

# *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

## *Sunday, September 27, 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**

8:00 AM	"Prelude in Classic Style"	G. Young
10:30 AM	"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Sue Reier, flute	J. Purifoy

#### **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 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 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” #634 vs 1 & 2

1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;  
2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.

## 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 loving God, you know our frailties and failings. Give us grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## WORD

### **A Reading from Ezekiel**

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

(Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 25:1-9**

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you;

**let me not be humiliated,**

**nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame;

let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

**Show me your ways, O LORD,**

**and teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

in you have I trusted all the day long.

**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth  
and my transgressions;

**remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

Gracious and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

**He guides the humble in doing right  
and teaches his way to the lowly.**

All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies

### **A Reading from Philippians**

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Philippians 2:1-13)

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.**

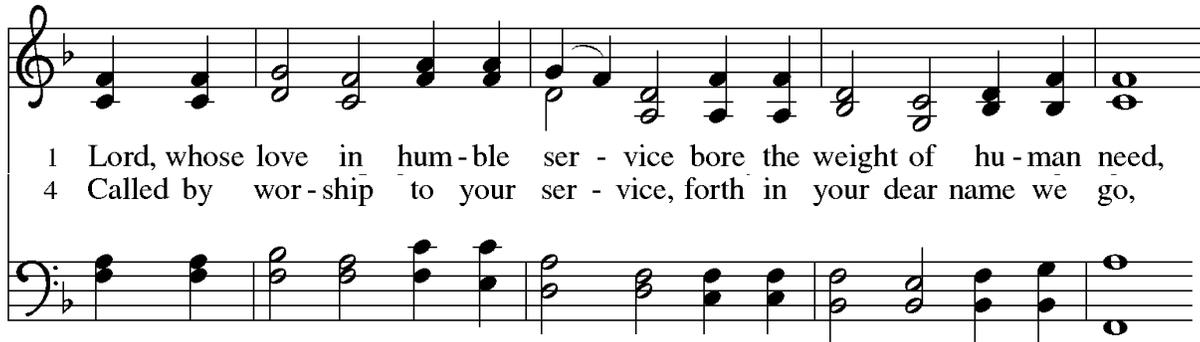
<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.” (Matthew 21:23-32)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

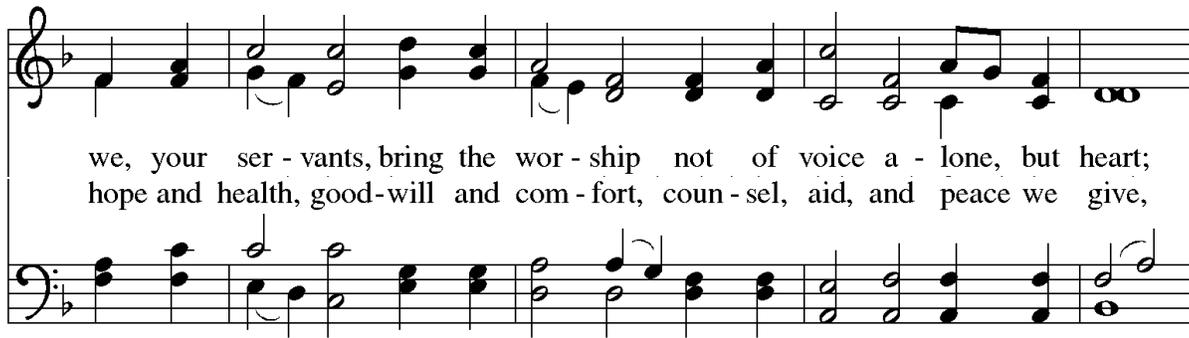
# HYMN OF THE DAY “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” #712 vs 1 & 4



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,  
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:  
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;  
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crating to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.  
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

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.*

Give your church unity and inspire it with the mind of Christ. Teach us to be humble and obedient so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Preserve and keep all of creation. Mend and heal places polluted and damaged, so that all that you have made may praise you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us new hearts and renew our spirits. Transform our minds and help us to trust in your divine authority. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, and especially everyone whose name is written on our prayer list. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Fashion us into expressions of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Help us to stand with those who are abused or neglected, hungry or homeless, bullied or lonely. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We thank you for all the saints who are safe in your care and keeping. Lead us in your path so that we too may always confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. 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**

**“God of Grace and God of Glory”**

**#705 vs. 1 & 4**

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

**THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**"Festive Voluntary"**

R. Lau

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**Altar flowers** are presented in loving memory of Carl Long by Christine and Kevin Long.

**Bulletins** are presented in honor of WELCA and its work by Danielle Richards.

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**SERVING 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

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (10/04/20)**

**8:00 AM**

LECTOR: Ruth Ann Withers; GREETER: Amy Dewald;

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: TBA

**10:30 AM**

LECTOR: Bob Schuld II; USHER: Jerry Goessel; GREETER: Chris Long;

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Sue Schenck; ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and

Chris Long; COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr, Tom Wehr, and Glenda Bright

**THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

Sunday, September 27	8:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Worship
Tuesday, September 29	7:00 PM	Altar Guild
Wednesday, September 30	6:00 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, October 1	7:00 PM	Adult Forum via ZOOM
Saturday, October 3	5:30 PM	Worship w/ Holy Communion
Sunday, October 4	8:00 AM	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	4:00 PM	Blessing of the Animals at Albright's Woods Pavilion

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## **CHANGE OF OFFICE HOURS**

Effective Monday, September 21, 2020, our church office hours changed 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.

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**Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director    570-573-4076    [justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org](mailto:justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org)**

**Juli Schenck, Office Support Staff                    570-366-2316    [office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org](mailto:office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org)**

**Carl Heintzelman, Sexton                                484-408-5152**

**Karen Travor, Treasurer                                570-366-8757    [karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org](mailto:karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org)**

**Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary                570-366-8766**

**Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager    936-648-6809    [jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org](mailto:jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org)**

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