



**ST. PAUL'S**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Sunday, September 20, 2020**  
**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

11:00 a.m. Digital Worship

[www.facebook.com/SPLutherville](http://www.facebook.com/SPLutherville) and [www.stpaulslutherville.org](http://www.stpaulslutherville.org)

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

*Welcome to our simple worship service to gather as a community online since we can't gather in person! If you haven't already done so, take a moment to quiet your space by turning down/off other devices, lighting a candle, grabbing your Bible, and breathe a bit before we start.*

*If you're joining the live feed, comment to "say hello" and connect with one another. Feel free to use the "share" button so others can join in, and to help spread the reach of our ministry!*

**PRELUDE: *Make Me a Servant*** by Kelly Willard

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**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.

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: 10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)** by: Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me, Let me be singing when the evening comes

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger, Your name is great, and Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing, Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name

And on that day when my strength is failing, The end draws near and my time has come  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending, Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name

Yes, I will worship Your holy name ~ Lord, I'll worship Your holy name

**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**WORD**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Children of all ages are welcome to come and gather close to the screen to join in a message just for them! After we pray together, they will be invited to rejoin others in their home for the readings.*

### **FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11**

*After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?*

A reading from Jonah.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what the people of Ninevah did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8**

A reading from the Psalms.

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup>Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!  
There is no end to your greatness.

<sup>4</sup>One generation shall praise your works to another  
and shall declare your power.

<sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty  
and all your marvelous works.

<sup>6</sup>They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,  
and I will recount your greatness.

<sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30**

*Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians:

Paul writes: <sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>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, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>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, <sup>28</sup>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. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

*Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>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?' <sup>7</sup>They said to him, 'Because no one

has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup>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.' <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>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.' <sup>13</sup>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? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *The Power of Your Love*** by Geoff Bullock

Lord, I come to You, let my heart be changed, renewed,  
Flowing from the grace that I've found in You  
And Lord I've come to know, the weaknesses I see in me  
Will be stripped away, by the pow'r of Your love.

Hold me close, let Your love surround me Bring me near, draw me to Your side  
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle, And I will soar with you, Your spirit leads me on  
In the pow'r of You love

Lord, unveil my eyes, let me see You face to face  
The knowledge of Your love, as You live in me  
Lord renew my mind as Your will unfolds, in my life  
In living every day, in the pow'r of Your Love

Hold me close, let Your love surround me, Bring me near, draw me to Your side  
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle, And I will soar with you, Your spirit leads me on  
In the pow'r of Your love

## **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.

**Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Strengthen those who suffer for Christ. We pray for leaders throughout the whole Church: for our church-wide bishop, Elizabeth, and our local bishop, William. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy, tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. We pray for the service women and men of our country. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer**

Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need. Continue to guide the work of our LEAD journey: for the community partners your Spirit has led us to, and for the deepening of a relationship with our neighbor. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You are present with what remains in our hearts and minds, and share what we need to hear. Listen to us as we offer these additional prayers, concerns, and thanksgivings to you — with our voices, in our hearts, and within this space... Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

## **SENDING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN: *Indescribable* by Laura Story & Jesse Reeves**

From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea  
Creation's revealing Your majesty  
From the colors of Fall to the fragrance of Spring  
Ev'ry creature unique in the song that it sings  
All exclaiming

Indescribable uncontainable, You placed the stars in the sky  
And You know them by name, You are amazing God  
All powerful untamable, Awestruck we fall to our knees  
As we humbly proclaim, You are amazing God  
  
Who has told ev'ry lightning bolt where it should go  
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow  
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light  
Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night  
None can fathom

Indescribable uncontainable, You placed the stars in the sky  
And You know them by name, You are amazing God  
All powerful untamable, Awestruck we fall to our knees  
As we humbly proclaim, You are amazing God  
(You are amazing God)

Indescribable uncontainable, You placed the stars in the sky  
And You know them by name, You are amazing God  
In comp'able unchangeable, You see the depths of my heart  
And You love me the same, You are amazing God  
You are amazing God

#### **DISMISSAL**

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

*As you go into the rest of your day...*

#### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

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#### **OFFERING**

God has given us so much! The Offering is the opportunity for us to share some of those gifts for the work of the church and the needs of the world. Thank you for your generosity!

We encourage you to contribute your offering to help sharing in the ongoing mission and work of the church through making an online offering at [www.stpaulslutherville.org](http://www.stpaulslutherville.org). You can also mail your offerings in to the church office - we have a secured mailbox which is checked regularly.



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**TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

*Thank you for helping to lead our worship service this morning!*

Reader, First Lesson	Mary Anne Karmann
Reader, Psalm	Mary Anne Karmann
Reader, Second Lesson	Mary Anne Karmann
Prayer Leader	Anne South
Contemporary Musician, Guitar	Steve Dooley