

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 20, 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

8:00 AM	“Morning Has Broken”	M. Hayes
10:30 AM	“The Heavens Are Telling” Bell Choir	Haydn/Thompson

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 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” #693 vs 1

1. Come, ye thankful people, come; / raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in / ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide / for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come, / raise the song of harvest home.

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

Almighty and eternal God, your love is never ending. In our foolishness and weakness, grant us mercy, give us your grace, and teach us to be generous and kind, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

A Reading from Jonah

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

(Jonah 3:10--4:11)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145: 1-8 (Responsively)

¹I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴**One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

⁶**The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.**

⁷They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

A Reading from Philippians

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.

²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

(Philippians 1:21-30)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’

He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”
(Matthew 20:1-16)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

8:00 AM

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

#694 vs 1

1. Sing to the Lord of harvest / your songs of love and praise;
with joyful hearts and voices / your alleluias raise;
by him the rolling seasons / in fruitful order move;
sing to the Lord of harvest / a joyous song of love.

10:30 AM

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”
Bell Choir

K. McChesney

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.

Generous God, your word challenges us and the way we look at the world. Equip us to serve and help us to share all that we have graciously received. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Almighty Creator, you care about all that you have made. Help us to tend to your creation so that it may be fruitful, and teach us to share its bounty. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Boundless Spirit, open our ears, our hearts, and our minds. Point us to where we should go and show us what we should do. Help us to love and forgive freely. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, grant life and health to all who are in need, especially to everyone whose names are written on our prayer list and for all whom we often remember in our personal prayers. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Great and Glorious Judge, you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Teach us to strive for justice and yet render mercy to all. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Eternal Father, we praise you for those all who have witnessed your truth and grace, and now rest in you. Keep us strong in faith until we join all the saints who have gone before us. 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

O Blessed Trinity, undivided and eternal -

who is Father, who is Son, and who is Holy Spirit,

strengthen you in faith,

keep you from all harm,

and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

#679 vs 1

1. For the fruit of all creation, / thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev'ry nation, / thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, / silent growth while we are sleeping,

future needs in earth's safekeeping, / thanks be to God.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Let the light of Christ shine in all you say and do!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Give Thanks Unto God”

F. Ritter

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

Altar flowers are presented in memory of Guy and Frances Lengel and sons, John and G. Roger, by James Lengel and Family.

Chancel flowers are presented in loving memory of our dear Dad and Grandpap, Ralph A. Reibie, on his birthday, Constitution Day 9/17/11, by Sue, Kurt, and Juli Schenck.

Bulletins are presented in honor of all first responders and essential persons by Sonny and Connie Teter.

SERVING THIS 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

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (9/27/20)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Deb Moyer; GREETER: Ron Rozansky

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Gwen Wehr; USHER: Tina Butler; GREETER: Greg Sklar;

ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and Chris Long

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

HARVEST HOME

During Harvest Home weekend each year, we bring a portion of the bounty which God has given us to share with our neighbors who are hungry. This year, Harvest Home will be on Saturday, September 19, 2020, and Sunday, September 20, 2020. Donations of basic non-perishable food items and monetary donations are appreciated. All food item and donations will go to support our local Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity!

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, September 20	8:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Worship
Monday, September 21	6:00 PM	Worship & Music Meeting
Wednesday, September 23	6:00 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 24	6:00 PM	Stewardship Together in Creation (STiC)
	7:00 PM	Adult Forum via ZOOM
Saturday, September 26	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, September 27	8:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Worship

CHANGE OF OFFICE HOURS

Effective Monday, September 21, 2020, our church office hours will change from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM to 9:00 AM to 12 Noon. Pastor Mike has also designated Friday as his official day off, and so he will not be in his office on Friday mornings.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HAND'S.

As part of our continual community outreach, our congregation has collected and assembled 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. These boxes will be blessed at our Sunday worship service on this Sunday, September 20, 2020, at our 10:30 AM worship service. Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and participation in this outreach. A special thanks to Sue Reier and Tina Butler for your leadership and hard work.

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