

*Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
*Ardmore, Pennsylvania*  
*September 13, 2020*



***The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

Prelude

*Immortal, Invisible*

Robert Powell

*(Congregation speaks words in bold print)*

Announcements

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

*Gathering*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

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

*A time of silence for reflection*

**Faithful God, 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.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.  
**Amen.**

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

# 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.**

## 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

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## *Word*

Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

Reader/ A reading from Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing

today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Solo

Scott Houldin, tenor

*Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

Ruth Henderson

**HOLY GOSPEL**

**Matthew 18:21-35**

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what

had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

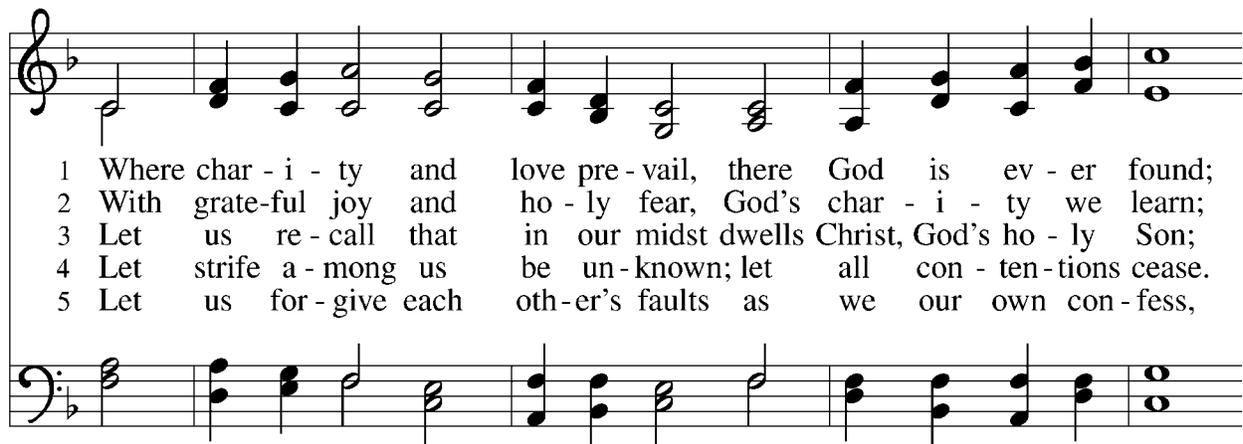
The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

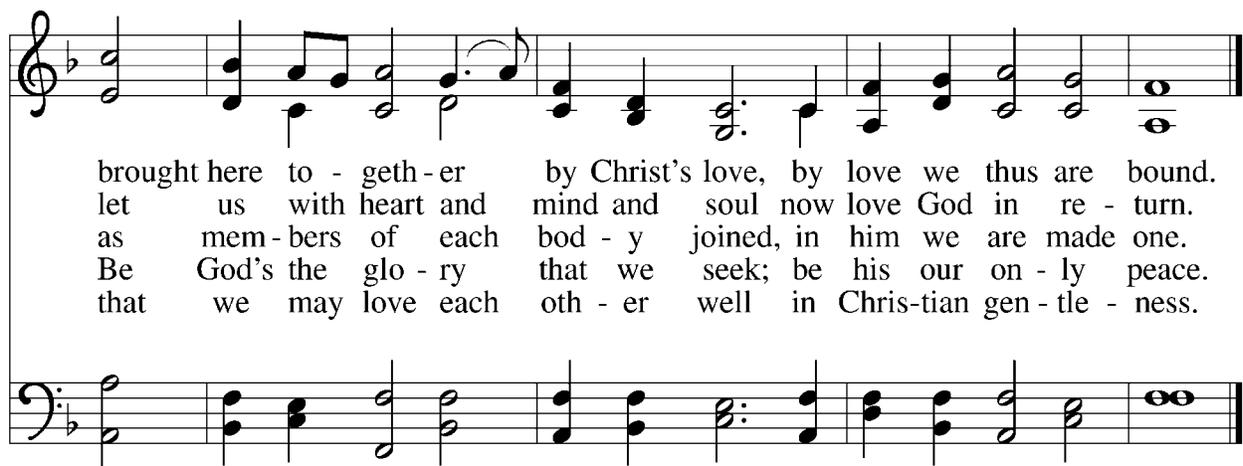
Pastor Tancredi

HYMN OF THE DAY # 359

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

## 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

Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.  
**Amen.**



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to  
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and  
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the  
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

*Processional*

*Peter Hurford*

*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](http://www.stpaulsardmore.com/giving).*







St. Paul's  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## The Staff

The Rev. Laura M. Tancredi – 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

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