

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 26, 2020

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316
www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

Where responses are indicated, please respond quietly.

PRELUDE "Trumpet Tune" R. Lau

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

As we seek reconciliation with God and our neighbor,
let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

O God of mercy,
**we confess that we have sinned against you, against one another,
and against your good creation.**

**We have stored up treasures for ourselves
and turned away our neighbors in need.**

We have used our time foolishly and strayed from your path.

**Forgive us, that we may know true joy and freedom
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Through death on the cross, God has given us life and hope.

Know that in Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son, you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

A Reading from First Kings

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.

⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

(1 Kings 3:5-12)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 119:129-136 (Read Responsively)

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.

¹³⁰**The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹With open mouth I pant,
because I long for your commandments.
¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your custom toward those who love your name.**
¹³³Keep my steps steady according to your promise,
and never let iniquity have dominion over me.
¹³⁴**Redeem me from human oppression,
that I may keep your precepts.**
¹³⁵Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.
¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears
because your law is not kept.**

A Reading from Romans

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:26-39)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED (Read in Unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in simple things. Help your church share the surprising yet simple ways you reveal your kingdom in daily life. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Teach us to better appreciate and stand in awe of your creation, that we might treasure what you have given us and take better care of it. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gather all nations into the welcoming shade of your eternal reign. Direct all leaders to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Show us how to pray with confidence. Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick and the suffering (*especially...*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Help this congregation to ask boldly for what is most needed. Keep our minds from every foolish distraction. Give us new dreams and a fresh vision of the future. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Strengthen us in faith by the witness of saints in all times and places. Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Read in Unison)

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.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

May the Holy Spirit,
the wisdom and power of God,
and the source of our life in Jesus Christ,
keep you safe from all evil,
and awaken in you a hunger to love and to serve.

And may the blessing of Almighty God,
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Postlude in D”

J. Rinck

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Altar flowers are presented in memory of my parents’ anniversary, 7/20/34, and Duke’s and my anniversary, 7/31/80, by Sue Schenck.

Chancel flowers are presented in memory of Charles A. Pitts, Jr. on his birthday by Wayne and Ruth Ann Withers.

Bulletins are presented in honor of Nathaniel D. Dixon’s 20th birthday by grandparents, Stu and Danielle Richards.

SERVING TODAY (7/26/20)

9:30 AM

GREETER: Mary Timpany; USHER: Deb Bolinsky

ALTAR GUILD: Barb Lafko and Beth Post

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Barb Sterner, and Joanne Emerich

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (8/2/20)

9:30 AM

GREETER: Juli Schenck; USHER: Mary Timpany; LECTOR: Jeff Ritschel

ALTAR GUILD: Hope Clarke & Madelyn Knecht

COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr, Tom Wehr, and Glenda Bright

Reverend Michael T. Petresky, Pastor

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PROGRESSIVE PICNIC

The Evangelism Committee would like to have a progressive picnic on Saturday, August 8th from 6 to 9 PM. The picnic is a tentative event depending on the virus situation in August. Three host homes are needed. The first home for appetizers, a second home for hot dogs, hamburgers, and salads, and a third home for desserts. Anyone wishing to host and/or plans to attend should let the committee know by calling the church office. There WILL NOT be a signup sheet at the Gathering Place.

UP-COMING EVENTS NOW CANCELLED

Orwigsburg's annual "Farm to Square" Event set for Thursday, August 13, 2020 and its "Heritage Day" Event set for Saturday, September 12, 2020, have been cancelled this year. St. Paul's annual "Bazaar" scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2020, has also been cancelled.