

Announcements and Readings for Sunday, August 23, 2020

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God,

With all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

51 "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness
and who seek the LORD:

Look to the rock from which you were cut
and to the quarry from which you were hewn;

² look to Abraham, your father,
and to Sarah, who gave you birth.

When I called him he was only one man,
and I blessed him and made him many.

³ The LORD will surely comfort Zion
and will look with compassion on all her ruins;
he will make her deserts like Eden,
her wastelands like the garden of the LORD.

Joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

⁴ "Listen to me, my people;
hear me, my nation:

Instruction will go out from me;
my justice will become a light to the nations.

⁵ My righteousness draws near speedily,
my salvation is on the way,
and my arm will bring justice to the nations.

The islands will look to me
and wait in hope for my arm.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
look at the earth beneath;
the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment
and its inhabitants die like flies.

But my salvation will last forever,
my righteousness will never fail.

The Word of the Lord, C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 138 will be read responsively

¹ I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;
before the “gods” I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple
and will praise your name
for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,
for you have so exalted your solemn decree
that it surpasses your fame.**

³ When I called, you answered me;
you greatly emboldened me.

⁴ **May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD,
when they hear what you have decreed.**

⁵ May they sing of the ways of the LORD,
for the glory of the LORD is great.

⁶ **Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;
though lofty, he sees them from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life.

You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;
with your right hand you save me.

⁸ **The LORD will vindicate me;
your love, LORD, endures forever—
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

The Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

The Word of the Lord, **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Response C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord – C: Praise to You, O Christ.

ASSISTING MINISTER and LECTOR: Thom Cipro

GREETERS: Tim & Bev Brosenitsch

CHILDREN: Available on the back pew are coloring books and crayons.

CALENDAR

MONDAY 10:00 September newsletter info due in office
FRIDAY OFFICE WILL BE ON VACATION 8/28-9/5
SUNDAY 10:45 next Sunday, August 30, combined worship at Zion
(remember to bring a chair)

FOOD CUPBOARD – SUMMER NEEDS

Rice, Mac & Cheese, Canned fruit, Canned Vegetables, Meal kits, Jelly, Peanut Butter, Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta, dessert mixes, cereal, canned chicken.

WORSHIP NOTES

As we worship together once again, we want everyone to feel safe and comfortable during worship. Therefore, with that in mind the following steps will be taken:

We will sit every third pew to keep a safe distance from each other.

The offering plates will not be passed around, instead you will leave your offering in the plate as you leave worship along with the attendance form.

Hymns are also included in your bulletin as an insert. Hymns and liturgy will be sung by a cantor at this time. We will not have a Gathering Hymn. If you wish to sing along you may do so, but we request that you keep your mask on during any singing.

Communion will also be done together in the pews from the prepackaged wafer and juice you picked up on your way into the sanctuary. A waste receptacle will be on the table in the narthex for you to dispose of your communion as you leave worship.

Open the clear cellophane for the wafer first and then open the purple tab for the juice.

We have also purchased a supply of face masks that are available to anyone who needs one.

Included in your bulletin is an attendance form, please fill out and leave in the offering plate. This is to help us keep track of our members each Sunday.

COMBINED WORSHIP-NEXT SUNDAY AT ZION

On the fifth Sunday of August (August 30) we will have a combined worship with Zion Lutheran. The worship will be outside in the Zion picnic pavilion. Worship will be at 10:45. Everyone is to bring a lawn chair in order to be able to spread out and maintain safe distance requirements.

BIBLE STUDY

Beginning in September Pastor Tim will be starting a Bible discussion on the scripture readings for the following Sunday. You will have two different times to select from, one during the day and one in the evening. Tentatively the one in the evening will be at St. Paul and the one during the day at Zion. Please let Pastor Tim know if you are interested and which day works the best for you. You can also email the office at 215stpaul@gmail.com. Once we receive feedback from the congregations we will announce the place, time and date in both the bulletin and in the September newsletter.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Pastor Brewer will be celebrating his 50th anniversary of ordination this year, and will be recognized at the online Synod assembly in November. Pastor Brewer served as a pastor of St. Paul from 1989 to 2011. Beginning in 2017, in recognition of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the inauguration of the United Lutheran Seminary, the synod began honoring each of their pastors celebrating 50 years of ordination with a \$500 gift to the seminary toward a new scholarship that will in time honor each year's group of 50-year anniversary pastors and benefit seminarians just entering into public ministry in the church.

If you would like to send Pastor Brewer a congratulatory greeting, his address is 219 S. Pittsburgh Street, Zelienople. Those who wish to help fund the scholarship that will in time help a new generation of faithful servants of the Gospel with seminary expenses may certainly do so. Congratulatory greeting and scholarship contributions may be directed to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, 9625 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Please note in the memo line "50th" Anniversary Scholarship Fund.

CAMP LUTHERLYN

FREE ONLINE WEEK OF CAMP: Enjoy a FREE week of virtual camp for Day Camp/Small Fries (1st-3rd grade), Juniors (4th-6th grade), and Jr. High/Sr. High (7th-12th grade). Go to www.lutherlyn.com/virtualcamp for more info.

Weekly campfire every Thursday this summer. Visit their website for campfire.

You are invited to visit camp this summer. You can rent a cabin for a family retreat weekend or come for the day on a Thursday or Friday. There is even the opportunity to swim in the pool and go on a guided nature hike with Todd or Holly! Visit www.lutherlyn.com and select "Day and Overnight Visits to

Camp". They have just added more August dates. Reservations must be made by the Monday before your visit.

VISITORS

If you are a visitor, please feel free to take a copy of the newsletter in the pamphlet rack in the narthex. We welcome all visitors and invite you to make our church your church.