



Pentecost +17

September 27, 2020 + 9:00 AM

Welcome to our worship of the Lord Jesus Christ! Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the Reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel, the people claim God's ways are unfair while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ Jesus as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Indeed, just as Christ has poured Himself out for us in self-giving love that we might have life, we who are the body of Christ offer our lives for the sake of a needy world.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

ENTRANCE HYMN: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

ELW 879

See page 13 of this bulletin for the music.

*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.*

*For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.*

*For each perfect gift of Thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for Thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n:
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.*

INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS:

We gather today just as God has gathered us into His family in our Baptism:
in the Name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from You 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 Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth's not in us.
But if we confess our sins, God who's faithful and just
will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
So let's confess our sins against God and our neighbor:

Silence for personal reflection and confession

Most merciful God,
***we confess that we're in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We've sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,
by what we've done and by what we've left undone.
We've not loved You with our whole heart;
we've 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.***

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for His sake God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority,
I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the Name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Glory to God!"

See page 14-15 of this bulletin for the music.

REFRAIN:

***Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory to God in the highest!
Glory to God! Glory to God, 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!***

refrain

***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!***

refrain

***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!***

***Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory to God in the highest!
Glory to God! Glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth,
And peace to God's people on earth!***

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit are with you all.

And also with you.

Then let's pray: God of our salvation,
we falter before the demands of Your Word and turn away from Your call to life.
Pour out Your mercy on us as You showed mercy to Your people of old,
that we may turn from our sinfulness and walk the path of self-emptying love
make known in Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD AND PRAYER

FIRST READING:

Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-32

NLT

The prophet Ezekiel testifies: Then another message came to me from the Lord: ²“Why do you quote this proverb concerning the land of Israel: ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, but their children’s mouths pucker at the taste’? ³As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, you won’t quote this proverb anymore in Israel. ⁴For all people are Mine to judge—both parents and children alike. And this is My rule: The person who sins is the one who’ll die...

²⁵ “Yet you say, ‘The Lord isn’t doing what’s right!’ Listen to Me, O people of Israel. Am *I* the One not doing what’s right, or is it *you*? ²⁶ When righteous people turn from their righteous behavior and start doing sinful things, they’ll die for it. Yes, they’ll die because of their sinful deeds. ²⁷ And if wicked people turn from their wickedness, obey the law, and do what’s just and right, they’ll save their lives. ²⁸ They’ll live because they thought it over and decided to turn from their sins. Such people won’t die. ²⁹ And yet the people of Israel keep saying, ‘The Lord isn’t doing what’s right!’ O people of Israel, it’s *you* who aren’t doing what’s right, not I!

³⁰ “Therefore, I’ll judge each of you, O people of Israel, according to your actions, says the Sovereign Lord. Repent and turn from your sins. Don’t let them destroy you! ³¹ Put all your rebellion behind you and find yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O people of Israel? ³² I don’t want you to die, says the Sovereign Lord. Turn back and live!”

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING: Philippians 2.1-13

NLT

St Paul writes: Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from His love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ² Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. ³ Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had:

⁶ Though He was God, He didn’t think of equality with God as something to cling to.

⁷ Instead, He gave up His divine privileges;

He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.

When He appeared in human form,

⁸ He humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore, God elevated Him to the place of highest honor
and gave him the name above all other names,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I'm away, it's even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³ For God's working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

Thanks be to God!

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 21.23-32

NLT

See ELW 174 for the tune.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Glory to You, O Lord!

²³ When Jesus returned to the Temple and began teaching, the leading priests and elders came up to Him. They demanded, "By what authority are You doing all these things? Who gave You the right?"

²⁴ "I'll tell you by what authority I do these things if you answer one question," Jesus replied. ²⁵ "Did John's authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it merely human?"

They talked it over among themselves. "If we say it was from heaven, He'll ask us why we didn't believe John. ²⁶ But if we say it was merely human, we'll be mobbed because the people believe John was a prophet." ²⁷ So they finally replied, "We don't know."

And Jesus responded, "Then I won't tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁸ "But what do you think about this? A man with two sons told the older boy, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ The son answered, 'No, I won't go'— but later he changed his mind and went anyway. ³⁰ Then the father told the other son, 'You go,' and he said, 'Yes, sir, I will'— but he didn't go. ³¹ Which of the two obeyed his father?"

They replied, "The first."

Then Jesus explained His meaning: "I tell you the truth, corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do. ³² For John the Baptist came and showed you the right way to live, but you didn't believe him, while tax collectors and prostitutes did. And even when you saw this happening, you refused to believe him and repent of your sins.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

ELW 712

See page 16 of this bulletin for the music.

*Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, worked Your mercy's perfect deed,
We Your servants bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to Your service every gift which You impart.*

*Still Your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As You, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
By Your Spirit send Your power to our world to make it whole.*

*As we worship, grant us vision, till Your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight
Making known the needs and burdens Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to ardent service, Your abundant life to share.*

APOSTLES CREED:

Let's confess our faith together in the words of our baptismal 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Drawn together in the compassion of God,
let's pray for the Church, the world, and all those in need:

Good and gracious God, we give You thanks and praise for Your Son, Christ Jesus our Lord! Though He's truly one with You in divinity, He humbled Himself and was born among us as one of us; and even in His vulnerable humanity, He poured out His life for us in self-giving love even unto death on a cross. Therefore You raised Him to life and exalted Him above every other power; and even now, Your Spirit is at work among us to mold our wills and our works in His image, that the whole world may know the joyful freedom of life in Your Reign.

Inspire all Your children with the mind of Christ. Where Your Church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that Your love may be at work in us. Help Your people here and throughout the world resist the temptation to focus on our own interests, and turn our hearts toward the needs of others. Fill us with Your compassion and sympathy; bless ministries of care in our communities; and make us living signs of Your mercy and justice for our neighbors.

Your Son took on all bodily life in our world, taking upon Himself its suffering even unto death. Give us that same deep compassion for Your good creation, O God; make us Your partners in caring for the land, the waters, and the air; mend and redeem places suffering from drought, wildfires, floods, storms, or pollution, especially the woodlands of the West Coast and the shores of the Gulf Coast; and restore us to a more whole relationship with the creatures with whom we share this planet, that Your whole creation may confess You as Lord.

Turn our families, our communities, our nation, and the leaders of the world toward Your ways of life. Where our ways of life are unfair to the most vulnerable, give us new hearts and new spirits, that we may turn from our destructive ways so all may live and thrive. Where sin permeates our culture and institutions, change our minds and teach us to trust Your authority. Bring Your peace to places of conflict and violence; bring healing to those ravaged by terror, oppression, violence, greed, and abuse; protect those who are fleeing famine, poverty, and war, and open our hearts to receive them; and move us all to work for wholeness of life and freedom in community for all, that all may know Your peace.

Relieve the suffering of those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Provide food for the hungry and shelter for the homeless from the abundance You've given us. Have mercy on all who are lonely or despairing, sick or grieving, and pour out Your healing Holy Spirit upon them, that they may be renewed in strength and life, hope and joy. We especially seek Your healing grace for our brothers and sisters...

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We thank You for all the seemingly unlikely saints who've entered the joy of Your Reign ahead of us— the “outcasts” and “sinners”, the hyper-obedient and the slow to learn, the angst-ridden and the self-assured— and by their witness to Your amazing grace, teach us to confess Christ Jesus as Lord in our living and our dying, and to faithfully embody Your love for those who come after us.

For into Your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray,
trusting in Your mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord. ***Amen.***

The peace of the Lord is with you always. ***And also with you.***

THANKSGIVING

GATHERING OF OUR GIFTS AND ANTHEM

OFFERTORY HYMN:

Sung to the tune of “Blessed Assurance” WOV 699

***Glory to You, God, for Yours is the earth; Yours the hosannas, the death and rebirth;
Ours the rejoicing for Word given frame; ours the thanksgiving to Your holy Name!
Glory to You, God, for all You have giv'n, blessings of earth and foretastes of heav'n;
Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done; Yours be the glory, O God, Yours alone!***

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD:

Blest are You, holy, mighty, and merciful Lord;
heaven and earth are full of Your glory!

We give You thanks and praise, holy God, for by Your Word You made all things:
***You spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos,
and brought life into being.***

By Your Word, You called Your people Israel to share with the world Your wonderful gifts:
Freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile.

Mindful of Your covenant, You spoke of old by the prophets:

***Words of warning and of woe, words to challenge and console,
words of wisdom for our life with You.***

Now you call to us through Christ Jesus, Your Word made flesh among us:

***The Light for those who dwell in darkness,
the Life of those entombed by death, the Way of Your self-giving love.***

For Your Word of life, and for all Your gifts of grace,

We give You thanks and praise, O Lord, and to Your saving deeds we testify!

Now send us Your Spirit of truth, O God, and rekindle Your gifts within us:

***Renew our faith, increase our hope,
and deepen our love for the sake of a world in need.***

True to Your Word, O God, draw near to those who call on You:

***Lift up the weak and lowly; bring justice to those who are oppressed;
and guide us in the ways of peace,***

For You alone are God,

to You alone we sing our praise!

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus Himself has 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.***

SENDING

BENEDICTION:

Now may God our Creator quench your thirst with love and consolation;
may Christ Jesus strengthen you and encourage you;
may the Holy Spirit lead you on and make your joy complete;
and Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. ***Amen.***

See p. 17 of this bulletin for the music.

*Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all harm in this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL:

God has a plan.

We're it!

What's our part in God's plan?

Sharing God's love in joyful service!

Then let's go in peace, live in joy, and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Heart of Obedience

“Which of the two did the will of his father?” Jesus asks in His parable today. Cutting through all the ethical fog the teachers of the Law could muster to complicate the question, Jesus gets straight to the point: “Which one of the two **obeyed his father?**”

Let's face it: “Obedience” is a dirty word in our society. We're raised to be **consumers**— to hold others accountable to our desires, demands, and agendas. We're even consumers when it comes to God, truth be told. We expect our God and our churches to give us what we want, to make us feel good and affirm the priority and importance of our own lives; so often, our first priority is “personal empowerment”. But obedience implies that we answer to someone else besides ourselves, that we're **not** our own masters— and that's where we balk!

But in our first reading, we hear Ezekiel voicing God's word of pleading confrontation to His people: "Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin... Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone... Turn, then, and live!"

So how shall God get our attention and win our obedience— the obedience in which we might know life?

Well, one way is "the rule of law", secured by superior power, compulsion, violence, and call of duty: "Do this or else!" We assume the rule of law is rooted in some sort of transcendent justice; but ultimately, the rule of law is rooted in power and driven by fear— but fear only isolates us more!

Obedience doesn't begin with rules... Obedience doesn't even begin with the power or authority of the one making the rules... Obedience begins with a heart yielded to God in trust— a yielding made possible by God's grace and love! Ezekiel points us to this other way: "Cast away from you all the transgressions that you've committed against Me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!" And Martin Luther, in his Small Catechism, prefaces his explanation of each of the Ten Commandments with "We're to revere, love, and trust God above everything else... We're to revere and love God so that we don't... but rather..."

So why is repentance so often the hardest for the ones who seem the most zealous to live a righteous life? Why would the notoriously sinful get into the Reign of God ahead of the priests and religious? New Testament scholar William Loader suggests, "Is it because [the notoriously sinful] allowed themselves to be vulnerable, to be moved, to let the word of [God's] compelling compassion address their deeper needs? Were the religious leaders so defensive in protecting their system— in the name of the people of God and the Scriptures— that they suppressed their own inner cries and stopped their ears?"

Real obedience requires not a new law, but a new *heart*— the heart of Christ Jesus! The real obedience of a new heart is born of God's grace, rather than duty or fear— knowing that God's way of doing things is unto our blessing, not our deprivation. It's God's grace that leads us to repentance— the yielding of ourselves to **God's** ownership and agendas. The apostle Paul uses an ancient hymn to point us to Christ Jesus as the ultimate example of this self-yielding; in Philippians 2, he calls us to embody Jesus' "kenosis", not exploiting even equality with God as something to be exploited for our own benefit, but emptying ourselves for the sake of others. And one of Luther's prayers bespeaks this well: "Take what I have, that I may have You. Melt and consume me, that we may be one. For Your goodness is stronger than my sins; Your life is stronger than my death. For me, You are life itself! Let my death vanish in Your life, my sins in Your goodness, my guilt in Your mercy." Day after day, we die to ourselves and our own agendas, letting go of our own power that we may be empowered by trusting in God's love and grace. And empowered by God's grace, we go on to live our lives not turned in on ourselves, but directed outward toward God and others to build them up.

And what's the fruit of this sort of obedient heart? **Joy**— greater pleasure from giving than from receiving, from blessing others rather than soaking up blessing from others! As Jesus said to His disciples in John 15, "I've told you this so my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete". In the end, you see, God's pleadings with His people of every age— God's pleadings with **us**— aren't ultimately the stuff of divine exasperation or stern warnings of hellfire after all, but an invitation to joy— joy in the yielding, the eternal joy of Christ Himself! "For the joy set before Him *Christ Jesus* endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" [Heb 12.2]. Turn, then, and live!

"Yes" and "No"

"Yes" and "no"— how incredibly important those two little words are! Contracts and corporations, marriages and multinational business deals all hinge on the power of those two words. But our "yes" is only as good as our "no". "Yes" makes sense only if there's a "no". "Yes" and "no" divide reality into mutually exclusive options, and the line between them is the crucial element that gives meaning to both terms.

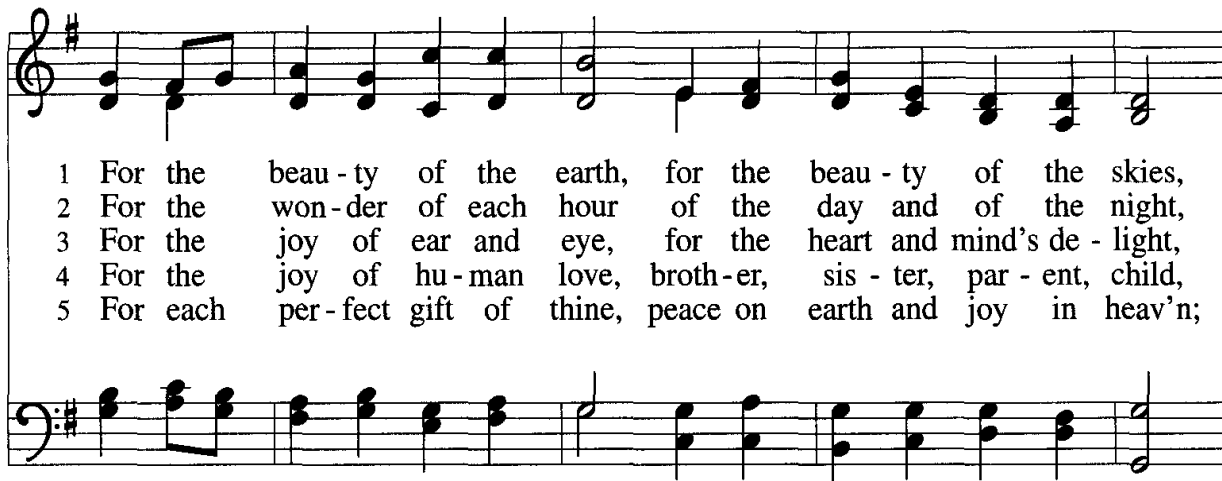
Jesus' parable of the two brothers points out that we answer "yes" and "no" with our actions as well as with words. We can say "yes" with our mouths but live a "no"; conversely, a person might say "no", but in the end discover that she's lived a "yes".

The chief priests and teachers of the Law wanted to use words to trap Jesus with embarrassing questions. Jesus can play that word game, too. But Jesus does more than speak with authority— He lives it! He places His entire life behind His words, walking the path of obedience to His cross and through His own tomb. His "yes" and "no" can be poured into a chalice, broken as bread, authenticated in a cross and empty tomb...

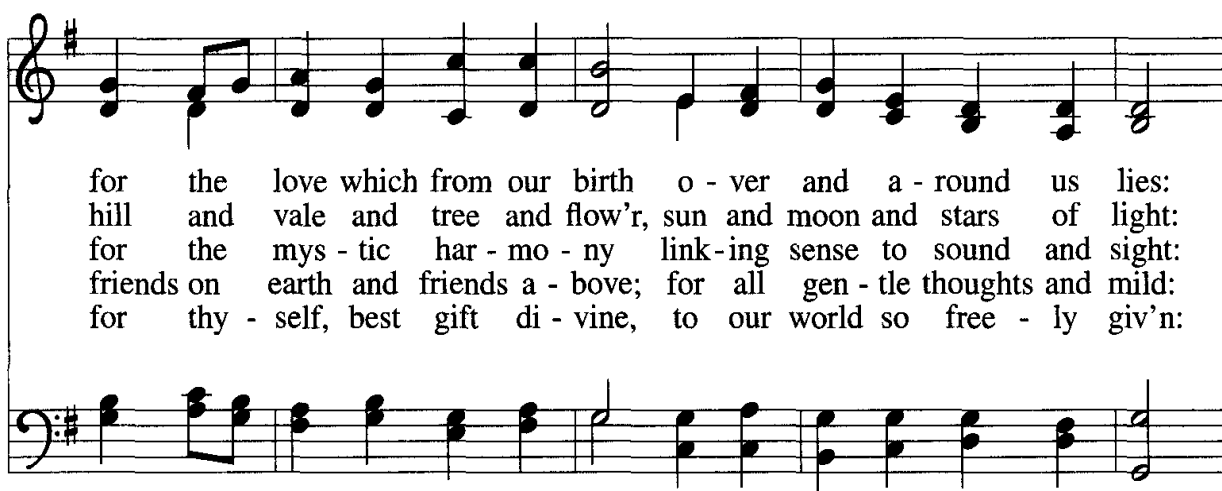
The Church also needs to consider how and if our actions affirm what our words say. What will your community of faith need to do this week in order to authenticate the words you together speak in the liturgy? Will those who live around us experience our "yes" as a genuine "yes" and our "no" as "no"? How will we live the Creed, the readings, and the Eucharist? How can the words of our preaching set the stage and challenge God's people to embody Christ's life-giving word this coming week?

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For the Beauty of the Earth

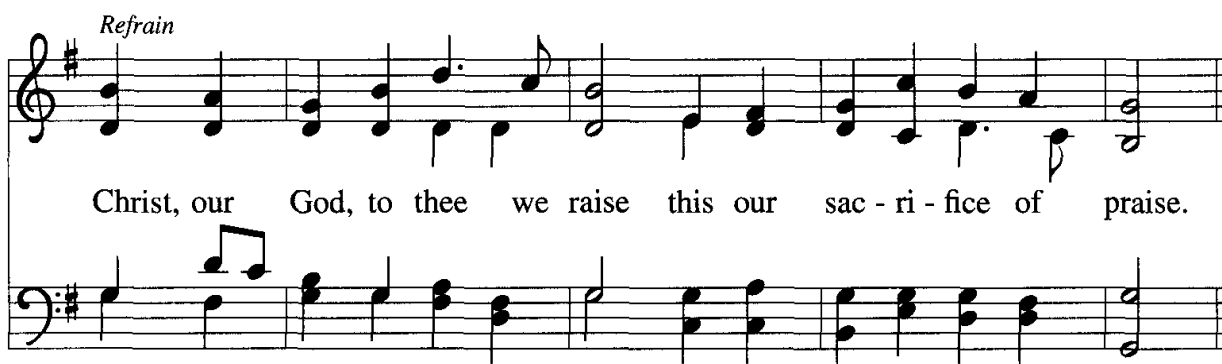


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Glory to God!



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



I Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



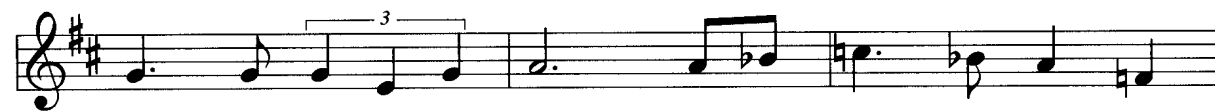
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



II Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

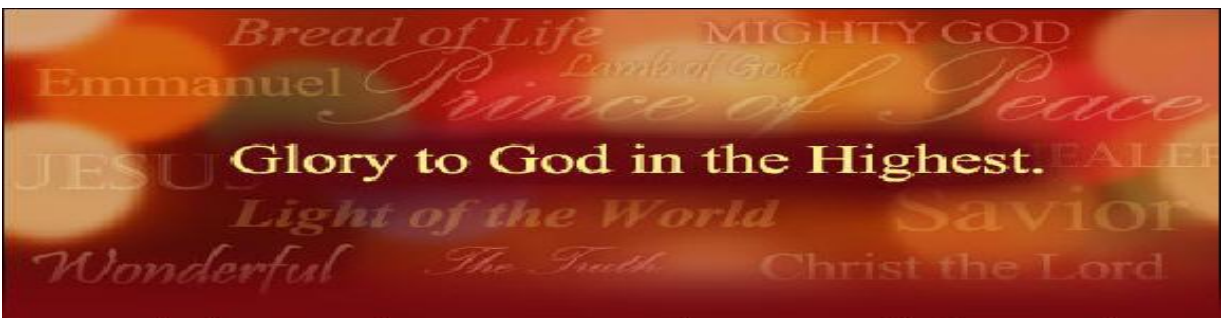
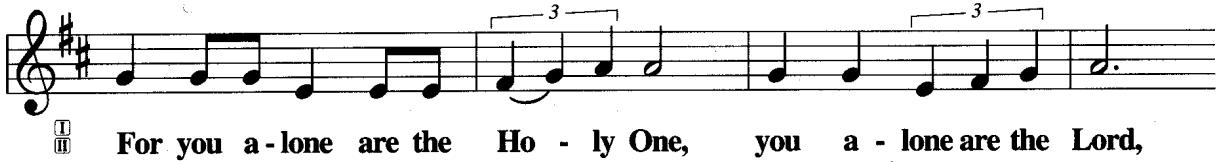
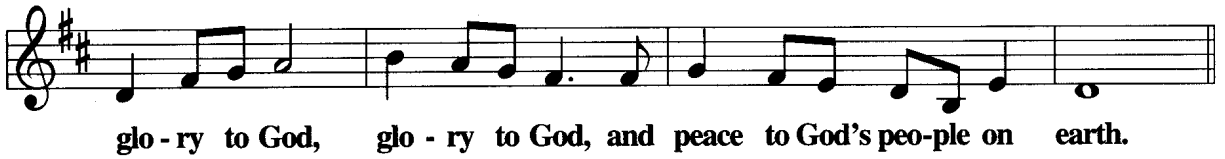


world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

>



Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

F B \flat Am 7 Dm F B \flat F

1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice Bore the weight of hu-man need,
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home - less; Still the hun-gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, Till your love's re - veal-ing light

F B \flat Am 7 Dm F B \flat F

Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, Worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:
 Still the cap - tives long for free - dom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.
 In its height and depth and great - ness Dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,

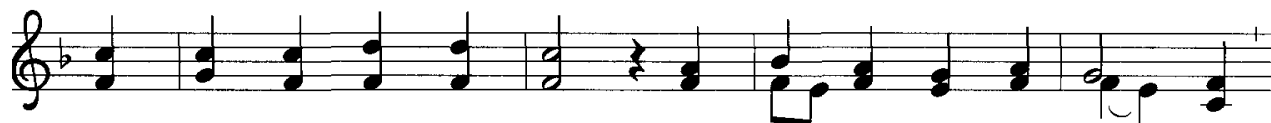
F C Dm C Dm B \flat maj 7

We, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul,
 Mak-ing known the needs and bur - dens Your com-pas - sion bids us bear,

C Dm B \flat F Gm 7 Am Gm 7 F

Con-se - crat - ing to your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 By your Spir - it send your pow - er To our world to make it whole.
 Stir-ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, Your a - bun - dant life to share.

Now Thank We All Our God



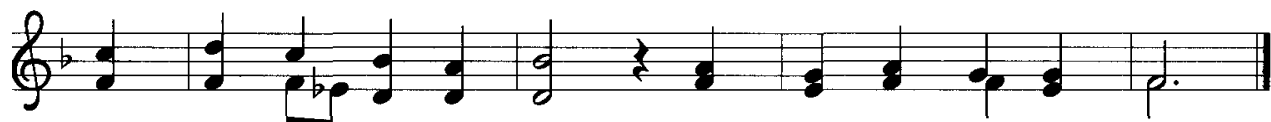
1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



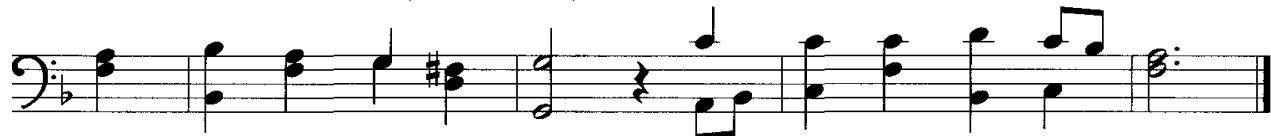
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.



This Week at St Paul's

P = Parish House, F = Fellowship Hall

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Sun. 9/27 Pentecost +17 [Proper 21]	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 7:00 PM	Worship Livestream Setup Service of Word and Prayer outside and/or Online: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown Fellowship Hour via Zoom: [use meeting ID 839 381 0896, passcode 90e8Dm] Confirmation Class via Zoom *
Tues. 9/29	5:30 PM	Worship & Music Team via Zoom/FCC *
Thur. 10/1	10:00 AM 7:00 PM	Bible Study via Zoom/FCC * Scouts BSA Troop 007
Fri. 10/2	1:00 PM	Al-Anon [F]
Sun. 9/20 Pentecost +18 [Proper 22] World Communion Sunday	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 7:00 PM	Worship Livestream Setup Holy Communion Online: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown Fellowship Hour via Zoom : [use meeting ID 839 381 0896, passcode 90e8Dm] Confirmation Class via Zoom *

- * If you'd like to participate in any of our **activities taking place over Zoom**, go to zoom.us, click "Join a Meeting" at the top right of the page, use meeting ID 3700147169, and if it asks for a password, use 119805 and you should be in. If you're using your phone, these dial-in numbers will work: 929.205.6099 or 312.626.6799. After you dial, you'll be asked for the host's code, and you'll type in 3700147169#, then 119805# and you're in. (What's more, with your smart phone or computer, you can engage video as well as audio, so we can see and hear you—something that's precious right now!) You can also use **Free Conference Call [FCC]**: Dial 857.232.0157, enter conference code 144261, and you're in.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK:

- The Armed Forces, Crossroads Pregnancy Care, David Johnson Sr., Andrew Edmonds, Fay Barndt, Morgan, Ally, Dontay, & Emily Hassler, President Trump and his cabinet, Don & Karen Ludovici, Barbara Graser, Jordan Scholl, Kelsey Shaak, Bea Becknell, Niara Butler, Carole Eddings, Bob Knapp, Vicki Lasley, Ray Constable, Walter Rausch, Bob Westervelt, Carol Marks, Rosemary Bruno, Florence Zellers, Nick Wildman, Devin Morrison, Walt & Ryan, Bobby Lane, Evelyn Moyer, Alan West, Donald Bilger, Scott, Adam & Amanda, Aly Brown, Connie Slotter, Michelle, J.R., Lou, Jack, Cheryl Ball, Laura Ulrich, Doug Fay, Jimelle, Karen Berger, Gary Kratz, Jim, Bp. Stephen Munga, Tony Campolo, Pr Susan Lynch, Pr Wanda Schwandt, Gayle Moyer King, Rita Feikel, Barb Fehnel, Sheena Lakjer, Karen Smoyer, Larry Noblit, Stan Johnson, Jan Riley, Sam Sovacol, Karen Blitch, Brandon Gingerich Miller; victims of flooding, hurricanes, and wildfires; everyone struggling with COVID-19 and its containment. ➤

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK *[contd.]*

- Families and friends of Bill Umstead, John Deily, James Diefenderfer, Linda Wakely, Joe Poltzer, Bill Stever, Tommy Neuman, Jack Maccarone, Scott Rittoper, Gino Bertorelli, George Cute, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks, Elijah McClain, Bill Pentecost, David Ziegler, Bill Barndt Sr., Charles Brous, Bill Hudreck, Robert Webb, Dotsy Guetter, Bob Mattea, Nathan Sovacol, Karl Gross.

This week's bulletins are given to the glory of God by Rhonda Diehl in honor of all the teachers trying so hard to have our kids learning at home.

We're also celebrating ***Harvest Home Sunday*** today— and while we don't have some of the usual decorations that come with the celebration, we're still rejoicing in the abundance of God's good creation. We encourage you to make a donation of non-perishable foods and/or financial gifts this week to the Quakertown Food Pantry. Monetary donations are welcome at ***Quakertown Food Pantry, PO Box 278, Quakertown, PA 18951***. Food donations are also being accepted on Wednesdays from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM and on normal shift days. (Everyone must wear masks and gloves when dropping off food items.) Please give generously!

Next Sunday, ***October 4***, is ***World Communion Sunday***— and once again, we'll be ***sharing Holy Communion "virtually"***, gathering our tables together via our worship livestream on Facebook. We'll be gathered as one around the same Word as we share the bread and the cup ***together***—trusting that true to His word, the Lord Jesus will be fully present with us as well, in bread and wine and forgiving love—and we'll be communing together with people around the world...

Please ***don't forget to keep on giving to our ministries here at St Paul's!*** You can now do this in several ways: [1] If you're already signed up for Simply Giving, you're already taken care of; [2] You can mail your offerings to the church; and now [3] You can go to our church website (www.stpaulsqtown.org) and make your contributions online. Whatever way you choose, your contributions help us continue to serve our congregation and community and build upon the good things God's doing through us.

Our ***September "Monthly Special" offerings*** will go to support our ***Scouts BSA Troop 007*** here at St Paul's in their many activities. This troop meets weekly at St Paul's, participating in various activities which promote individual, group, and community growth and learning essential leadership and life skills that will benefit each member throughout their lives. If you'd like to donate, simply mail a check to the church with "Monthly Special—Scouts" in the memo line. Thank you!

Come join us each week for our ***Thursday Morning Bible Study*** from ***10:00-12:00 NN*** via Zoom or Free Conference call. (See the previous page for information on accessing these platforms.) We're digging into the Scripture readings for the upcoming week to discover the treasures that await us come Sunday. You don't have to be a biblical "expert" to get a lot out of this study— so come join us and invite your friends as well!

We're looking for a ***new congregational coordinator for our Food Pantry efforts*** here at St Paul. Many thanks to Denise Shaeffer for her fine work in this regard over the years! If you're interested, please contact Pr Dave.

"Thank you to all my church family for your outpouring of love and support through cards, calls, plants, and food. Your support, following the death of my son, Karl, has been deeply appreciated. Thank you!" -- Doris Diehl

"Thank you all for the prayers, notes and calls sent my way during my recovery from cancer. The treatment seems to be working thanks to the good medical care of the Abington staff. Thank you!" -- Laura Ulrich

The ***Upper Bucks Code Blue*** sheltering ministry of Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks (AHUB) provides emergency shelter for homeless people when nighttime temperatures and/or wind chills reach dangerous levels— in our case, 26 degrees or below— from Nov. 15 through Apr. 15. We're working hard right now to adapt our sheltering space and safety protocols at the Quakertown Masonic Lodge to make it COVID-19 safe for guests and volunteers alike, with plenty of personal protective equipment and sanitization supplies. We'll be holding ***Volunteer Training Workshops*** via Zoom on ***Oct. 18 [4:00-5:30 PM]*** and ***Oct. 25 [6:00-7:30 PM]***. If you're interested in helping with the ministry of AHUB, please see Pr Dave.

Bucks County is planning to hold a local ***Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event*** on ***October 17, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM*** at Strayer Middle School in Quakertown (1200 Ronald Reagan Drive). You can bring up to 25 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous products to this collection event. For more information, contact the Bucks County Planning Commission at 215.345.3400, or go to www.buckscounty.org/recycling.

Our Quakertown Ministerium is coordinating a ***Quakertown "United in Gratitude" Parade*** to recognize, thank, and pray for our emergency personnel, medical personnel, teachers, caregivers, civil servants, non-profit ministries, and other essential workers who've been hard at work to keep us safe and provided for during this pandemic. This parade will be held on Saturday, ***Oct. 17*** (the day Autumn Alive would've been held) beginning at ***1:00 PM*** from the Quakertown Community High School parking lot. We won't be gathering as a crowd of people to watch; we'll be gathering and parading together in our own vehicles (which you're invited to decorate as you consider appropriate). At each of our stops, we'll pause briefly for prayer and to present a small gift of appreciation to representatives of each ministry.

For more information on our ministries, please contact:

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