

ST.MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PENNSBURG, PA

September 6, 2020

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.

OPENING HYMN – Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways (#772)

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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we
mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life
and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel? Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40

WE WILL READ THE PSALM RESPONSIVELY.

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

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

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to You, O Christ

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor David

SPECIAL MUSIC - Morceau De Concours by Gabriel Faure

Flute – Ruth Ann Bartlett Piano – Judy Love

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

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Turn nations away from violence. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit (*especially Lillie, Lisa, Jack, Randy, Andrew, Renae, Marie, Dorothy, David, Paul, Doris, Harold, Marie, Dennis, Merle, Kenneth, Deb, Barbara and Lenny*).. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. 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.

OFFERING

You have heard God's Word and now is the time in the service when we respond to God's Grace. One way we do this is by bringing our offerings to God.

You, the good people of St. Mark's, are faithful givers. Church Council thanks you for your ongoing support. We hope that you will continue to mail in or drop off your offerings. You can also give online. There are instructions on the church website on how to do that. So, in gratitude for all that we have, let us pray...

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.
Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,
nourish us with this rich food and drink,
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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; and 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

Come to 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; and then hold up the juice/wine, give thanks, offer the juice/wine saying "this is my blood which is shed for you."

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,
the body and blood of Christ.
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN – Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (#836)

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.