

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 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

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 sins are forgiven.
Amen.

PEACE

In the Jesus Christ, God has reconciled us to himself. Let us also be reconciled to one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN

This Is My Father's World

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

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, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, pursuing what you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

WORD

A Reading from Genesis

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. (Genesis 50:15-21)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13

[¹Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

**²Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.**

³He forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;

**⁴he redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness;**

⁵he satisfies you with good things,
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**⁶The Lord executes righteousness
and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

⁷He made his ways known to Moses
and his works to the children of Israel.]

**⁸The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

⁹He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

**¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

**¹²As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.**

¹³As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

A Reading from Romans

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

(Romans 14:1-12)

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.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

(Matthew 18:21-35)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Day by Day

1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens

to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me

draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter

mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,

lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

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

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen our faith and nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Have compassion on your creation and on all living things. We look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep us from hatred and violence and open our hearts to kindness and mercy. Bless our leaders with courage, patience, and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring justice to those who have been oppressed. Free those who are wrongly held captive. Feed the hungry and protect all who fear for their lives. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Teach us to forgive. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this church a place where peace reigns. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We thank you for those who have shown us how to live and die in the true faith. Help us to praise you and give you thanks in all we say and do. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through 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.

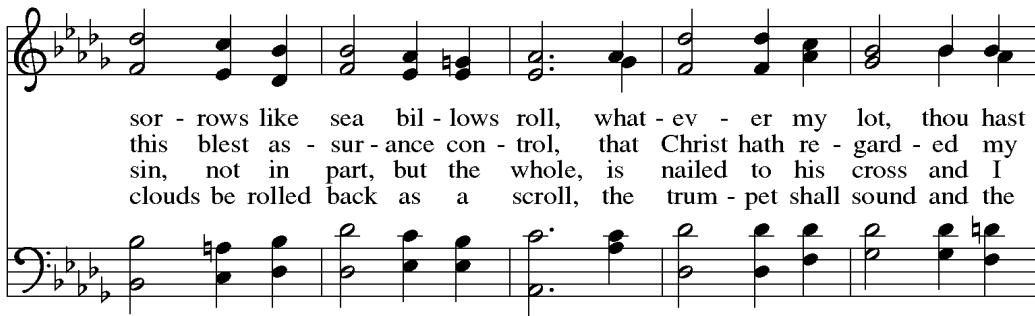
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

When Peace, like a River *It Is Well with My Soul*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul,

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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

Altar flowers are presented in memory of Jack Taylor by Skip and family.

Bulletins are presented in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. F. S. Olmes by the Lafko Family.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (9/13/20)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Deb Moyer; GREETER: Ron Rozansky

11:30 AM (AT ALBRIGHT'S WOODS PAVILION)

LECTOR: Sue Schenck; USHER: Tina Butler; GREETER: Greg Sklar;

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Danielle Richards;

COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle, Marlene Eidam, and Diane Brobst

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (9/20/20)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Kay Weidensaul; GREETER: Ron Rozansky

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Hope Clarke; USHER: Tina Butler; GREETER: Greg Sklar;

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Danielle Richards

COUNTERS: Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, September 13	8:00 AM	Worship
	11:30 AM	Worship at Albright's Woods Pavilion
Monday, September 14	7:00 PM	Council
Wednesday, September 16	6:00 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 17	7:00 PM	Adult Forum via ZOOM
	7:00 PM	GWOH Final Packing of boxes
Saturday, September 19	5:30 PM	Worship (Harvest Home)
Sunday, September 20	8:00 AM	Worship (Harvest Home)
	11:30 AM	Worship (Harvest Home & GWOH)

HARVEST HOME

During Harvest Home weekend, we share a portion of the bounty which God has given us with our neighbors who are hungry. This year, Harvest Home will be observed at worship services on Saturday, September 19, and Sunday, September 20, 2020. Donations of basic non-perishable food items like cereals, canned fruit, canned vegetables, soups, pastas, rice, beans, peanut butter, tuna fish, spaghetti (or tomato) sauce, etc., are especially needed. Monetary donations are also appreciated. All food item and donations will go to support our local Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity!

“GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS.”

As part of our community outreach, our congregation will collect, 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.