

17 Pentecost: September 27, 2020

Gathering

Prelude

“O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee”

Maryton

“Before You I Kneel”

Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Jeff Taylor, Stuart Townend

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

Paul Kretzschmar (1905-1989)

Opening Hymn: “Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”

1 Dearest Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you
as the promises here given
draw us wholly up to heaven.

2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks the night,
filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
come but by your gracious giving.

3 Radiance of God’s glory bright,
Light of light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light;
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
that our prayers and songs may please you,
as with grateful hearts we praise you.

4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
praise to you and adoration!
Grant us what we need the most:
your blest gospel’s consolation,
while we here on earth await you,
till in heav’n with praise we greet you.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,  one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love for those who revere Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our transgressions from us. Your sins are forgiven in the name of **☩** Jesus Christ. Go and offer forgiveness in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

The Word

Blessing of the Lector

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from you. Bless John, who will read to us the scriptures. Make us hunger for the Word of life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on

edge"? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel.

⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin.

³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to

them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Silence for reflection

Hymn of the Day: “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me,
my master and my friend.

I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide. | 2 Oh, let me feel you near me;
the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.

My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer
to shield my soul from sin. |
| 3 Oh, let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.

Now speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen,
O Guardian of my soul. | 4 O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you
that where you are in glory
your servant shall be too.

And Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow,
my master and my friend. |

The Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Installation of Music Directors

L: After prayerful deliberation, we, of St. Paul Lutheran Church, have appointed Kris Keith to serve in the position of Music Director and Kate Wollenburg to serve in the position of Organist.

P: Our Lord Jesus, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor. You come among us invited to render a particular service. You are a gift from God sent to equip us to worship and to inspire us to love.

Kris and Kate, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Will you carry out this ministry in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church and in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and the musical arts, ardent in prayer, and faithful in facilitating proclamation of the Word of God through music?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Trusting in God's care, will you seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and adorn the gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

C: **Amen.**

P: People of God, will you receive Kris and Kate into this ministry as those sent to serve in the church of Jesus Christ?

C: **We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P: Will you pray for them, help and honor them for their work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

C: **We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P: Kris and Kate, I now declare you installed as Music Director and Organist. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be a faithful servant of Christ.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us pray.

O God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship: Strengthen and bless your servants Kris and Kate, who, through your gift of music, seek to enliven our praises and proclaim your word with power. Through this ministry give us new awareness of

your beauty and grace, and join our voices with all the choirs of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: People of God, I present to you Kris and Kate, your Music Director and Organist. Let us welcome them in the name of Christ.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

The Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

The Peace

L: Peace be with you. Remember, God holds us together even when we're apart.

Invitation to Offering

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

The Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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

**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

P: We now eat and drink Christ's forgiveness.

The Body of Christ, broken for you.

The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

All eat bread and drink wine or juice at their seat.

Communion Song: "One Bread, One Body"

Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Sending

Blessing

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: “Be Thou My Vision”

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul’s shelter, thou my high tower,
raise thou me heav’nward, O Pow’r of my pow’r.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou, and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven’s joys, O heaven’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

18th Century English Voluntary IV, *Andante*

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Nancy Erbeck, Assisting Minister

John Cathcart, Reader

Jean Winkle, Peace

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Thank you for worshiping with us today.

To give your offering through our website, please visit stpaulreading.org/online-giving/

Our Life Together

For emergency pastoral care, please call the after-hours line at 513-760-5884.

If you have requests for the Prayer Chain, call Penny Huber, 513-931-6420. To remove people from the list, contact the office.

We pray for **Mary and her granddaughter Kyra** (friend of Paul Pieper); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Pr. Lisa Bernheisel; Louise Barry; Teresa Bell** (former member); **Stephen Black** (Kim Coulehan's nephew); **Bobby** (Christian Lohmeier's friend); **Nancy Bose** (Kathy Hirt's friend); **Brett** (Kings' step-nephew); **Jodie Calhoun; Christian; Kathy Curless; Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Dick** (Linda Miller's brother); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Jerry Doan** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Norb Eble** (Portmanns' friend); **Eckerle and Wuestefeld families; Lee Erbeck; Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Ben Ferguson** (Les Eckerle's cousin); **Micki Ford** (Fords' niece); **Jeanne Fuller; Scarlett Gally** (Beth Wernery's great-niece); **Clara Garcia** (Cindy Mayhugh's sister); **Nathaniel Gibson** (Les Eckerle's step-nephew); **Hannah; Matthew Harrison** (Seals' neighbor); **Sandy Hatcher** (Linda Holt's sister); **Elain Heskamp; Richard Hoffman** (Cindy Mayhugh's brother); **Andrew Horton; The Hunt Family** (at the death of Sharon Hunt, Reading teacher), **Ellen Hunter** (Jeni Cathcart's grandmother); **Jo and her daughter** (Jeanne Fuller's friends); **Joan** (Penny Huber's friend); **Kate** (granddaughter of Dennis King's friend); **Dennis King; Jay King** (son of Jamie King); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Lewis Laine** (Chet Laine's brother); **Richard Lane** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Nelson Langefeld; Regina Laursen** (Portmanns' friend); **Yvonne Lowery** (St. Paul Players); **Carroll Mayhugh; Carroll Mayhugh Sr.** (Carroll Mayhugh's father); **Samantha Mersch** (Mayhughs' daughter, Sarah Papin's sister); **Jessica Mink** (Donald Harris's cousin); **Doris Minton; Barbara and Jack Moorhouse; Jean Nolte; Ervin Oerther** (Portmanns' brother-in-law); **Ann Ohr** (Barbara Moorhouse's cousin); **Richard Osborn** (Betty Pack's brother); **Rosie Osborn** (Betty Pack's sister); **Eric Papin; Christian & Suzie Pereira** (Carolyn Koehl's granddaughter & grandson-in-law); **Richard Peterson** (Shirley Harbaugh's brother); **Don Pflieger** (Kings' brother-in-law); **Ginny Pape; Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Paul Pieper; Faith Pirrmann; Pat Popplewell** (Dennis King's friend); **James Savoy** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills' cousin); **Sheila Schultz** (Betty Pack's friend); **Brenda Schumacher** (Marilyn Portmann's friend); **Shannon and Dane** (friends of Riddle family); **Keith Shupe** (father of Kelly Shupe); **Jason Simpson** (Freda Faulkner's grand-nephew); **Patricia Smith** (Teresa Bell's mother); **Scott Songer; Judy Songer** (friends of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Jack Spelman; Frank Sturgill** (Jim's dad); **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Teresa** (friend of Marty Lohmeier); **Randy Thaman**

(friend of Marie Calhoun); **Geri Toland** (Carole Replogle's neighbor); **Treasure** (Les Eckerle's cousin); **Ralph Turner** (friend of Dennis King); **Teresa Vogel** (Freda Faulkner's friend); **Jack Wagner; Jeanne Wagner; Daryl Wesselman** (Betty Pack's granddaughter); **Jean Winkle; Susan Winkle** (Jean Winkle's daughter-in-law).

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Louise Barry, Jack and Barbara Moorhouse, Jean Nolte, Heather Segar.**

We pray for our armed forces members: **Graham Barton** (Fords' neighbor); **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman's grandson); **Victoria Derry** (Elinor Schieman's great-granddaughter); **Jared Forst** (Jim and Loretta's grandson); **Beau Glenn** (Karen Koehl's son-in-law); **Kylie Hahn** (Gretta Hahn's granddaughter); **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl's son); **Samuel McLoughlin** (friend of Cindy Sieckman); **Scott Minton** (Doris Minton's son); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Dustin Silvey; Mack Thompson** (Freda Faulkner's grandson); **Alex Wisecup** (son of Nadine and Barry Wisecup).

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 27

10:30 am Worship (in-person and
livestreamed)

4:00 pm Zoom Fellowship

Tuesday, September 29

4 pm Zoom Bible Study

Wednesday, September 30

6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 1

7 pm New Members' / Inquirers' class

Friday, October 2

6:00 pm Rehearsal for Lehman-Flannery Wedding (Community Members/Winners of Reading Bridal District Drawing for Wedding Ceremony)

Saturday, October 3

3:30 pm Lehman-Flannery Wedding
(Community Members/Winners of Reading
Bridal District Drawing for Wedding Ceremo-
ny)

Sunday, October 4

10:30 am Worship (in-person and
livestreamed)
3:00 pm Virtual Zoom Sunday School
4:00 pm Zoom Fellowship