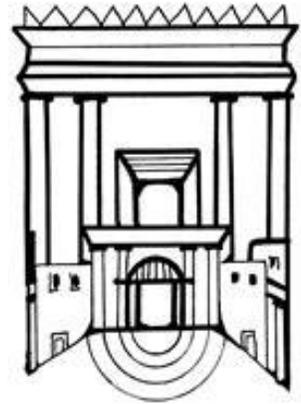


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
15733 Dover Road  
Upperco, Maryland 21155  
**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 27, 2020**



Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

**Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

**Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**Amen**

**Liturgy of the Word**

Gathering Hymn #625 Come, We that Love the Lord (vs. 1, 2 & 3)

**Come, we that love the Lord,  
and let our joys be known;  
join in a song with sweet accord,  
join in a song with sweet accord,  
and thus surround the throne,  
and thus surround the throne.  
We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
we're marching upward to Zion,  
the beautiful city of God.**

**Let those refuse to sing  
who never knew our God;  
but children of the heav'nly King,  
but children of the heav'nly King  
may tell their joys abroad,  
may tell their joys abroad.  
We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
we're marching upward to Zion,  
the beautiful city of God.**

**The hill of Zion yields  
a thousand sacred sweets  
before we reach the heav'nly fields,  
before we reach the heav'nly fields,  
or walk the golden streets,  
or walk the golden streets.  
We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
we're marching upward to Zion,  
the beautiful city of God.**

## 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

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## First Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

<sup>1</sup> If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death -- even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

## \* Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia.* My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me. *Alleluia.*

## \* Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

<sup>23</sup> When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup> "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup> He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

\* Response: Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #607 Come Ye Disconsolate (vs. 1 & 3)

**Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish;  
come to the mercy-seat, fervently kneel.  
here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish;  
earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot heal.**

**Here see the bread of life; see waters flowing  
forth from the throne of God, pure from above.  
Come to the feast of love; come, ever knowing  
earth has no sorrow but heav'n can remove.**

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Sermon: "Make My Joy Complete"

Prayers of the Church

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

In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions, change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit especially whose names we speak aloud (*pause for quiet prayer*), in our hearts (*again pause...*) and those whose names fill the list of ongoing prayer concerns of this community of faith. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn this congregation toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community; make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

### \* Great Thanksgiving

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 our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### \* The Lord's Prayer

Communion Distribution

Post-Communion Blessing and Prayer

The Blessing

Sending Hymn #818 O Master Let Me Walk With You (vs. 1, 3 & 4)

**O Master, let me walk with you  
in lowly paths of service true;  
tell me your secret; help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

**Teach me your patience; share with me  
a closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong.**

**In hope that sends a shining ray  
far down the future's broad'ning way;  
in peace that only you can give,  
with you O Master, let me live.**

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Sending

*\*Denotes to Stand*

## We Welcome All Our Visitors and Friends to Our Worship Service Today

To all of you, we extend an invitation to return often, your presence is a blessing to us; we hope that soon we will be able to worship together again. Do come and be with us. If you are interested in becoming a member, please see or call Pastor Carl. All are welcomed to the Lord's Table for Holy Communion or to receive a blessing.

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## Please keep the following individuals in your prayers

**Members:** Mark, Calvin & Mary, Hazel, Ruth, Jen, Maidie, Vivian, Colton, Bud, Carolyn & John, Carlina, Shriver, Andy, Hannah, Denise, Glenys, Matthew, Nadine, Moore family, Neuheisel family, Gene, Geldmacher family, and all homebound members.

**Family & Friends:** Jerry, Bernie & Chris, Nunan Family, Mike, Darlene, Frank, Erin, Clyde, Kary, Gloria, Jim & Barbara, Kevin, Jack & Elinor, Liz, Heidi, Peggy, Laura, Bruce & Jamie, Karen, Caroline, Sonia, Addison, Regina, Libby, Minor Family, Dottie, Just, Narda, those facing job loss, and those in broken relationships.

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## Weekly Offering and Attendance

- [Donate online via Tithe.ly](#)
- *In person during outdoor worship*
- *Send offering by mail:  
15773 Dover Road  
Upperco, MD 21155*



Attendance – September 20<sup>th</sup>

- In Person – 19
  - Online Video – 25 views
- 

## Happening this Week

**MLR Walkathon & Virtual Cookie Run**, Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. [Register on the MLR website.](#)

## Upcoming Events

**Virtual Sunday School via Zoom**, Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. Hope you will join us!

## Outdoor In-Person Worship



- ❖ Services will be held in the Pavilion, Sundays at 9am.
- ❖ A check-in person will perform a brief temperature check as you arrive.
- ❖ Seating is 6 feet apart (families can sit together).
  - Use the picnic tables in the pavilion
  - Bring your own lawn chair to sit in the grassy area if you prefer
- ❖ Please wear a mask at all times.
- ❖ Hand sanitizer will be available.
- ❖ Bulletins will be emailed prior to the service for you to print, if desired.
- ❖ There will be a safe and no-contact communion and offering.
- ❖ Services may be cancelled due to inclement weather.

**We will still offer the online recorded services each week for those that can't / shouldn't attend the in-person services. Please choose what is best for you, your health, your risk level, and your family.**

**Online services : <http://stpaulsupperco.org>**

Please stay home if you are feeling ill.  
Immediately contact the church if you test positive for COVID after recently attending a service, so we may implement steps for rapid contact tracing.