

St. Paul's Epistle – August 2020

The Always “Normal” State of the Church

Through all the changing scenes of things that can possibly happen in this world (wars, rumors of war, pandemics, famines, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tornados, you name it), the Church always has the same response—share the precious, saving Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and deed. In that way, our response is always “normal.” Come what may, the Gospel always needs to be proclaimed and shared with those around us locally and around the world.

We can become concerned when we are not given the opportunity to regularly meet as a congregation. We can become flustered when the events taking place in the world are worse than we ever thought possible. We can become complacent when things are really going well in the world and think that our mission to “lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,” really needs to wait for a more opportune time. And, we can become discouraged when every manner of trial, trouble and difficulty comes upon us and we really don't know how to cope with it all.

St. Paul, in writing to the Philippian Christians, states, “I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content” (Phil. 4:11b). He can say this because he knows “I can do all things through Him [Christ] who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:13). No matter what would/could come his way, the Lord Jesus Christ was his Rock and Redeemer. And as he told the Roman Christians, “nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:39).

So, no matter what may be the circumstance, test, or situation, we know what our marching orders are: “Stand up, stand up for Jesus...lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss.” Or as another hymn we sing puts it, “Through the Church the song goes on.” Any questions about what we should be doing?

*Lo, the apostles' holy train, Join Thy sacred name to hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain, And the white-robed martyrs follow,
And from morn to set of sun, **Through the Church the song goes on.***

LSB 940:3

Pastor
Poganski

Worship Notes

Praise to You, O Lord, for Your daily goodness and mercy,

Renew our hearts with thankfulness to You.

Alert us to the needs of others around us.

Inspire us to worship You in spirit and in truth.

Save us from our own sins from death, and from the devil.

Energize us for service and for witness. (AGPS, Page 16, Liturgy of Praise)

It is our blessing and privilege to worship:

Sunday, August 2nd- the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgy: Summer Service

Lessons: Isaiah 55: 1-5, Romans 9:1-5 and Matthew 14:13-21

Hymns selected from: "Now Thank We all Our God" (LSB 895); "Father, We Thank Thee" (LSB 652); "I Come, O Savior to Thy Table" (LSB 618); "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" (LSB 641); "Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy" (LSB 774)

Sermon: "Time to Eat!" based on the Gospel lesson.

Sunday, August 9th- the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Job 38:4-18; Romans 10:5-17; Matthew 14:22-33

Hymns selected from: "Earth and All Stars" (817); "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" (LSB 717); "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" (LSB 739); "God Moves in a Mysterious Way" (LSB 765); "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me" (LSB 715)

Sermon: "Let's Take a Walk –on Water!" with text based on the Gospel reading.

Sunday, August 16th- the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Isaiah 56:1,6-8; Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32; Matthew 15:21-28

Hymns selected from: "Come, My Soul, with Every Care" (LSB 770); "In Christ There Is No East or West" (LSB 653); "When in the Hour of Deepest

Need" (LSB 615); "Now the Silence" (LSB 910); "Sing Praise to the God of Israel" (LSB 936)

Sermon: "Some Vacation!" based on Matthew 15:21-28

Sunday, August 23rd- the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Isaiah 51:1-6; Romans 11:33-12:8; Matthew 16:13-20

Hymns selected from: "Christ Is our Cornerstone" (LSB 912); "Built on the Rock" (LSB 645); "The Church's One Foundation" (LSB 644); "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray" (LSB 623); "Onward Christian Soldiers" (LSB 662)

Sermon: "Who Is Jesus?" based on the Gospel reading.

Sunday, August 30th- the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Jeremiah 15:15-21; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Hymns selected from: "Crown Him with Many Crowns" (LSB 525); "Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus" (LSB 531); "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (LSB 426); "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me" (LSB 722); "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go" (LSB 854)

Sermon: "What Does This Mean?" with text taken from Matthew 16:21-28.

To the praise and glory of His holy name,

Karen Broach, Worship Committee member

NOTE: All of the services for August **may** be held outdoors. We thank those who have made our outdoor worship possible: the set-up and take-down crew, Fred, for being able to still play for our services and for providing the enhanced sound system, the ushers and others; and all of you for wearing your masks and practicing physical distancing so these services are made possible until we can again worship in church (still with some restrictions no doubt). Thank you!