

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 652-6700

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E-mail: stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com

MINISTERS: Every Member

PASTOR: The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191



8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2020

MISSION STATEMENT: Nourished by Word and Sacrament, the mission of the members of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to spread God's Word in Jesus Christ through our thoughts, words, and actions, proclaiming God's good news for all to hear and live.

Please silence all electronic devices.

WELCOME! Please sign the Friendship Register (Red Folder) located in the hymnal rack and pass it on to your neighbors. Please observe Silent Meditation during the Prelude.

PERSONAL HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE. Please see an usher if you have trouble hearing the service.

INTRODUCTION

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *O God, Beyond All Praising*

*~G. Holst, set.
R. Nelson*

HYMN #880 *O, God, Beyond All Praising*
Organ Only – No Singing

Stand **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,

whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.**

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.**

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life.

C Amen.

P Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through + Christ Jesus,

through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Greeting

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

C And also with you

Spoken **Hymn of Praise**

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth.

Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth;

we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY—Let us pray. . .

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of
your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By
your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that
comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

WORD

Sit **FIRST READING— 1 Kings 3:5-12**

*Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies,
God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.*

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and
God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You
have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David,
because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in
uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great
and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne
today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king
in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not
know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of
the people whom you have chosen, a great people,

so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

READ IN UNISON

**Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.
I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.
Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.
Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.
Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING — Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 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.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Stand Spoken

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.**

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew the 13th Chapter

C Glory to you O Lord

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN #775 Jesus, Priceless Treasure
Organ Only

Stand **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.

The Prayers

A Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
A Jesus Christ our Lord
C **Amen.**

PEACE

The Peace is the link between the proclamation of the Word and the sharing of the Eucharistic meal. Our unity and mutual forgiveness come from Christ whose Word has just been proclaimed and whose meal we now prepare to share. We pray for the peace of the Lord for each other. "Due to the heightened risk of flu or other illness, please practice a "non-contract" sharing of the Peace untill further notice.

P Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that comes from Christ control your thoughts. And be grateful. (Colossians 3:15)
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

MEAL

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of goodness and growth,
C **all creation is yours,**
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
Water and word, wine and bread:
these are signs of your abundant grace.
Nourish us through these gifts,
that we might proclaim your steadfast love

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you,
And also with you
Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right. . .

Spoken **HOLY HOLY HOLY**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the
highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Invitation to Communion

P Friends of Jesus.
Receive nourishment for your journey

Spoken **Lamb Of God**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit **Communion Distribution**

Stand **COMMUNION BLESSING**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER—Let us pray. . .

A God of the welcome table,
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness
and have been united by your presence among us.
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P 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.

God, the creator, + Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

C **Amen**

Sit **HYMN #759 My Faith Looks up to Thee**
Organ Only

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **We will. Thanks be to God.**

Please Remain Seated Till Dismissed

POSTLUDE *God Be With You Til We Meet Again*

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If you are already enrolled consider increasing the amount at this time. Forms are available in the narthex and on bulletin boards, or ask at the office.

ONLINE GIVING - is also available on our website, stmarksharrisburg.org. Click the GIVE tab and follow the instructions. **ON LINE GIVING IS SEPARATE FROM SIMPLY GIVING.** If you use both you will be giving twice. Changes to SIMPLY GIVING must, for the time being, be made by paper form only. Thanks for your generous stewardship.

Opening Now for a **TEACHER AIDE!**

* We're looking to fill a spot in our 2 year old class. Part time **TUESDAY** and **THURSDAY** mornings.



Experience preferred but not necessary.

Please send resume to:



Follow the Lamb...

St. Mark's Nursery School

4200 Londonderry Rd. Hbg. Pa 17109
Call For more information
(717) 672 - 6700
www.stmarksharrisburg.org/nursery

Questions please call 717-652-6700 or email resumes to: stmarknurseryschool@gmail.com

Operating Receipts thru May: \$118,014

Payments made thru May: \$114,336

Attendance: 07/19/2020 45

We look forward to continued support of our mission through your generous response to God's gifts given to us.

FOR VISITORS AND OTHERS not on our mailing list: There are copies of St. Mark's Newsletter "The Parish Post" available in the narthex along with other information in the literature racks.

FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT BOTH ENTRANCES TO THE SANCTUARY. In order to try and save on paper and an overload of inserts in the Sunday Bulletins, we are placing the following, order forms on a bulletin board (located at both entrances to the sanctuary) where you can pick-up the forms that specifically interest you.

ST. MARK'S MEDITATION GARDEN BRICKS - Cost \$35.00 per brick (no limit). Order forms are available at both entrances to the sanctuary. Bricks can be purchased anytime throughout the year.

Memorial Service for Judee Leister, will be on Friday, July 31, 2020, at 4:00 pm.

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary

ST. MARK'S AGAPE' FUND, from which we provide help for members and others in immediate need, is running low on funds. This is a designated fund supported by members' contributions. If you would like to contribute to the Agape' fund, please mark your check or envelope "AGAPE FUND and place it in the offering plate, drop it off or mail it to the office, or give it to Pastor Jim. Thank you.

Altar Flowers and Bulletins are In Memory of Paul Stouffer's, heavenly birthday given by his loving wife, Margie Stouffer.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

MINISTER OF MUSIC - Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk

MINISTER OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

- Bennett Williams

YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER - Kellen Michalowski

ALTAR CARE - ;

USHERS - Don Young, Doug Womer, Ed Shadle, Chris Bair, Dennis Dinger, Dave Featherman

GREETERS -

COMMUNION ASST -

WORSHIP ASST -

LECTORS - Jeanne Flickinger; Judy Horton

FLOWER DELIVERY - Zara Bennett

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Stephanie Carl

NURSERY SCHL DIRECTOR - Pam Baranowski 671-4855

SEXTON - Don Young

READINGS for August 2, 2020:

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalm: 145:8-9, 14-21

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

Gospel: Matthew Matthew 14:13-21