

Announcements and Readings for Sunday, September 13, 2020

THE 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.

The First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

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

Psalm 103:8-13 will be read responsively

⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

⁹ **He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;**

¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ **For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;**

¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

¹³ **As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;**

The Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

¹ Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ² One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹ It is written:

“‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord,
‘every knee will bow before me;
every tongue will acknowledge God.’”

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

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

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

Gospel Response **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

ASSISTING MINISTER and LECTOR: Bev Brosenitsch

GREETER: Eileen Saunders

BELL RINGER: Tim Brosenitsch

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

CALENDAR

MONDAY 7:00 Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY 6:30 Bible Study at St. Paul

THURSDAY 1:00 Bible Study at Zion Lutheran

ALTAR FLOWERS

Are Given to the Glory of God by Thom and Colleen Cipro in loving memory of her mother, Agnes Zikeli, birthday today.

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.

FOOD CUPBOARD – SEPTEMBER NEEDS

Taco Dinner Kits

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will be every Wednesday at St. Paul starting this coming Wednesday at 6:30 PM at St. Paul's. The same Bible Study will also be offered at Zion on Thursday, September 17 at 1:00 PM.

Pastor Tim will be leading the Bible study and we will be discussing the lectionary readings for the coming Sunday. Please join us at either Zion or here at St. Paul depending on which time works best for your schedule.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

We need 3 voting members to represent St. Paul for the 2020 Synod Assembly. The Assembly will take place on Saturday, November 14 via ZOOM meetings. Please see Pastor Tim if you are interested or have any questions.

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.

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39). Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with Lutheran Social Services of Southern California and Lutheran Social Services of Northern California, along with the three California synods to assess the situation and determine the best ways to respond.

If you would like to give a donation to Lutheran Disaster, please make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran and leave your donation in the white pew envelope. Mark on the memo line or on the envelope California Wildfires.

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VISITORS

We welcome all visitors and invite you to make our church your church.

