

Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Ardmore, Pennsylvania
July 5, 2020



The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Let the Whole Creation Cry

Pachelbel

(Congregation speaks words in bold print)

Announcements

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Jesus says to us, “Come to me, all you who are tired, who are worn out from carrying heavy burdens. Put down the heavy load that you are carrying, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Let us confess our sin, bringing all that is weighing us down, before God who is merciful and slow to anger.

A time of silence for confession

Gracious God,

We confess that we don't always understand our own actions.

We clearly know what is right – what you expect of us – but we don't always do it.

We also clearly know what is wrong – the thoughts and actions that hurt others and offend you – but we do these things anyway.

Forgive us, O God. Set us free from the sin that prevents us from serving you and our neighbor.

People of God, know this:

Our God is merciful and compassionate, slow to anger and filled with unfailing love. When we stumble, he is there to catch us; when we are weighed down, he is there to lift us up. So be at peace: in the death and resurrection of Jesus our sins are forgiven. Praise God!

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have gathered for worship,

Jesus invites us to come!

We come as we are, with our doubts and our fears, with our successes and our failures,

Jesus invites us to come!

We come, bringing with us the events and experiences from this past week,

Jesus invites us to come!

So come. . . come and receive all that Jesus longs to give – peace, love and mercy.

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
 2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,
 3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,

Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"
 those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.
 and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;

Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
 Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
 from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:

sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.
 all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
 "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

GREETING

The love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, and the life of the Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Now the Feast and Celebration



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of



God; to make all things new.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, we offer you our praise and thanksgiving. In times of weakness and hour of need, yours is the strength which carries us through. When our load is heavy and feels too much to bear, your arms are stretched out to help us carry the load. In these challenging and uncertain times may we hear your voice, "Come. . . find rest." This is such divine grace. In deep gratitude we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Word

Reading

Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

Reader/ A reading from Romans.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to

the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Solo

Give Me Jesus

Lee Berry, soprano

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Peterson

HYMN OF THE DAY # 611

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “I am this dark world’s light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast.”
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live.”
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.”



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I’ll walk till trav - ’ling days are done.

THE PRAYERS

(Each portion of the prayers concludes with the following:)

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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.

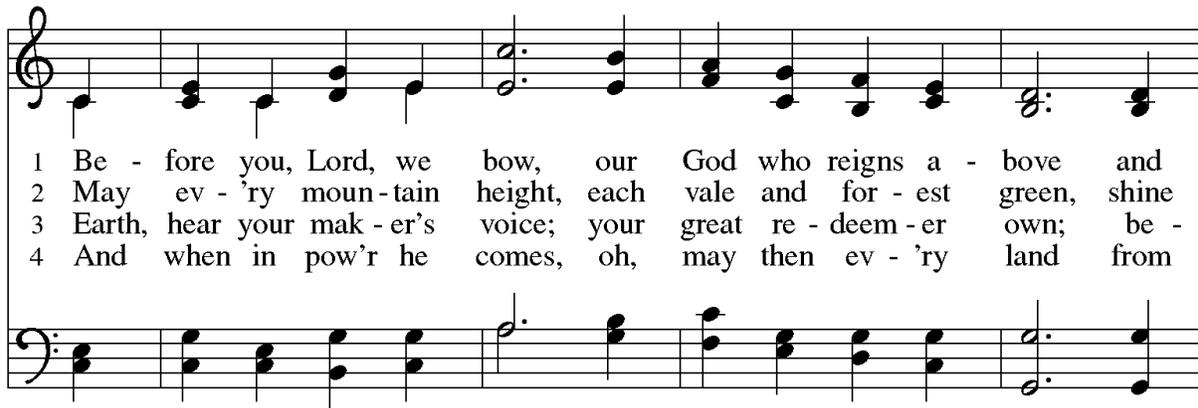
BENEDICTION

God gives rest to all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens.
Almighty and merciful God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless, preserve and keep you this day and forevermore.
Amen.

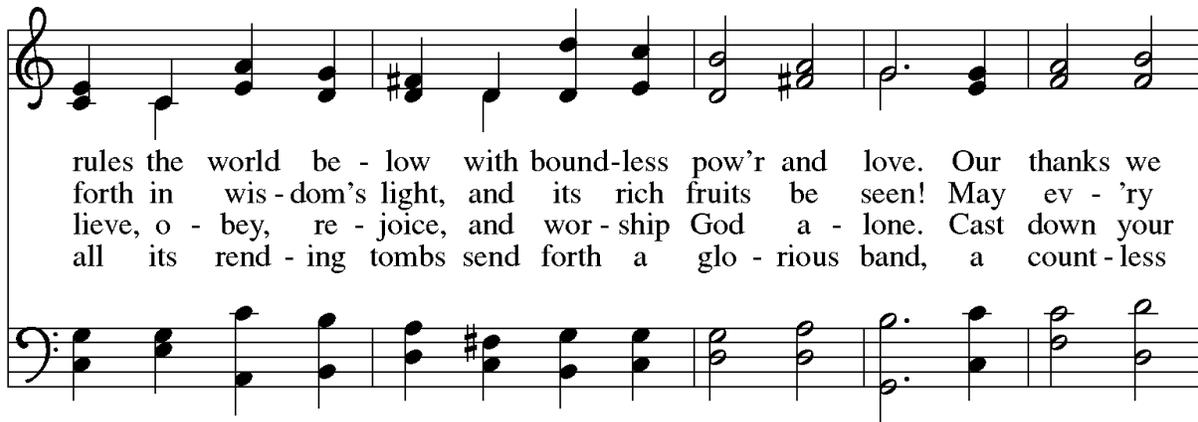
The final hymn, Before You, Lord, Be Bow has a text written by Francis Scott Key (1779-1843) author of "The Star-Spangled Banner." We offer it as a prayer for our nation and the entire world on this Independence Day weekend.

SENDING SONG # 893

Before You, Lord, We Bow



1 Be - fore you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns a - bove and
 2 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, each vale and for - est green, shine
 3 Earth, hear your mak - er's voice; your great re - deem - er own; be -
 4 And when in pow'r he comes, oh, may then ev - 'ry land from



rules the world be - low with bound-less pow'r and love. Our thanks we
 forth in wis - dom's light, and its rich fruits be seen! May ev - 'ry
 lieve, o - bey, re - jice, and wor - ship God a - lone. Cast down your
 all its rend - ing tombs send forth a glo - rious band, a count - less



bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise, to you we sing!
 tongue be tuned to praise and join to raise a grate - ful song.
 pride, your sin de - plore, and bow be - fore the Cru - ci - fied.
 throng, with joy to sing to heav'n's high king sal - va - tion's song!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love God and one another.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Fugue on “My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”

J.K. Paine

Even though we are not meeting in person, the church has many fixed expenses including staff salaries and care of the building. We are also continuing our congregational support to our partner congregation Mediator, Philadelphia, and the Ardmore Food Pantry. We encourage you to continue giving to support our ministry, as you are able to in these times. Checks can be mailed to the church office, or you can give online at www.stpaulsardmore.com/giving.





St. Paul's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Staff

The Rev. Kris A. Peterson – Bridge Pastor

Andrew K. Heller – Director of Music

Carisa Cantor – Parish Administrator

Evelyn Reider – Controller

Mike Dougherty – Cemetery Superintendent

Dave Curry – Cemetery and Property Caretaker

Runa Kennedy & Ally Ross – Nursery Caregivers

Helene Roth – Council President

kris.peterson@stpaulsardmore.org

andyheller@stpaulsardmore.org

carisa@stpaulsardmore.org

finance@stpaulsardmore.org

Telephones

Church Office – 610-642-3211;

Controller – 610-642-9166

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