

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 15, 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: "It Is Well With My Soul" L. Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us now confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

O Holy God,

we confess that we have sinned and fallen short of your glory.

We have forgotten your voice and strayed from your path.

We have ignored the cries of those who seek justice.

We have blinded ourselves to the needs of our neighbors.

We have made our hands into fists and raised our voices in anger.

We have been foolish, selfish, wicked, and deceitful.

Break into our hearts, open our eyes, and renew our minds.

Forgive our sins and transform our lives so that we may have new and abundant life through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Our loving God forgives all who acknowledge their sins and repent of them.
Know that your sins have been paid for in full through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

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

And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN:

“O Zion, Haste”

vs 1 & 2

[See back of bulletin]

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

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

A Reading from Zephaniah

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

(Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 (Read Responsively)

¹LORD, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

³You turn us back to dust,
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.**

⁵You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;

**⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

**⁸You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

⁹For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end like a sigh.

**¹⁰The days of our life are seventy years,
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.**

¹¹Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

A Reading from First Thessalonians

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

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:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

(Matthew 25:14-30)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: “It Is Well with My Soul”
[See back of bulletin]

vs. 1 & 4

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

Longing for Christ’s reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God’s power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Lord of the church, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and energize us for mission and ministry throughout the world. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Lord of creation, bless the earth so that it may reflect your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of the nations, help us to reach out to those most vulnerable, and open the hearts of world leaders to seek what is best for those in need in every country. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of healing, enlighten the minds of scientists, researchers, and medical professionals, so that they may create new treatments, medicines, and vaccines. We pray for everyone on our prayer list and all who suffer in any way. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of the stranger, teach us to be bold in our love to those at the margins. Free us from our desire to control everyone and everything around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

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 to shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: "I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light"

vs. 1 & 3

[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Be strong in faith. Share God's peace wherever you go.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

"Recessional in C"

P. Wetherill

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

Altar flowers are presented in honor of Elaine Kamp by Tina and Scott Butler.

Chancel flowers are presented in honor of my husband, Jim, by Joanne Emerich.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (11/15/20)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Kay Weidensaul; GREETER: TBA

10:30 AM:

LECTOR: Doug Travor; GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Cindy Sklar

ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich and Gwen Wehr

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

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (11/22/20)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Justin McClure; GREETER: TBA

10:30 AM:

LECTOR: Jessica Swick; GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Jerry Goessel

ALTAR GUILD: Barb Lafko and Beth Post

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S		
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Sunday, November 15	8:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Worship
Monday, November 16	6:00 PM	Worship & Music
Tuesday, November 17	7:00 PM	Council
Wednesday, November 18	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
Thursday, November 19	7:00 PM	Adult Forum via ZOOM
Saturday, November 21	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, November 22	8:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Worship

Introduction to the Day: Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

GATHERING HYMN:

“O Zion, Haste”

vs 1 & 2

1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion

to tell to all the world that God is light;
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;

that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion

one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.
and died on earth that we might live a - bove.

REFRAIN ON NEXT PAGE

Refrain

Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,

tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion, and re - lease.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED BY ORWIGSBURG FOOD PANTRY

The Orwigsburg Food Pantry will share boxes of donated food with our neighbors in need on Saturday, November 21, 2020, in preparation for Thanksgiving Day. In order to make sure as many families as possible can be helped, additional volunteers are needed.

On Thursday, November 19, a large delivery (3 loads) from Boyer's Food Market is expected at 6 PM. Volunteers with strong backs will be needed to help unload their truck and bring the packages into the pantry.

On Friday, November 20, at 6 PM, boxes of food items will be packed at the pantry. Three (3) volunteers from each church will be needed to pack these boxes. In addition, the pantry will also receive heavy bags of pet foods.

Finally, on Saturday, November 21, the Food Pantry will distribute boxes of food to families as they "drive-by." Volunteers with strong backs will again be needed to carry heavy boxes. But because there will be lots of lighter items to give out, volunteers who cannot carry heavy boxes are encouraged to help. Please come by 8:45 AM.

Members of St. Paul's have been very loyal to our community food Pantry and very generous in their support of its work to those in need. Please know that the Orwigsburg Food Pantry and its organizers greatly appreciate all that we do!

HYMN OF THE DAY: "It Is Well with My Soul"

vs. 1 & 4

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
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
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.
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,

SENDING HYMN: "I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light"

vs. 1 & 3

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

REFRAIN ON NEXT PAGE

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
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POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve will again be ordered from
Blue Mountain Farms in New Ringgold, PA.
The cost of an 8+ bloom plant is \$8.00.

Please indicate red or white blooms and to whom you wish to dedicate.
If you choose not to dedicate the plants, you will be listed as a sponsor.

THE DEADLINE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS IS DECEMBER 6TH

Please complete this form
and return it with payment to the plate in the Gathering Room.

YOUR NAME: _____

I would like to order _____ red poinsettia(s),

I would like to order _____ white poinsettia(s),

at \$8.00 each. I wish to dedicate my flowers(s) "in honor/memory of."
(Please circle one)

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Total # of Poinsettias: _____ Total amount enclosed: \$ _____