

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 23, 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 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" A. Sherman
Bell Choir

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.

1. Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*
Refrain: God has done marvelous things. I too sing praises with a new song!
4. Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

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

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD**A Reading from Isaiah**

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;

joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended. (Isaiah 51:1-6)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 138 (Read Responsively)

¹I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

²**I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.**

³On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.

⁴**All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶**For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.

**⁸The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

A Reading from Romans

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

(Romans 12:1-8)

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

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he

sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

(Matthew 16:13-20)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

K. McChesney

Bell Choir

SERMON

THE BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Today, before our school bells again ring, we invite all students, teachers, aides support personnel, staff, administrators, and school board members, to receive a blessing.

In St. Paul's letter to the Romans, St. Paul encourages believers to be transformed by the renewing of their minds, so that they may discern what is the will of God – what is good, acceptable, and perfect (*Romans 12:2b*).

Students, will you do your best to listen and learn from those whom God has called to teach? Will you value your education and strive to grow in wisdom and learning? If so, please say: "We will, and we ask God to help us!"

We will, and we ask God to help us!

Board members, administrators, staff, teachers, aides, & support personnel, all who are part of our process of education, will you help students to learn, grow, become wise, and be productive? Will you not only teach them how to follow, but prepare them also to lead? If so, please say: "We will, and we ask God to help us!"

We will, and we ask God to help us!

Students, and all who have been called to help educate them, will you trust in God and daily pray that the Lord will help you to walk in his path? Will you daily bring your hopes and fears to the Lord, that he might open your eyes to opportunities as well as warn you of dangers? If so, please say, "We will, and we ask God to help us."

We will, and we ask God to help us!

Please lift your backpacks, school supplies, and technological devices. Now for all the good things God has provided us, let us join in praise and thanksgiving.

For pens, pencils, crayons, and markers, for notebooks, paper, and folders, for calculators, smart books, tablets, and all technologies,

Thanks be to God!

For every student and all who participate in the educational process in preschool, kindergarten, elementary, junior high, or middle school, in senior high school, college or vocational or technical school, for all administrators and board members; for different talents and gifts; for insights and experience, and for everyone's commitment to learn, to grow, to share, and to do.

Thanks be to God!

Let us pray. We thank you, Almighty God, for the resources and school supplies that help our children and students of all ages learn. We thank you for the gift of our children and for the gift of faithful school administrators, teachers, support staff, and all those involved in their education. In this time of pandemic, we especially thank you that you are with us in our daily struggles and in our difficulties.

Help us to follow the instructions of our healthcare professionals and local authorities. Help us to be mindful of our neighbors and to strive to protect them from harm. Help us to be kind and good, patient and hopeful, generous and loving, even when it is very hard for us to do so, that we might be a blessing to one another, as you continue to be a blessing to us.

Give wisdom to all our leaders and help them to work together for the good of all your people. Protect those who risk their health and life for the safety of others. And open our hearts and minds: to love one another, as you love us, and to forgive one another, as we have been forgiven.

Finally, keep us, O Lord, strong in our faith: keep us strong when we are in church, strong when we are at home, strong when we are at work, and especially, strong when we are in school. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

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.

Almighty God, prepare your church for its mission in bearing witness to Christ, both here at home and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Good Creator, awaken in us a spirit of praise and thanksgiving as we look around and see all that you have made for us and placed around us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Merciful God, teach the leaders of all countries to walk in your ways. Open their minds to new opportunities and possibilities. Help them do that which is just, good, and life-affirming. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Eternal Father, according to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care (*especially...*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, help us to value the unique gifts you have given each one of us for the sake of the world and for the Good News of Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Everlasting Hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead. Keep their words and deeds fresh in our memory and bring us with them to our heavenly home. 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

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the LORD look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN "The Church's One Foundation" #654 vs 1

1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord; she is his new creation
by water and the word. From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy
bride; with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Rock of Salvation"

L. Smith

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Altar Flowers are presented in honor of Cole Rarick's birthday by his parents, Jeff and Gail.

Chancel Flowers are presented in memory of Frances E. Pitts by Wayne and Ruth Ann Withers.

Bulletins are presented in honor of our grandson, Harrison Kyle, on his 6th birthday by Darin and Crystal Brensinger.

SERVING TODAY (8/23/20)

9:30 AM

LECTOR: Deb Bolinsky; USHER: Deb Bolinsky; GREETER: Gail Rarick;

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner;

ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (8/30/20)

9:30 AM

LECTOR: Gail Rarick; USHER: TBA; GREETER: Gail Rarick;

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Barb Sterner, and Glenda Bright;

ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner

| THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday, August 23 | 9:30 AM | Worship |
| Wednesday, August 26 | 7:00 PM | Adult Forum via Zoom |
| Thursday, August 27 | 7:00 PM | "Hands" Workshop (See Article) |
| Saturday, August 29 | 5:30 PM | Worship |
| Sunday, August 30 | 9:30 AM | Worship |

"GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS" UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thurs., August 27 at 7 PM: Hands workshop - Bring words of wisdom, humor, and inspirational sources to share. Pre-cut hand shapes and markers will be provided.

Thurs., September 3 at 7 PM: Box decorating: ALL AGES come and print your hands on plain wrapping paper!

Thurs., September 10 at 7 PM: Preliminary packing of boxes.

Thurs., September 17 at 7 PM: Final packing of boxes.

Sun., September 20 at the 10:30 AM worship service: Distribution of boxes.

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| Reverend Michael T. Petresky, Pastor pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org | 570-366-2316 Ext. 11 |
| Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org | 570-573-4076 |
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| Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary | 570-366-8766 |
| Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org | 936-648-6809 |

OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC

On Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 11:30 AM, all members and visitors are invited to share in-person worship outdoors at the pavilion in Albright's Woods (weather permitting). Social distancing will be observed, and face masks are encouraged, but not required. However, some members may choose to wear a face mask. Please bring a comfortable lawn chair and enjoy our worship.

Following our worship service, we will hold our annual Church Picnic. The Evangelism Committee will host this event and free hot dogs for all who want to attend. Covered dish items and desserts to share are much appreciated.

Please call the church office at 570-366-2316 by Sunday, September 6, 2020, if you plan to attend our church picnic and/or if you would be willing to provide a covered dish to share.

STEWARDSHIP in CREATION (STiC)

On Saturday, August 29, 2020, Dave Krueel, a local master birder, and members of STiC will embark on an early morning Bird Walk! Wear comfortable shoes, and plan to meet in the main parking lot at Locust Lake that morning around 7:30 AM. Please let Sue Reier know of your interest by emailing her at kidsingaround@comcast.net. Don't forget your binoculars! It is easy to social distance outdoors!

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.”

In lieu of holding a community health fair, and in response to the repeating waves of COVID-19 infections, our congregation will assemble and distribute boxes of personal care items that will help our first responders: the EMS, the Fire Department, the Police, and the nursing home workers right here in Orwigsburg.

Donations of the following items are appreciated:

- Tea bags/Coffee (individually wrapped)
- Lifesavers, hard candy, or dark chocolate (individually wrapped)
- Small boxes of facial tissues
- Small tubes of hand cream or lotion
- Small containers of body powder (no talcum)
- Chapstick
- Five (5) empty upright tissue boxes
- Notes of encouragement, inspiration, or humor (paper will be provided)
- Homemade, non-refrigerable baked goods (no nuts)
- Decks of cards (for those who wait for calls)
- Kerchiefs
- Ear buds (they wear out quickly)
- Sport headbands (terry cloth) or inexpensive visors
- Lavender sachets

Please bring one or more items noted above when you come to worship or drop them off in the narthex during regular office hours by Sunday, September 13, 2020. Help our first line responders as they continue to risk their lives for us and our whole community!