

And out of
pity for him,
the master of
that servant
released
him and



for
gave

him the debt.

MATTHEW 18:27, ESV



St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran – Sept. 13, 2020

120 North 8th Street, Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 8am-12pm, 1-5pm

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Listen live on WYNT 95.9 FM or on demand at www.stpaulupper.org

****Please note that there will be no congregational singing. The congregation WILL respond to the Confession and Forgiveness, Responsive Psalm, recite the Apostles' Creed, and respond to the prayers. Please follow all directions of the ushers and keep your masks on at all times while in the building. If you would like to bring your hymnal from home, we encourage you to do so. Please take everything with you from your pew and dispose of it at home.*

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE *"Blest Are They That Dwell in Thy House" Thomas*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & 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.

Silence is kept 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.**

GATHERING SONG: "*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*" (cantors)

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might; thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all; we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light; thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight; all laud we would render; oh, help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth 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.

KYRIE & CANTICLE OF PRAISE (sung by cantor)

p. 213-215

PRAYER OF THE DAY

SPECIAL MUSIC by Reagan Rowe

+ WORD +

FIRST READING:

Genesis 50:15-21

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 103:8-13

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

⁹He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

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

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

¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung by cantors)

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

...This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Barry Halter, Jr.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "*You Are Mine*" (sung by cantors)

1 "I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear. You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be still and know I am here."

2 "I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me."

Refrain: "Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine."

3 "I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame. All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know my name." *Refrain*

4 "I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give. I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand up, now walk and live!" *Refrain*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

*Following each petition: ...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

SHARING OF THE PEACE WITH NO CONTACT

+ THANKSGIVING +

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERING MUSIC by Erica Ruhlen

OFFERING PRAYER

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING (sung by cantors) p. 219-220

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD p. 220
For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER p. 221

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

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

SENDING SONG: "O Christ, Our Hope" (sung by cantors)

1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire, creation's mighty Lord, redeemer of the fallen world, by holy love outpoured, by holy love outpoured:

2 How vast your mercy to accept the burden of our sin, and bow your head in cruel death to make us clean within, to make us clean within.

3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ransom has been paid; you reign above at God's right hand, in robes of light arrayed, in robes of light arrayed.

4 Oh, let your mighty love prevail to purge us of our pride, that we may stand before your throne by mercy purified, by mercy purified.

5 All praise to you, ascended Lord; all glory ever be to Father, Son, and Spirit blest through all eternity, through all eternity!

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. Serve the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE "My Presence Shall Go With Thee" Carrington

PASTOR BARRY'S ORDINATION will take place Saturday, September, 19th at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Recovery, OH at 2pm. Weather permitting, it will be held outside. Bring your lawn chair or you can sit in your car and listen on the radio. If it's raining, it will be inside and seating is very limited so there won't be room for us. Then he will be installed here next Sunday during worship. Bishop Daniel Beaudoin will be here to preach and perform the installation. We will be taking up a collection for the Northwestern Ohio Discipleship Initiative along with the normal offering. In order to accommodate Pastor Barry's invited guests and as many of you as possible it is critical that you call the office by noon this Friday so that we can save a place for you. The protocols of masks and social distancing will continue to be enforced. You may begin to arrive at 9:15. Remember to practice distancing as you enter the building and make your way to the sanctuary.

PRAYER CONCERNS: the family and friends of Eva Pahl, Joyce Koehler, Jim Pfeifer, Mary Orwick, Tim & Karen Koehler, Jim Gottfried, Pastor John Kerr, Wyandot Cares

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Ed & Virginia Berberick on the passing of Virginia's sister, Eva Pahl. Please keep her family in your prayers.

TO MEMBERS OF ST. PAUL, Thank you for your acceptance; Thank you for your graciousness and gifts; Thank you for your support. I will continue to pray for a successful ministry with Pastor Barry.
~Gene Luidhardt, SAM

THE FAIR WORSHIP SERVICE will be taking place tonight at 7pm in a modified version. The service will be held in the parking lot on the south side of the Masters' Building and broadcast via a low-power FM transmitter. Everyone is asked to park facing the building and remain in their cars. Instructions will be given about tuning in the car radio for the service. The guest speaker will be Dr. Scott Cisar of Sycamore Medical Associates and Wyandot Memorial Hospital. No offering will be collected, but all are encouraged to make a donation to the Jr. Fair Board or a charity of choice.

WELCA NEWS: Thank you to everyone who donated items to finish off the 50 school kits for LWR! A big thanks to Lisa Bricely of Quest Federal Credit Union who completed the last several kits!

THE MISSION OUTREACH line on your offering envelope for September will go to the Christian Food Center in loving memory of Darlene Schaadt.

CHRISTIAN FOOD CENTER: We are collecting canned fruit during September. Please put your donations on the table in the vestibule.

CARD SHOWER: The family of Helen Stalter has asked that we shower her with cards for her 100th birthday which was on September 11th. Her address is: Helen Stalter, 850 Marseilles Avenue, Upper Sandusky.

Deep Waters of Forgiveness

Churches have different practices around baptism. In some churches, a small bowl holds just enough water to trickle a few drops over the head. In others, the bowl is wider and the water is splashed with the whole hand. In yet other churches, the person is fully immersed in a font large enough for them to go all the way underwater. Sometimes the water stays in the bowl, sometimes a bit splashes out, and sometimes the whole area around the font gets wet. But no matter the amount of water used, there's always more where it comes from. God's waters of forgiveness run deeper than we will ever know.

The waters of baptism are so deep that even a few sprinkles cover a lifetime of falling short. We are forgiven time and again for a myriad of sins. And because the weight of sin has been lifted from us, we are free to extend such forgiveness to others.

In fact, our faith depends on it. In the Lord's Prayer, our petition for forgiveness is directly tied to our own willingness to forgive others: "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." Thankfully, we are not expected to conjure up such forgiveness on our own. We draw from the endless supply of divine reserves. Where we, and Peter, might have difficulty forgiving a mere seven times, Jesus reminds us that his kind of forgiveness can be measured on an exponential scale.

While our capacity for forgiveness may be limited, Jesus' well of forgiveness is deep enough for all people and all matters of sin. When we find ourselves struggling to extend forgiveness to others, we return to the baptismal font. This is an overflowing well of love. Drawing from this water, we draw from the limitless supply of forgiveness.

Remembering our baptism, we are reminded not only that we are forgiven, but that we, too, are agents of forgiveness in the world.