

# *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

## *Sunday, August 30, 2020*

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

**215 N. Warren St.**

**Orwigsburg, PA**

**570-366-2316**

**[www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)**

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### **GATHERING**

*Where responses are indicated, please respond quietly.*

**PRELUDE**

*“As the Morning Sunlight Appears”*

**D. Paxton**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**Amen.**

Let us now confess our sin.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

O Merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have walked away from you as though you did not even exist.**

**We have railed against the sins of others, while ignoring our own wickedness.**

**We have wrapped both our arms around our treasures,**

**and pushed away those in need.**

**Humble our hearts, strip away our masks of deceit, and transform our minds,**

**so that we can return to you and find new and abundant life,**

**through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Our Heavenly Father knows us better than we know ourselves, and yet he loves us.

By the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, know that your sin is forgiven.

**Amen.**



*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *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, we thank you for your Son, who chose to suffer for the sake of the world. Help us to be humble, teach us to obey, and strengthen us to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**WORD****A Reading from Jeremiah**

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?



Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

(Jeremiah 15:15-21)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 26: 1-8 (Read Responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>Vindicate me, O LORD,  
for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

<sup>2</sup>**Prove me, O LORD, and try me;  
test my heart and mind.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes,  
and I walk in faithfulness to you.

<sup>4</sup>**I do not sit with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with hypocrites;**

<sup>5</sup>I hate the company of evildoers,  
and will not sit with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup>**I wash my hands in innocence,  
and go around your altar, O LORD,**

<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,  
and telling all your wondrous deeds.

<sup>8</sup>**O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell,  
and the place where your glory abides.**



## **A Reading from Romans**

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

(Romans 12:9-21)

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.**

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?



<sup>27</sup>“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

(Matthew 16:21-28)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart”

Members of the Chancel Choir

## **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.*

Faithful God, you call us to follow Jesus, your Son. Keep our minds on what is divine that we might know true and abundant life through him. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**



Wondrous God, the earth is yours and all that is in it. Heal your creation and help us to see the world as you see it. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Ever-watchful God, bless our leaders with hearts tender enough to care for those who are the weakest and most vulnerable in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, comfort the sorrowful, encourage those who despair, and bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer, and especially to everyone on our prayer list. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, help us to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer. Teach us to overcome evil with good. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, bless all who strive to teach and all who seek to learn. Watch over our students, teachers, support personnel, and everyone involved in the process of education. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, you offer the promise of everlasting life. We give thanks for all who now peacefully rest in your care. Help us to be faithful as those who went before us. 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**

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

# 810 vs 1

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; remain forever near me, my master and my friend. I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side, nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

### **THE DISMISSAL**

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

### **POSTLUDE**

“An Affirmation of Faith”

F. Ritter

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**Altar flowers** are presented in honor of my grandchildren, Isabella and Xavier,  
by Barbara Lafko.

**Chancel flowers** are presented in honor of my daughter, Crystal Brensinger,  
on her birthday, by her mother, Nancy Kaiser.

**Bulletins** are presented in honor of my grandchildren by Barb Sterner.

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## **WELCA**

St. Paul's Women of the ELCA will meet at Albright's Woods Pavilion on  
September 8<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM. All women welcome! Look for details in the September  
newsletter.



## **SERVING TODAY (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

## **SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (9/6/20)**

**8:00 AM**

LECTOR: Ruth Ann Withers; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: TBA

**10:30 AM**

LECTOR: Bobby Schuld; USHER: Jeff Ritschel; GREETER: Greg Sklar;

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Chris Long; ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and

Barb Sterner; COUNTERS: Gwen & Tom Wehr, and Glenda Bright

<b>THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S</b>		
Sunday, August 30	9:30 AM	Worship
Tuesday, September 1	6:30 PM	Evangelism Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 2	6:00 PM	Bell Rehearsal
Thursday, September 3	7:00 PM	GWOH Box Decorating
Saturday, September 5	5:30 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, September 6	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

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**Reverend Michael T. Petresky, Pastor**

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## **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 there will be 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.

### **“GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS” UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:**

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.



## **“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!