

ORDER OF WORSHIP

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 6/7, 2022



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
The People of St. Paul's, the Ministers
474 Yalick Road

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Rev. Charles H. Grube, Pastor
Margaret Quintanar, Director of Music/Organist
Senior Choir & Chimes
Jean Grube, Chapel & Emmanuel Choir Director

TODAY'S WORSHIP

WELCOME TO WORSHIP as we gather to praise the God of all creation, our Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who guides us in love.

JESUS SAYS, "IT IS YOUR FATHER'S good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

WORSHIP BEGINS in our gathering. Please enjoy greeting and conversation in the Narthex, and respect those who have entered the Sanctuary to pray, meditate, and listen to the prelude with silence and an atmosphere of reverence and peace as we all prepare to hear God's word.

IF YOU'D LIKE someone's name to be added to our prayer list spoken in worship and printed in the bulletin, please be sure to contact the church office or complete the prayer request card on the table in the narthex before worship. Cards added after worship will be included in the following week's prayer list. In either case you will continue to have the opportunity to say aloud or remember silently that person's name during the intercessory prayers.

CELEBRATING COMMUNION: we invite you to pick up pre-contained hosts and wine at the greeter's table in the Narthex. At Pastor's invitation, please pick up your packaged elements and hold them up for the Eucharistic Prayer, which includes the Words of Institution, and the Lord's Prayer. Then at the invitation, the distribution begins when you unwrap the host and hear the words, "The body of Christ given for you." Uncapping the wine or juice and the words, "The blood of Christ shed for you" follows. The used containers can be discarded in the trash receptacles at the door on your way out.

HEARING ASSISTANCE devices are available; please ask an usher for help.

THE BLUE WELCOME PAD in the pew rack is our record of your attendance and communion (or you may leave a message for Pastor Grube, note a new address or phone number).

SCRIPTURE READINGS for next weekend: Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 82, Hebrews 11:29-12.2, Luke 12:49-56.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Blessed Assurance

J. Bert Carlson

BELL, WELCOME, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Stand as you are able and turn to face the font for the Confession.)

CONFESSION

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

Set us again on the path of life.

**Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors.**

Amen.

Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. We are free to love as God loves. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN #852 *Golden Breaks the Dawn*

Golden Breaks the Dawn

852

Qing zao qilai kan

Qing zao qi - lai kan, hong ri chu tong - fang,
 1 Gold - en breaks the dawn, comes the east - ern sun;
 2 Ho - ly, liv - ing God, keep me safe to - day;
 3 Give me dai - ly bread, while I do my part;



xiong - zhuang xiang yong - shi, mei - hao xiang xin - lang;
 like a rid - er strong, set the course to run.
 though I wea - ry plod, make me kind, I pray.
 bright skies o - ver - head, glad - ness in my heart.



tian gao fei - niao guo, di kuo ye - hua xiang,
 Birds a - bove me fly, flow - ers bloom be - low;
 Let me guide our youth, hon - or weak and old;
 Sim - ple wants pro - vide, e - vil let me shun;



zhao wo qin gong - zuo, Tian - fu you en - guang.
 through the earth and sky God's great mer - cies flow.
 let me serve with truth, and God's love un - fold.
 Je - sus at my side, till the day is done.

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

Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Sit)

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON [Sunday]

FIRST READING

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Isaiah announces God's displeasure with the offerings and sacrifices of a people who are without compassion. He urges them instead to do justice and defend the oppressed. Indeed, if they repent, God promises that they will be made as clean as new-fallen snow.

A reading from Isaiah.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls or of lambs or of goats. When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more! Bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and calling of convocation—I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove your evil deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: If

your sins are like scarlet, will they become like snow? If they are red like crimson, will they become like wool? If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land, but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 33:12-22 *Spoken responsively by the lector and congregation.*

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

The Lord looks down from heaven;
he sees all humankind.

From where he sits enthroned he watches
all the inhabitants of the earth—
**he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.**

A king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

The war horse is a vain hope for victory,
and by its great might it cannot save.

Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
**on those who hope in his steadfast love,
to deliver their soul from death
and to keep them alive in famine.**

Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.
Our heart is glad in him

because we trust in his holy name.

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-3

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

A reading from Hebrews.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Stand as you are able for the Gospel)

GOSPEL

Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

SERMON

Stand as you are able for the Hymn

HYMN OF THE DAY # 638 *Blessed Assurance*

638

Blessed Assurance

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,

Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:

this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 INTERCESSION

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

Please offer your own particular concerns for each of the invitations to prayer aloud or silently.

We pray for the universal church, its members, and its mission;
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the creation God made and for the natural treasures that sustain our lives.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nation and all who serve in government and civic service;

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the welfare of the world, for peace and justice, and for the poor and oppressed;

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the concerns of our congregation and our local community;

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind or spirit;

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace with others as you are able.

(Sit)

ANTHEM

One Day at a Time

Marijohn Wilkin
and Kris Kristofferson

Lee Fett, *soloist*

(Stand)

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,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 in the highest.

+ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hold up your communion elements for the prayer of thanksgiving.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,....with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

COMMUNION

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Let us eat and drink together.

Unwrap your bread.

The body of Christ, given for you.

Uncap your wine.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us, comfort us, and show us the path of life this day and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN #831 (vs. 1-4) *The God of Abraham Praise*

831

The God of Abraham Praise

1 The God of A-br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
 2 The God of A-br'ham praise! At your su-preme com-mand
 3 The God of A-br'ham praise! Your all - suf - fi - cient grace
 4 Your prom-ise you have sworn; I on your oath de-pend.

An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—
 from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.
 shall guide me all my pil-grim days in all my ways.
 I shall, on ea-gle wings up-borne, to heav'n as - cend.

“I Am the One I Am”— by earth and heav'n con-fessed;
 I all on earth for-sake— its wis-dom, fame, and pow'r—
 You deign to call me friend; you call your-self my God!
 I shall be-hold your face; I shall your pow'r a-dore,

I bow and bless the sa-cred name for-ev-er blest.
 and you my on-ly por-tion make, my shield and tow'r.
 And you will save me to the end through Je-sus' blood.
 and sing the won-ders of your grace for-ev-er-more.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt., based on the *Yigdal*, c. 14th cent.
 Music: Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The God of Abraham Praise

Steven Wentz

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MINISTER OF TECHNOLOGY: Marissa Miller

LECTOR: Melissa Janoski

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GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT: St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family called together by God and united by a common faith. Our mission is to share with all people God's Love and Grace through Word and Sacrament. Through the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to witness and serve, treating one another with Love, Compassion, Forgiveness, and Understanding By our commitments, actions, deeds, and resources, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ, reaching out to our Community, Nation and World.

– Adopted, May 1993

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANCTUARY FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God, in honor of the birthday of Peg O'Brien-Yadon, mother-in-law of Dr. and Mrs. Frank O'Brien.

THE YELLOW ROSE is given in honor of the 55th wedding anniversary of Colette and John Weaver.

MANY THANKS to Keith Brosious, who is leading us in worship this weekend while Paster Grube is away. Pastor and Jean Grube are celebrating the wedding this weekend of their daughter Clara, who married Ryan Orgitano in Lock Haven. Ryan

is a South Williamsport native and both he and Clara are Lycoming College graduates. We pray for God's blessings as they begin their married life together.

OFFICE STAFF UPDATE: While the search for an Administrative Assistant will continue, for the foreseeable future the position will be filled and shared by Gail Smallwood and Carol Fett. Office hours effective Monday, August 1, will be Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. and Friday from 9:30 to Noon.

PASTOR GRUBE will be among 25 people from the Northeast Synod attending the ELCA churchwide assembly in Columbus, Ohio from August 8-12. More than 900 voting members will attend. You are invited to stream the proceedings and worship at elca.org/Churchwide Assembly. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please call the church office (570-675-3859).

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING gatherings: **The Retired Ramblers breakfast** on Thursday, August 11 at 8:32 a.m. at the Lakeside Skillet; **Lutheran Brotherhood meeting** on Tuesday, August 16 at 7:00 p.m. (all men of St. Paul's are encouraged to attend); and the **Social Ministry Committee meeting** on Wednesday, August 17 at 11:00 a.m. (note time change).

ON AUGUST 28 we will be celebrating Pastor Grube's 25th anniversary serving St. Paul's. There will be a picnic following the service to mark this anniversary, the end-of-summer and the beginning of a new fall season. The picnic will feature pork & chicken barbeque, hot dogs, coleslaw, potato salad; place settings, beverages & dessert will be furnished. A sign-up poster is available in the narthex so you can indicate how many in your family will be attending or you may call the church office (570.675.3859) or email stpaul@epix.net **to sign up by Sunday, August 14**—this will help with planning setup and amount of food needed. Mark the date on your calendar, join us for worship, good food, fellowship and express your appreciation to Pastor Grube for his ministry at St. Paul's.

COUNCIL UPDATE: The Long-Range Planning Committee has now completed revising St. Paul's constitution in accordance with ELCA recommendations and submitted the document to council, which approved it during the August 2 meeting. Council will make copies of a summary of the changes, as well as a complete copy of the proposed revised constitution, available in the Narthex for St. Paul members to pick up. During the next 60 days, the committee will hold presentation sessions

during the Sunday School hour for the congregation to review the changes and ask questions. The committee also will hold a Congregational Meeting between October 9-December 11 to discuss the document. A ratification vote on the revised constitution will be held at the annual congregational meeting on January 15, 2023. Following synod approval and the May 2023 council elections, the new constitution will go into effect on June 1, 2023. In accordance with the new constitution, church council elections will be moved to the January congregational meeting, beginning in January, 2024.

IN OTHER COUNCIL NEWS, Head Start students will return to class on Wednesday, September 7. The fleece blankets have been donated to the CASA grief camp for children, held this past week at Hillside Farms. DAMA has begun the work to repair and clean out our water retention basins. The new roof project over the Christian Education wing has been completed. Back Mountain Youth Soccer will return to using the church's soccer field this fall.

HAVE ANY hand gardening tools you are willing to share? On Monday, August 22, clients of Pyramid Health Care will be at St. Paul's to weed the flower beds. Donations of old or new hand weeders, spades, hoes and gloves will be greatly appreciated! Please put your name on the tools if you would like them returned. Please drop them off at the church by 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 22. This is a Social Ministry project.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the September Good News are due in the church office by noon on Sunday, August 21; items for the bulletins are needed by Noon on Thursdays.

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.” One of this year’s “God’s Work. Our Hands” projects, the SPCA of Luzerne County could use the following items: cat litter (clay, non-clumping), dry kitten chow, dog/cat treats, rabbit food, guinea pig food, cat collars (breakaway type), dog collars and leashes, small cat beds, paper towels, trash bags (55-gallon, drawstring type), and tall kitchen bags (drawstring type). There is a table set up in the Narthex for your donations along with a handout of all the needed items. Thank you all for your continued support of our local animal welfare organization.

SNEAKERS FOR OUR HEAD START CHILDREN is another “GWOH” project for September 11. We will be collecting your donations of sneakers –youth sizes 9-12 – for boys and girls who will be attending Head Start at St. Paul's. There

is a Sneaker Display table in the Narthex; please remember to attach your gift receipt to the shoes.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE is now working with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod to help support the thousands of people who have been affected by the terrible flooding in Kentucky as well as Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and West Virginia. Lutheran Disaster is also working to help victims of the wild fires in western states. If you would like to support LDR by making a donation, please use the yellow envelopes located in the pews or on the table in the narthex; 100% of your contribution is used for aid relief.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS — In memory of *Dave Kowalek*, gifts have been given to the Building Improvement Fund, by Marianne and Ray Mancke, Denise Cunningham, and Andrew and Ann Sabol. Donations have also been given to the Building Improvement Fund in memory of *Darlis Berger*, by Geri Williams, Marge McCarty, and Lee and Carol Fett.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE is seeking someone to take over St. Paul's Cradle Roll which entails sending out church related parenting information. For more information contact the church office or Marissa Miller (570)706-0450, martissa47@gmail.com .

PRAYER LIST - Please remember to ask permission from the person you are placing on the prayer list. **Pray for the Congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wilkes-Barre.**

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Alice Baer, Hope Beisel, Marty Bisher, Connie Borchert, Mary Lou Bowman, Helen Carey, Pam Cyphers, Mary Lou Daley-Button, Maryan Daily, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl and Marty Everhart, Grace Fisher, Marge Fritzingler, Lois Hardisky, Kay Hometchko, Alice Hudak, Barbara Kessler, Tom Lundberg, Margie McCarty, Julie Miller and family, Vivian Richardson, Ann Sabol, Betty Schray, Bill Smith, Mark and Mary Walters, Noah Wood, Justin Yost.

Please note: Those people listed as Family and Friends will be listed here for a four-week period. Please contact the church office at 570-675-3859 or stpaul@epix.net if you desire a name to remain on the list beyond that time.

Family & Friends: Hank Banaszek, Kelly Bellezza, Cindy Bruesewitz, Ed Campbell, Marjorie Catania, Janice DeFebo, Shirley Dries, Karen Evanish, Ron and Candyce

Fike, Helen Fredrick, Guy Giordano, Christine Ide, Bradley Kessler, Mike Hage, Bob Hughes, Jim Lorah, Audrey Mace, Rob Merritt, Thomas Neuviller, Tim Nulton, Alice O'Neil, Ryleigh Phillips, Laura Pszeniczny, Frank Rollman, Bonnie Ryman, Kelly, Aiden and Wyatt Schaper, Nancy Shymanski, Stevens Family, Benjamin Szostak, Chris Terhune, Donna Thiessen, Jean Thompson, Janice Tucker, Eric Wendolowski, Karen Wise, Peg Wyda, Michelle Yapple, Helen Zarychta.