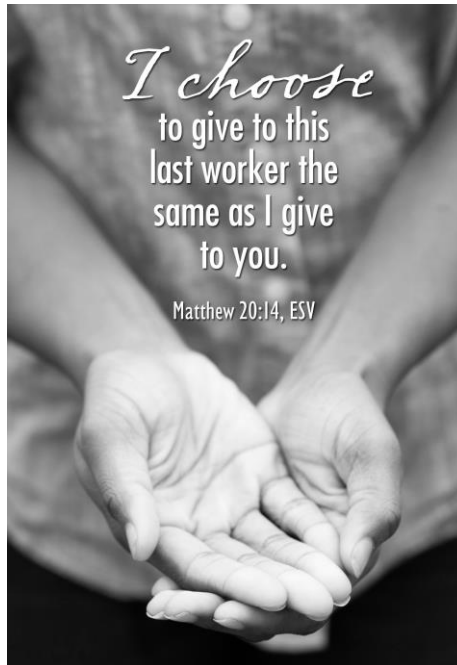


Welcome to St. Paul's The Lord Bless You as You Worship!



***The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 2023***

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
135 Hamilton Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527
315-536-8165
email: office@stpaulspennyan.org
website: www.stpaulspennyan.org
Rev. Lori Nickoloff, Pastor

Enter to Listen, Exit to Serve

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We're glad you're here! May you experience God's love through the words you hear and sing, the meal you eat, and the fellowship of God's people.

Prayer Requests If you have a prayer request, please give a note to the ushers or send an email to Pastor Lori.

Face Masks Are optional however, just a friendly reminder...please wear a mask in the building if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19/experiencing any kind of respiratory or flu-like symptoms. Masks are available on the table in the narthex in case you forget yours as home. Thank you!

Holy Communion All are welcome to receive our Lord as he comes to us in Holy Communion. The method of reception for Communion today will be "Continuous Communion at the Rail". For those who for whatever reason are unable to drink the wine, glasses of juice are placed in the center of the tray. Please let the pastor know if you would like gluten free bread. Those who prefer not to commune may come forward for a blessing.

Pew Cushions Are available on the pew in the back of the sanctuary.

Hearing Assistance Individual hearing devices are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please return the device at the end of worship so they can be sanitized.

Offering You can place your offering in the offering plate or in the wooden offering depository that is located in the back of the sanctuary.

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We Worship God

Welcome

Prelude:

“Dundee”

Healey Willan

The prelude is a time for people to become quiet, to meditate and pray, and to prepare their hearts and minds to worship God. You are invited to pray this prayer to help you transition from the cares and activities of daily life to worshipping the Living God:

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Please stand as you are able)

Call to Worship

P: God calls us into the vineyard,

All: **For there is much work to be done.**

P: No matter when we get there,

All: **God rewards us with generosity.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: God of all,

All: **You have called us into the beloved community and charged us with the care of our neighbor. Yet time and again we have failed to follow in your way. We have been complicit in injustice and oppression. We have been silent while others suffer. We have denied you in our denial of any one of your children. Forgive us our self-serving fear and inaction and fill us with courage and passion on behalf of the world.**

P: The Holy Spirit cleanses us with water and fire and we are made new each day. Know that your sins are forgiven for the sake of Jesus Christ, whose death in the name of love makes us one as God is one.

All: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn:

As Saints of Old

#695

1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
 3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day

to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
 to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
 to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.

so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
 The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
 O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,

of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
 a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
 teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.
 Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958.
 Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise:

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;". The second staff continues the lyrics: "glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.". The third staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "I Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we". The fourth staff continues the lyrics: "wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.". The fifth staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;". The sixth staff continues the lyrics: "glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.". The seventh staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "II Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,". The eighth staff continues the lyrics: "Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the". The ninth staff continues the lyrics: "world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the". The tenth staff continues the lyrics: "right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.".

☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

☐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Prayer of the Day

P: Gracious God,

All: You call us all into your holy work, and reward according to your generosity, rather than our deserving. Give us the same heart of generosity toward others, in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Please be seated)

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

A: Let us pray,

All: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Psalm 105

A: How great is my God,

All: **and how I love to sing His praises!**

A: Whereas I am often frightened when I think about the future and confused and disturbed by the rapidly changing world around me,

All: **my heart is secured and made glad when I remember how God has cared for me throughout the past.**

A: When I came from my mother's womb,

All: **God's hand was on me.**

A: Through parents and people who cared,

All: **He loved and sheltered me and set me on His course for my life.**

A: Through illness and accident,

All: **My God has sustained me.**

A: Around pitfalls and precipice

All: **He has safely led me.**

A: When I became rebellious and struck out on my own,

All: He waited patiently for me to return.
A: When I fell on my face in weakness and failure,
All: He gently set me on my feet again.
A: He did not always prevent me from hurting myself,
All: but he comforted me and healed my wounds.
A: Even out of the broken pieces of my defeats,
All: He created a vessel of beauty and usefulness.
A: Through trials and errors, failures and successes, my God has cared for me.
All: From infancy to adulthood, He has never let me go.
A: His love has led me-or carried me-through the valleys of sorrow and the highlands of joy,
All: through times of want and years of abundance.
A: He has bridged impassible rivers and moved impossible mountains.
All: Sometimes through me, sometimes despite me, He seeks to accomplish His purposes for my life.
A: He has kept me through the stormy past;
All: He will secure and guide me through the perilous future.
A: I never need to be afraid,
All: No matter how uncertain the months or years ahead of me.
A: How great is my God,
All: And how I love to sing His praises!

From Psalms /Now by Leslie F. Brandt

Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the

privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have

A: Word of God, Word of life.

All: Thanks be to God!

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

#181

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

Hal - le - lu - jah.

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with the lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah' repeated throughout. The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic background.

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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The Gospel

P: The Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Rev. Debbie Johnson


Hymn of the Day:

Faith Begins by Letting Go


#1004 ACS



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ry's roots a - live
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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(Please stand as you are able)

The Apostles' Creed

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

All: 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

A: Together with the whole Body of Christ throughout the world, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: Loving God, Jesus taught us of the love you so generously give us, though we cannot earn it. Receive our humble gratitude for your abundant blessings. God of all that is,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

A: Teach us to lavish extravagant care on all that you have made. Make this planet whole for the benefit of all who call it home. God of all that is,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

A: Give our leaders the spirit of your generosity, that they might strive to put in place systems of economics that do not victimize some for the benefit of others. God of all that is,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

A: Heal all who are in need of your care and attention; all those who hurt in body, mind, or spirit, (especially). God of all that is,

All: **You hear our prayer.**

A: As we reflect on the ways we desire to change, help us also to see the ways we show up just the way we should. Help us to live contentedly with ourselves and with all people. God of all that is,

All: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We thank you for all the saints who have labored in your vineyard for the sake of the gospel. Give us that same commitment until we all taste the fruits of your sacred vine together. God of all that is,

All: Hear our prayer.

P: We lift these prayers to you, Gracious God, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, our savior.

All: Amen.

Sharing of Peace

P: The Lord of peace give you peace at all times and in all ways.

All: And also to you.

Please turn to the people near you to offer a gesture of peace and the greeting, "God's peace be with you!" You are also encouraged to turn to the back of the sanctuary and greet the worshippers on Zoom with a wave or gesture of peace.

Offering

*This month our Local Hunger Offering will be given to **Millie's Pantry**.*

Offertory Music

"The Holy Presence"

Gilbert M Martin

Offertory Hymn:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

#184

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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Offertory Prayer

A: O God, do not let us think we can decide what others deserve to have.

All: Give us hearts as generous as yours, that we might offer our gifts in service to your children with no strings attached. Bless what we bring before you today, for your work of compassion and justice in the world. Amen.

We Share God's Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

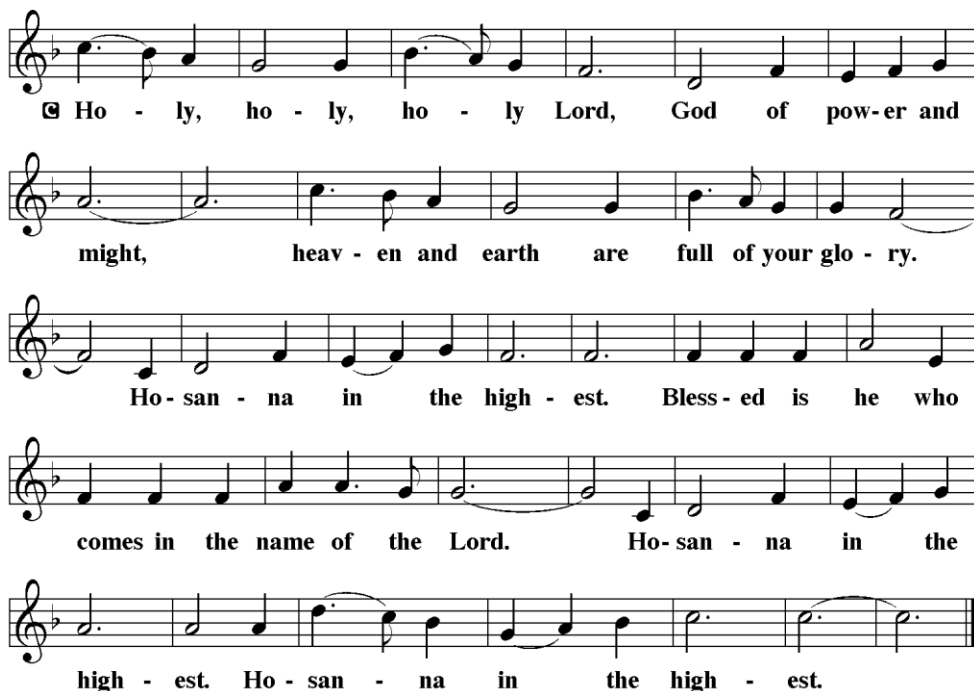
P: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: We lift our hearts to you, Gracious God, because you made the dazzling creation out of nothing, yet made us to share eternity with you. In covenant love you called your chosen people to an imagination as plentiful as the stars in the sky and the sands of the desert. Your Son Jesus transformed our hearts from the scarcity of mammon to the wondrous abundance of manna, and through the church you gather us to share in the holy feast where your grace abounds for all, forever. His cross and resurrection turn the emptiness sin into the fullness of everlasting life. And so we join with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise



P: We give you thanks and praise, Lord God, for in your Son Jesus you became the true bread from heaven, the manna sustaining us in every wilderness, the bread of abundant life that never runs out. Send down your Holy Spirit upon us now, that we might become living bread for your hungry world. Give us your very self in these gifts of bread and wine and make them for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." Great is the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

P: Ever-bountiful God, listen to the hunger of your children and nourish their true life in you. Draw near to those who toil for daily wages and all who wonder where they will find daily bread. Bless any whose days are spent looking for

work or waiting for hire. Give each of your sons and daughters a place in your kingdom and fruitful work in your vineyard, not only for a passing day but for eternity. By your Holy Spirit in your holy church, make the labors of our hands tell the good news of your harvest of plenty, and hasten the day when in one great sharing around your table with your people throughout the ages we shall taste and see that you are good. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: 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.

Eucharistic Invitation

P: Christ calls us into service for the sake of the world, and nourishes us on his own body and blood. Come share in the feast of generosity that knows no bounds. This holy meal is for you. Come and eat.

All: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymns During Communion:

<i>To Be Your Presence</i>	#546
<i>We Eat the Bread of Teaching</i>	#518
<i>You Are Mine</i>	#581

Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen

Prayer After Communion:

A: We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever.

All: Amen

We Leave to Serve

Announcements

Benediction

P: Go out from here as workers in God's upside-down kingdom, where the last are first and the first are last, where needs are met in miraculous ways, and there is grace enough for all! And may the blessing of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit surround you and sustain you in the coming days.

All: **Amen.**

Litany

L: We have lived our whole lives in the faith.

All: **We are new to everything, open to learning.**

L: We have sweated and toiled for this community.

All: **We have not yet done much service.**

L: We have built everything you see here.

All: **We have new ideas for changes.**

L: Surely we are of more value, our opinions carry more weight.

All: **Don't we have a say in how we do God's work in the world?**

L: God has given us all an equal wage, no matter when we have arrived in the vineyard.

All: **We are grateful for God's great generosity.**

L: We, too, can be grateful for it, and live generously in response.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand to sing the hymn and turn to face the flame as it exits the church)

Sending Hymn:

Rise Up, Oh Saints of God

#669

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
 as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
 re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
 stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
 and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
 Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893
 Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Sending

A: Go in peace. Share the good news
 All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

“Come Christians Join and Sing”

Lani Smith