

Welcome to  
St. Luke's Lutheran Church (Obelisk)  
3206 Big Road  
Zieglerville, PA 19492  
Web: [www.stlukeslutheran.church](http://www.stlukeslutheran.church)  
Email: [office@stlukeslutheran.church](mailto:office@stlukeslutheran.church)

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*July 24, 2022*  
*Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

P: Pastor C: Congregation

*Prelude* "Our Father in Heaven Who Art" J.S. Bach

### *Confession and Forgiveness*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God,

**C: we confess that we have not followed your path but have  
chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before  
ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table.  
When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on  
the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from  
ourselves and free us to love our neighbors.  
Amen.**

P: Hear the good news!  
God does not deal with us according to our sins  
but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name  
of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love  
as God loves.

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**C: Amen.**

### *Greeting*

P: Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God,  
grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### *Prayer of the Day*

P: Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready  
to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than  
we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant  
mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience,  
and give us those good things that come only through your  
Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### *First Reading: Genesis 18:20-32*

*In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and  
sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for  
the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including  
Abraham's nephew, Lot.*

<sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against  
Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup>I must  
go down and see whether they have done altogether  
according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I  
will know."

<sup>22</sup>So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom,  
while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup>Then  
Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away  
the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup>Suppose there are fifty  
righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place  
and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup>Far  
be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with  
the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be  
that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is

just?” <sup>26</sup>And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” <sup>27</sup>Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup>Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” <sup>29</sup>Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” <sup>30</sup>Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” <sup>31</sup>He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” <sup>32</sup>Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

### **Psalm: Psalm 138**

*Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands. (Ps. 138:8)*

- <sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;  
before the gods I will | sing your praise.
- <sup>2</sup>**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise  
your name, because of your steadfast | love and  
faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your  
word a- | bove all things.**
- <sup>3</sup>When I called, you | answered me;  
you increased my | strength within me.
- <sup>4</sup>**All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,  
when they have heard the words | of your mouth.**
- <sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,  
that great is the glory | of the LORD.
- <sup>6</sup>**The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty | from afar.**

- <sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my  
enemies; your right | hand shall save me.
- <sup>8</sup>**You will make good your pur- | pose for me;  
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not  
abandon the works | of your hands.**

### **Second Reading: Colossians 2:6-19**

*The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.*

<sup>6</sup>As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup>and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup>In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup>when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup>And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

<sup>16</sup>Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. <sup>17</sup>These are only a shadow of what is to come, but

the substance belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup>Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, <sup>19</sup>and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

### ***Gospel: Luke 11:1-13***

*In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.*

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."<sup>2</sup>He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup>And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

<sup>5</sup>And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.'<sup>7</sup>And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.'<sup>8</sup>I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup>"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup>Is there anyone among you who, if your child

asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup>Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

### ***Message***

### ***The Apostle's Creed***

**C:** 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***

### ***Sharing the Peace***

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** And also with you.

### ***Offering Prayer***

**P:** God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus.

**C:** Amen.



# God Be with You Till We Meet Again

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,  
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,  
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,

with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;  
 dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

*Refrain*

Till we meet, till we meet, till we  
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,

meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, till we  
 till we meet, till we meet, till we

meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 meet a - gain.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904  
 Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833-1896