

ST.MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PENNSBURG, PA

November 8, 2020

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Jill Haldeman

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Church Council

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Most merciful God,
**We confess that we are captive 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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been
saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

HYMN *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* 632 v. 1,3,5,6

v.1: O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home..

v.3. Before the hills in order stood or earth received it's frame, from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

v.5: Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

v.6: O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal 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

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SCRIPTURES

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream

The Word of the Lord.

PSALM: Psalm 70

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.

²Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.

**⁴Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”**

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When

the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor David

SPECIAL MUSIC

Come Let Us Eat

Tim Fields

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Together, with the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 THE PEOPLE**

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.

Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we gather for worship. Enliven our worship with sincere and heartfelt song. Sustain the work of all church musicians and artists who lead us in praise and prayer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made. Bless the work of landscapers, architects, and artists whose work invites us into harmonious living with your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Reign over the courtrooms of every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law and those who stand accused of crimes. Be present in cases where we long for both justice and mercy to prevail. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Share the hours of those who are struggling and need your comfort, especially **Lillie, Lisa, Jack, Marilyn, Randy, Andrew, Renae, Marie, Catherine, David, Paul, Harold, Marie, Dennis, Merle, Barbara, Kenneth, Deb, Barbara and Lenny..** Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy Protector, be with all observing Veterans Day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of all who have died. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use them for the building up of your kingdom. 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.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you
And also with you.

OFFERING

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of all goodness,
generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.
Number us among them
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
Amen

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread 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.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Prepare the banquet table
where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

COMMUNION

Gathered together in your homes, you may now offer communion to each other saying: This is my body which is given for you" when you offer the wafer/bread. Then hold up the juice/wine, give thanks, and offer the juice/wine saying "this is my blood which is shed for you".

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.
Amen.

***BLESSING**

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.
Amen.

v.1: Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine. Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. This is my story, this is my song, praising my savior all the day long.

v.2: Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight. Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain).

v.3: Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest. Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (Refrain)

DISMISSAL

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

We welcome everyone to worship today. .

Due to concerns regarding Covid-19 (coronavirus), we are taking steps to be pro-active in helping you maintain proper precautions:

- There are filled hand sanitizer dispensers at the back entrance and in the narthex. They are there for you.
- We are also asking that you wave at your neighbor during the sharing of the peace.
- You will notice that we are adhering to distance guidelines. Masks are required. We have disposable masks if you need one.
- Please refrain from chatting and socializing with friends until you are outside..

These changes are in place for everyone's safety.

Message from Church Council

Church Council wishes to thank the members who have continued their weekly donations. Our church's vitality depends on our fellowship strength and our financial strength. Thank you to all who make this possible!

Happenings This Week:

WELCA will be meeting Tuesday at 11:30 AM in the social room. Please bring your mask and lunch. Coffee and pie will be provided. Plans are to tie fleece blankets. If you wish to join WELCA, please see Elaine, Lucy, Diane or Dottie.

OUTREACH will be meeting at 6:30 PM on Tuesday in the multi-purpose room. Please bring your mask and ideas for ways to connect, reach out and get back to some of our activities. New members are always welcome!

THE ADULT BIBLE STUDY invites you to join a Zoom meeting at 8:30AM Sundays. Please contact Deb Long for more information at debra.reed588@comcast.net A Zoom link will be sent to you. They are doing a unit entitled "the Many Faces of Wisdom". Each week's lesson is a separate, stand-alone unit. No Bible knowledge is needed – just a willingness to listen, learn and share. Added bonus: you get to see the others without a mask!

POINSETTA'S FOR CHRISTMAS: Please use this form to place your order for Poinsetta plants. These will be used to decorate the altar for Christmas. You will be able to pick up your plants after Christmas Eve services (please maintain distance guidelines doing so) or you can retrieve them during the week. They will be held in the multi-purpose room.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTAS

In order to provide festive decorations for the season, you may want to sponsor one or more poinsettia plants to be placed in the church for Christmas. The cost of each multiple bloomed plant will be \$13.00. Please fill out this form, including the amount due, and place it in the offering, the church office, or give it to Diane Mohr **no later than Sunday, December 6th.**

Your Name _____

Check one:

() In Memory of _____

() In Honor of _____

() Presented by _____

Use after service:

() Family will take ordered plant(s)

() Church is to deliver plant to shut-in

No. of plants _____ @ \$13.00 Total due \$ _____

No other fresh flowers are being used right now. If you are scheduled for flowers, please do not order any until further notice. If you are on Altar Guild, the monthly schedule is not being used during this time. Bonnie will handle all altar duties.

Harold Hieter will be 90 Years old on November 26th! Amazing! If you see him, be sure to wish him a Happy Birthday!

Life Line Screening will be returning here at St. Mark's on Wednesday, December 16th. They will offer five screenings that scan for potential health problems: Carotid Artery – plaque build-up which can lead to stroke; Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms – which can lead to a ruptured aorta; Peripheral Arterial Disease– hardening of arteries in legs; Atrial Fibrillation – also tied to stroke; Bone Density Screenings – which assesses the risk of osteoporosis. They adhere to strict safety protocols. If you would like to make an appointment for one or more of these screenings, please go to: www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or if you want to call, the number is: 1-800-679-5609.

The Open Link's food pantry served almost 40% more people this year and they fully expect this need to continue, especially during the holiday season. They have a Thanksgiving Meal Program which provides families in need in our community with a turkey (or a \$10 gift card for a meat/alternative of their choice) as well as all the traditional sides of a Thanksgiving dinner. You can help The Open Link meet this increased need by donating non-perishable food items at their Pennsburg office or by going to their website to make an on-line donation.

Preparing for next week:

- Mon:** Psalm 63; Amos 8:7-14; 1 Corinthians 14:20-25
- Tues:** 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Joel 1:1-14
- Wed:** Matthew 24:29-35; Joel 3:9-21
- Thur:** Psalm 90:1-8[9-11]12; Ezekiel 6:1-14; Revelation 16:1-7
- Fri:** Ezekiel 7:1-9; Revelation 16:8-21
- Sat:** Matthew 12:43-45; Ezekiel 7:10-27

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