



June 13, 2021

**Third Sunday after
Pentecost**

At Home Worship
St. Paul's Lutheran
Church
Closter, New Jersey

Our service today is taken from *Hymnal Supplement '98*.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

CONFESSION

Pastor If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

Congregation O Lord, who could stand?

Pastor But with You there is forgiveness;

Congregation therefore You are feared.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor O almighty God, merciful Father,

Congregation I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

ABSOLUTION

Pastor Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN *Today Your Mercy Calls Us*

- 1** Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.

- 2** Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.

**3 Today our Father calls us;
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather
Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.**

**4 O all-embracing Mercy,
O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.**

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy on us; Christ have mercy on us;

Lord, have mercy on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;

Of heavenly joy and earthly peace we sing.

We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,

Lord God, almighty Father, heavenly King.

Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,

You bore for us the load of this world's sin.

O Lamb of God, Your glorious victory won,

Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.

Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,

At God's right hand in majesty most high:

Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,

With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And with your spirit.

Pastor Let us pray: Blessed Lord,
since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning,
grant that we may so hear them,
read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them
that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

READINGS

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

²² Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.²³ On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest.²⁴ And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

After the reading:

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

¹For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling,³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked.⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened---not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.
⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord,⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight.⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

After the reading:

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.
These things are written that you may believe
That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter four, beginning at verse twenty-six.

Congregation Glory to You, O Lord

²⁶ And [Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground.²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰ And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it?³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth,³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it.³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

After the reading:

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord

Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

- 1. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down Your head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place, And He has made me glad.**
- 2. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one; Stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank Of that life giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, And now I live in Him.**
- 3. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
Look unto Me, your morn shall rise, And all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found In Him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk Till trav'ling days are done.**

Sermon

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

after each portion of the prayer:

Pastor Lord, in Your mercy,
Congregation hear our prayer.

Pastor Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Congregation Amen.

LITANY (Sung)

Pastor In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For Pastor Holsten, our Pastor in Christ, for all the servants of the church and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ Let us give thanks to the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

Pastor Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

(Silence for meditation)

Pastor Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

Congregation To You, O Lord.

Pastor O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

Congregation Amen.

Pastor Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

CLOSING HYMN

Almighty Father, Bless the Word

- 1. Almighty Father, bless the Word
Which through Your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root,
Spring up and bear abundant fruit.**
- 2. We praise Thee for the means of grace
As homeward now our steps we trace,
Grant Lord, that we who worshiped here
May all at last in heaven appear.**
- 3. Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, Ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

We remember our nation and many nations, as terrorism remains a threat, and service in Afghanistan continues to be a danger. We pray for the safety of both soldiers and civilians in Afghanistan, and around the world. We pray for peace in the Mideast. We pray for God's help and protection for persecuted Christians throughout the world. We pray for victims of natural disasters throughout the world. We pray for victims of violence (and their loved ones) around the world. We pray for our nation and world as we continue in care in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We pray for our church leaders and their loved ones, and our sister churches and their outreach: Rev. Matthew Harrison, our Synod President; Rev. Dr. Tony Steinbronn, our District President; our newly elected District President, Rev. Stephen Gewecke, and the African Immigrant congregations and missions. We pray for Rev. Dan Fenco and the Camino De Fe mission, Rev. Matt and Nyssa Lytikainen and Mile Square Church in Hoboken, Rev. Matthew Hass (pastor of Village Lutheran Church in Lanoka Harbor, NJ), and Naomi Vogt (serving as a teacher in Shanghai). We pray for Rev. Bob and Kristi Roegner, missionaries in Israel. We pray for the Comfort Dog Ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Old Bridge. We pray for Lutheran Hour Ministries. We pray for St. Paul's families. We pray for St. Paul's youth and their parents. We pray for St. Paul's Sunday School. We pray for St. Paul's Bible Studies. We pray for those suffering from addiction.

We pray for those serving in the military: Capt. John Beddoe, Capt. Mark Buckman, Maj. Jake Butz, Cmdr. Jeff Dermody, Brian Grotz, Rolly Jarmin, Capt. Timothy Kuppler, Cmdr. Jeffrey Morin, T. Sgt. Ruth Presto, 2nd Lt. Matthew Rojas, Laura Scott, Capt. Rance Thompson, 2nd Lt. John Trainor, Lt. David West and Shane Wojnar, serving with the Armed Forces (and all who serve in the Armed Forces).

We pray for our college and graduate students: Arianna Cavalli, Valerie Costeniuc, Sam del Corral, Lauren Graesser, Megan Hamlett, Alison Keil, David Keil, Kylie Keil, Casey and Courtney Luikert, Giulia Nicolai, Brianna Ross, Emily Sposa, and James Steindl.

We pray for help, healing and God's loving care in the lives of our loved ones: Ron Cavalli, Bette Eifert, Jenna Forbes, Christopher Huss, June Kuhn, Lois Lake, Doris Lange, Pastor Ed Lazarchak, Fran Lelkendey, Ruth McReynolds, Linda Sue Olsen, Michael Pierro, George Ross, Gloria Rubner, Richard Ruhl, Irma Schmuck, and Anna Zulli

NEWS AND NOTICES

ST. PAUL'S MISSION OF THE MONTH is Center for Food Action, Englewood, NJ (www.cfanj.org).

ST. PAUL'S SEMI-ANNUAL ELECTION was held on May 11, 2021. There are still a few vacancies. People are needed to assist in Social Action/Christian Fellowship. And help is needed in Christian Education—especially as we look forward to opening up our Sunday School programs in the Fall. Please prayerfully consider ways in which you might serve.

THE 2021 FLOWER CHART is in the Narthex. You can sign up there or complete the form and mail it back to St. Paul's or email Lisa Bujas, Altar Guild, (LBujas@aol.com) to order online. Be sure to specify date and dedication.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, June 13

10:00 AM – Worship Service

10:15 AM – Online Worship Service

Tuesday, June 15

8:00 PM – Al Anon