

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 9, 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316
www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Rachel Sauer Koeffler, Flute

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

If we say we have no sins, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us - from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“Prepare the Royal Highway”
[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

O God, you are greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

A READING FROM ZECHARIAH

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war-horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

(Zechariah 9:9-12)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:8-14 (Read responsively)

The LORD is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The LORD is good to all,

and his compassion is over all that he has made.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,

and all your faithful shall bless you.

**They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power,**

to make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.**

The LORD is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.

A READING FROM ROMANS

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

(Romans 7:15-25a)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

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

Optional Repeat

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

(Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

[See back of bulletin]

THE APOSTLES’ CREED (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 that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of the covenant, you call ministers to proclaim your gospel of grace throughout the world. Inspire pastors, deacons, church musicians, and all ministers of your word as they carry out your work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, you reveal your goodness through all you have made. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, botanical gardens, zoos, and wildlife sanctuaries. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire that all the peoples of the world live in peace. Guide government leaders to work for justice, mercy, and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of compassion, you bring healing to those who are sick, consolation to those who are grieving, and well-being to those who are distraught. We pray for all who suffer and especially for everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of rejoicing, you have brought us together this day to worship and praise you. Encourage children in their learning and growing and watch over all those who are absent today. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all faithfulness, through the witness of the faithful departed you have revealed your steadfast love. Embolden us by their example to build up the church and extend your kingdom here on earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

(The Pastor concludes): Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rachel Sauer Koeffler, Solo

OFFERTORY HYMN

“As Grains of Wheat”

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain'. The lyrics are: 'As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were', 'gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from', and 'all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.'

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

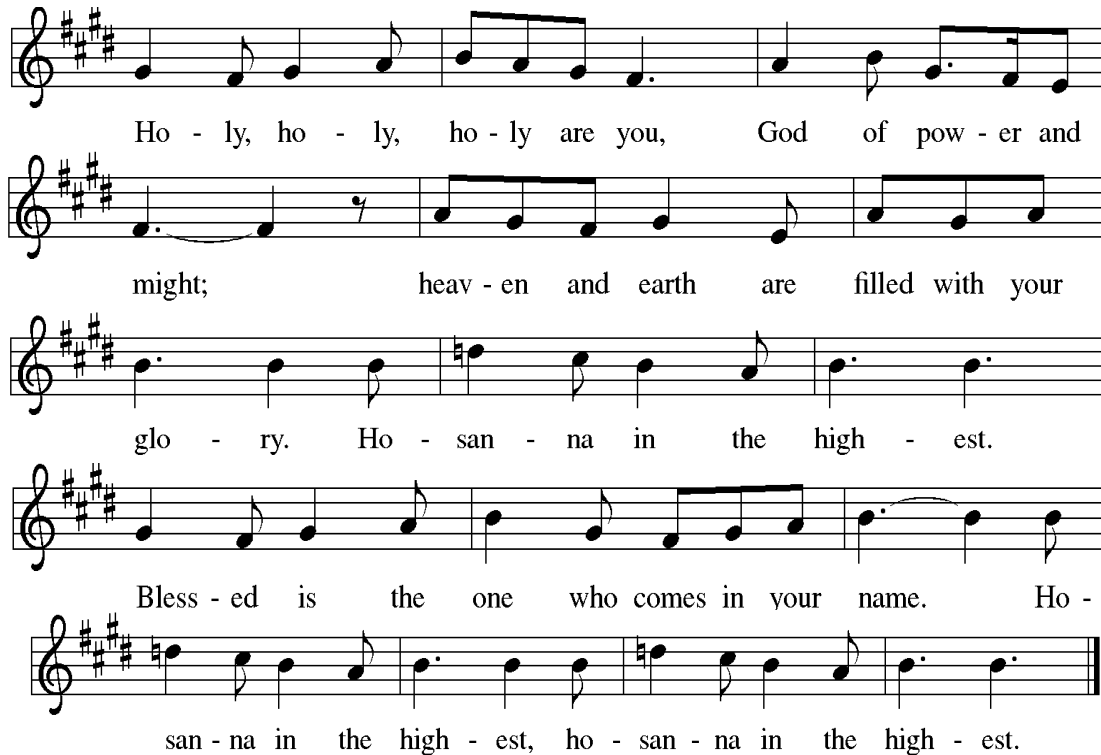
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world, you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us
through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (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.

INSTRUCTIONS

All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you or your child would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest. Those who are unable to come forward should indicate that they wish to receive the Sacrament and they will receive it as they sit in their pew.

AGNUS DEI

1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Day by Day”
[See back of bulletin]

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”
[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Hornpipe"

G. F. Handel

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Introduction to the Day: The mystery of God’s ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God’s mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ’s invitation: “Come to me, all you that are weary.”

Altar flowers are presented in memory of Willard Kramer by the Lafko family.

Please pray for everyone who is away from their homes and/or traveling today!

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (7/09/23)

9:30 AM

GREETER: Deb Bolinsky; USHER: Diane Brobst; LECTOR: Sandy Freeman

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Greg Sklar

ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel

COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle, Diane Brobst, and Marlene Eidam

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (7/16/23)

9:30 AM

GREETER: Deb Bolinsky; USHER: Connie Teter; LECTOR: Cindy Ritschel

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Madelyn Knecht

ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner

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

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, July 9	9:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Friday, July 14	10:00 AM	STiC SRT Walk in Tumbling Run
Saturday, July 15	10:00AM	“Walking to Bethlehem” Event at Auburn
	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, July 16	9:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

Please worship with us again. Take a copy of our monthly newsletter. Check out our webpage. Visit us on Facebook. Watch our weekly video on YouTube. And get to know us better! We are a Lutheran congregation with a rich tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. Everyone is invited to worship and work together here -- to the glory of God!

WELCA TRIENNIAL CONVENTION

Attention all women of St. Paul`s: An exciting opportunity is available to you. The WELCA Triennial Convention is meeting in Phoenix, AZ, on September 21-24, 2023, and you can attend! Most of the costs for this event will be underwritten and we hope two women from our congregation will be able to attend.

Watch for additional details regarding registration, etc., in our church bulletin, and check the WELCA.org website for more information about the Triennial.

You may also indicate your interest to any member of WELCA.

WALKING TO BETHLEHEM

Help us achieve the equivalent number of miles as if we walked right across the ocean to Bethlehem! St. John's, Salem, and St. Paul's are joining forces to make this happen this summer. "Walking Diaries" are available in the Gathering Room at our small display. Please bring your walking diary with you when you come to worship so that we can calculate our congregation's progress towards the final goal.

Our next event is this Saturday, July 15 – the Schuylkill River Trail. We will meet at the trailhead on PA 895. This one mile walk on an easy flat trail allows views of the Schuylkill River, some remnants of the canal, and wonderful "middle earth" landscape. There will also be a nature scavenger hunt that adults and kids will enjoy.

Want more information? Please contact our coordinator, Sue Reier.

TIME & TALENT SURVEY

Our 2023 Time and Talent Survey is again included in this month's newsletter.

Please complete a survey for each member in your household aged 16 and above. The information you provide will not only assist us now but will be helpful as we move forward in faith.

Place completed surveys in the offering plate, drop them off at the church office, or mail them to us: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 156, Orwigsburg, PA 17961, Attn: T&T Survey, as soon as you have completed them. Thank you!

"JUMP FOR JOY" CONCERT

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 AT 7 P.M.

Not only will we have some very fine musicians at our first benefit concert for Red Creek Wildlife, but our guest of honor, Peggy Hentz, will be giving us a presentation and bringing along one of her owl friends!

We are asking for free will donations and offering some door prizes, as well. Many thanks to WELCA for hosting the reception to follow, and you know that means something delicious! See you there and bring a friend!

Sue & the STiC team

GATHERING HYMN "Prepare the Royal Highway"

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

SUMMER FELLOWSHIP TABLE

Committees, groups, families, or individuals can sponsor a table to provide light refreshments for a fellowship hour following the 9:30 a.m. worship service during the summer months. Please consider sponsoring a fellowship table. A sign-up sheet is in the gathering room.

HYMN OF THE DAY “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “I am this dark world’s light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast.”
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live.”
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.”



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I’ll walk till trav - ling days are done.

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.”

This year’s “God’s Work. Our Hands.” project will support “Servants to All – My Father’s house” located in Pottsville, PA. “Servants to All” is a faith-based program and homeless services provider that offers emergency shelter, homeless prevention, street outreach, case management, and supportive services to those in need in Schuylkill and the surrounding counties.

Donations requested include:

Hygiene Items - tampons/feminine pads, toothbrushes and toothpastes, deodorant, soap, wet wipes, disposable razors, lotions, and bath towels and washcloths (new or almost new).

Bedding - Bed linens (twin or full-sized sheet sets), blankets, pillows, and pillowcases (new or almost new).

Cleaning Items - All-purpose cleaners, laundry detergents, disinfectants, hand sanitizers, mops, brooms, and buckets.

A box has been placed in the narthex for donations.

We will collect items through August 31, 2023. “God’s Work. Our Hands,” Sunday is set for September 10, 2023.

COMMUNION HYMN

“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.

SENDING HYMN “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure-ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!

Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.

join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

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