

ST.MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PENNSBURG, PA

August 8, 2021

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor K. Russell Crouthamel

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Lay Reader: Youth Outreach

Acolyte: Avalyn Keller

Please take time during the prelude to prepare your heart and mind for worship

**Indicates Congregational Standing*

PRELUDE

Meditation on Evan

Havergal

WELCOME

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

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 of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection

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**

***GATHERING HYMN**

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

400

1 God of tempest, God of whirlwind, as on Pentecost descend!
Drive us out from sheltered comfort; past these walls your people send!
Sweep us into costly service, there with Christ to bear the cross,
there with Christ to bear the cross!

2 God of blazing, God of burning, all that blocks your purpose, purge!
Through your church, Christ's living Body, let your flaming Spirit surge!
Where deceit conceals injustice, kindle us to speak your truth,
kindle us to speak your truth!

3 God of earthquake, God of thunder, shake us loose from lethargy!
Break the chains of sin asunder, for earth's healing set us free!
Crumble walls that still divide us; make us one in Christ our Lord,
make us one in Christ our Lord!

4 God of passion, God unsleeping, stir in us love's restlessness!
Where the people cry in anguish, may we share your heart's distress.
Rouse us from content with evil; claim us for your kingdom's work,
claim us for your kingdom's work!

***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.

***KYRIE**

Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Glory to God in the highest

And peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we

worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33

This reading describes some of the troubles in King David's family. His son Absalom has amassed an army and seized David's throne. Those loyal to David fight Absalom's forces and defeat them. David himself is chiefly concerned about the well-being of his son, even though that son has betrayed him.

⁵[King David] ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom.

⁶So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. ⁷The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. ⁸The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword.

⁹Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. ¹⁵And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him.

³¹Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, "Good tidings for my lord the king! For the LORD has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you." ³²The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" The Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man."

³³The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(please join in reading the psalm responsively)

PSALM: Psalm 130

¹Out of the depths
I cry to you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

³If you were to keep watch over sins,
O LORD, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you is forgiveness,
in order that you may be feared.**

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;
in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,
more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;
with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall redeem Israel
from all their sins.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4: 25—5:2

Christians are called to be imitators of God. This does not mean Christians are perfect. Rather, the Spirit is at work in our lives so that our actions and attitudes genuinely reflect the love and forgiveness we have received through Christ and his death.

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.

³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

^{5:1}Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: John 6: 35, 41-51**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them regarding the true significance of this remarkable sign.

³⁵Jesus said to [the crowd,] “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ⁴¹Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴²They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

⁴³Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father.

⁴⁷Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Russ Crouthamel

***APOSTLE’S 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**

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need and all of God's creation.

For the church of Christ in all its diverse forms. For mission developers, new mission starts, and all communities of faith exploring new models of ministry for the sake of the gospel. For congregations facing difficult decisions about their future. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the health and well-being of creation. For shade trees that provide refuge from the hot summer sun. For lakes, rivers, and oceans contaminated by pollution and all who lack clean water. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those called to positions of authority in our legal system, we pray. For judges, lawyers, law clerks, and court employees who ensure the fair administration of justice. For corrections officers and prison chaplains, that they would deal mercifully with those who are incarcerated. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who cry out to you in their affliction. For exiles, refugees, and others who face long and difficult journeys, uncertain about the future. For all who mourn the death of a loved one. For all who are in need of your comfort, especially **Elsie, Lillie, Lisa, Jack, Marilyn, Andrew, Marie, John, David, Barbara, Harold, Marie, Lisa, Dennis, Barbara, Pat, Kenneth, Deb, Barbara, Lenny, June, Mary Jane, Patsy and Charlene.** God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this assembly gathered around your table, we pray. For those among us who bake bread and prepare the vessels for our communion celebration. For those who bring the food from this table to those who are homebound or hospitalized. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those who have been raised to eternal life, we give thanks. With all the saints we praise you for the bread of life that keeps us in your love forever. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Something For Thee

Lowry

OFFERING HYMN

Create In Me A Clean Heart

186

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

***DIALOGUE**

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 our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
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 all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: 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; 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good!

(Communion is received by coming forward in the center aisle at the direction of the usher. We begin with all those on the pulpit side. Please pick up a disposable cup from the tray on your way forward. The pastor places the wafer in your hand, and then you move to one of the assistants, who will pour either wine or white grape juice. Return via the side aisle, placing your used cup in the container at the end of the front pew.)

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Music during distribution:

Various Communion Hymns

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

1 O Jesus, joy of loving hearts, the fount of life, the light of all:
from ev'ry bliss that earth imparts we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.

2 We taste you, ever-living bread, and long to feast upon you still;
we drink of you, the fountainhead; our thirsting souls from you we fill.

3 For you our restless spirits yearn, where'er our changing lot is cast;
glad, when your smile on us you turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.

4 O Jesus, ever with us stay! Make all our moments fair and bright!
Oh, chase the night of sin away! Shed o'er the world your holy light.

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Christ, Our Strength and Consolation

Broughton

We welcome everyone to worship on this eleventh Sunday after Pentecost.. Holy Communion is offered to all baptized Christians. If you would like more information on baptism, Pastor Russ would love to speak with you!

THANK YOU

The altar flowers are presented by Barry & Linda Fox in memory of their families.

The bulletins are presented in loving memory of William E. Nester by Bill & Carole Nester.

Joyce Wood is our organist today. She is filling in for Judy who is on vacation. Thanks! Joyce.

CALENDAR NOTES

Monday Aug. 9 Courtyard Office Hours 9-11Am
Worship Committee – 6:30PM

Tuesday Aug.10 Courtyard Office Hours 1-3PM
Outreach Committee – 6:30PM

Wed Aug.11 Al-Anon Meeting 1PM
Youth Outreach 6:30PM

HELP US RAISE MONEY TO FIND A CURE FOR ALS!

Hey St. Marks Congregation!

The Youth Outreach Committee at our church has a new project, and we need your help! A member of our congregation, named Lenny, has been diagnosed with ALS, sometimes called Lou Gehrig's Disease.

“ALS is an always fatal neuro-degenerative disease in which a person’s brain loses connection with the muscles. People with ALS lose their ability to walk, talk, eat, and eventually breathe.” In honor of Lenny, the youth decided to participate in an ALS walk to raise money to find treatments for ALS. This walk will take place on October 9 in Allentown. Our team has registered under the name Team Lenny’s Light. We will have various upcoming events to raise money for the walk, such as a bake sale on August 8. **If you would like to sponsor our team** you can visit: web.alsa.org/goto/SMLCYO or complete the form at the bottom, put it in a pew envelope with your donation and place it in the offering plate. **Want to walk with us? Use the same link!**

If you have any questions email: youthoutreach@stmarkspennsburg.com **Thank you** for your time and consideration!

St. Mark’s Youth Outreach

Yes! I would like to donate to Team Lenny’s Light for ALS!

Name: _____ . Env No _____

Donation Amount: (Include in pew envelope) \$ _____

Donations are due by October 3, 2021

ST. MARK’S NEWS

Beginning Sunday, August 8th, wearing a mask will be required for all in-person worshippers and worship leaders. This is in accordance with current CDC and Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod guidelines due to the increased rate of covid infections occurring in Montgomery County.

There are some open dates in October and November for sponsoring altar flowers. The flower chart is on the board in the narthex. You can write in your name and message or simply call Bonnie at 215-280-4861 or call the church office. The open dates are August 8th, 15th, and 29th.

The link for viewing our live service over the internet is on our website

The Thursday Evening Al-Anon Group will continue to meet at 80 Main Street (it's across the street from St. Mark's) The meeting begins at 7PM. This is also the location for the 7PM Sunday AA meeting.

The Open Link is open! Their hours are 9 to 4PM Monday through Friday. If you wish to bring donations here, the shopping cart or a blue bin will be in the hallway. We are still the "cereal" church but all food types are gratefully accepted.

The Annual Fall Red Cross Blood Drive will return to St. Mark's on Tuesday, **September 14th and Wednesday, September 15th**. Hours will be 2:00-7:00 pm on both days. The drive will span two days to allow for continued social distancing protocols. At this time, Red Cross protocol is that masks will be optional. Red Cross will send notification if there are masking protocol changes as we approach the blood drive days. It's never too early to schedule your donation time. New donors are welcome and needed! To schedule an appointment please contact Maribeth Reigner at 215-679-8563 or log on to redcrossblood.org. **A few minutes from you can be worth a lifetime to a recipient.**
Thank you!

Our Mission Team – the Heavenly Helpers- is taking orders for their August Hoagie Fundraiser. Orders are due August 12th. Hoagie pick up date is Thursday, August 19th. It's a delicious dinner for you, and it makes it possible for the Heavenly Helpers to keep on helping others.

AUGUST HOAGIE ORDER FORM

Your name _____ Phone _____

Turkey (\$8.00 each) # with onion _____ # NO onion _____ # pepper sides _____

Italian (\$7.00 each) # with onion _____ # NO onion _____ # pepper sides _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: _____

If paying by check, please make it payable to Heavenly Helpers

Pick up is Thursday, August 19th 6 – 6:30 PM in the social room.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK:

Mon: Psalm 81

Tues: 2 Peter 3: 14-18

Wed: Jeremiah 31: 1-6
Thur: Psalm 34: 9-14
Fri: Romans 16: 17-20
Sat: John 4: 7-26

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