kate

Church News:

We received the Publicity Grant for \$3000 for newspaper ads and I have taken articles down to Kim at the Clinton Daily Democrat. She is setting them in type for final proof and then they will start running. I also hope to run a brief write up in the Church section and to have a coffee hour the first Sunday of the month.

I also would like to gather a group of us to write a prayer related to our need for growth that we can read each Sunday during church. Perhaps the prayer can also be for our needs for the future of St. Paul's. These are big concerns for us, and we need to pray about them.

Central Deanery Picnic:

It sounds like the picnic was a huge success! As Don said, no one left hungry, and hopefully everyone left having met some fellow Episcopalians. Our thanks to Don (delegate), Sheryl (supportive spouse 😊) and Sandy (alternate delegate) for representing us.

Air-Conditioner Bids:

We have three bids and they certainly vary. No one, however, has expressed interest in helping us acquire ceiling fans. Does anyone know anyone I can contact?

Bible Study with Mother Anne:

Mother Anne is facilitating discussion on the book of Proverbs. If you are interested, you can email her at :

annemereditkyle@gmail.com

and she will send you a link. Thank you to Mother Anne for always including us! We couldn't have a better "sister church."

Allies for Immigrants:

This ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana is ministering to immigrants being held in ICE detention centers located within their diocese. ("I was in prison, and you visited me." Matthew 25:36) They are providing books, Bibles, snacks, pen pal opportunities, etc.

If you would like to be a part of this in any way, the address is:

The Episcopal Diocese of Western
Louisiana
PO Box 4330
Pineville, LA 71361

BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES
1-Barbara Crossley	none
17-Alyssa Gladfelter	
30-Kathy Ballou	

PRAYER LIST (Please let me know if any
names can be removed from this list.
Thanks!

Healing: Fr. Mike, Augustus Hockaday,
Kitty, Tina, Don, Kathy, Steve Sheline,
Kirsten, Tom

Cancer: Christy, Pat, Micheal, Cindy
McAvoy, Rev. Jenny Ketner, Debbie M.,
Suzanne, Ruana, Connie Scott, Diane,
Sylvia, Don, Sam, Joe Trogden

For Comfort, Strength, and Peace: Gail
Cloutte, Pat Decker, Doug Johnson, Kathy
and Mike, Zaha, Steve Sheline, Becky
Tarver, Marie Hopkins, Linda C., Laurisa,
Rick, Christopher, Craig (father)and Cam
(son) Dobereiner

The Departed: Kerry Dobereiner, Therse
Hopkins

Others: The divisions in our nation, peace in
the world, those devastated by natural
disasters, those facing job loss and personal
challenges

Thanksgiving: Family and friends, God's
many blessings, and His constant presence
in our daily lives