

# Evening Prayer with Healing

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost + Saturday, September 12, 2020

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## DIALOGUE

God is our light and | our salvation.

**our refuge | and our stronghold.**

From the rising of the sun | to its setting.

**we praise your | name, O God.**

For with you is the foun- | tain of life,

**and in your light | we see light.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning you called light into being,

and you set light in the sky

to govern night and day.

In a pillar of cloud by day

and a pillar of fire by night

you led your people into freedom.

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ:

may your Word be a lamp to our feet

and a light to our path;

for you are merciful,

and you love your whole creation,

and with all your creatures we give you glory,

through your Son Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **PSALMODY**

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense;  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;  
hear my voice when I cry to you.

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense;  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,  
and guard the door of my lips.

**Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;  
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.**

But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God;  
in you I take refuge.  
Strip me not of my life.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be forever. Amen.**

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense;  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21**

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your

father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

A reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

**Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

## **GOSPEL CANTICLE**

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me bless'd:  
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,  
the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

## **HEALING**

### **Introduction**

*Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray.

Loving God, our source and our final home,  
we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth,  
for our human bodies and all you have created.

In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

Merciful God,

by the wounds of your Son we are healed.

Bring your saving health to all people.

In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

Holy God,

your Spirit came upon us in the waters of baptism  
and brought us into the communion of saints.

Renew in us the grace of baptism,

by which we share in Christ's death and resurrection.

In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

Mighty God,

your Son Jesus brought healing and wholeness to all.

Bring your healing presence now to all who are sick or in pain.

Grant hope to all who are discouraged or in despair.

In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

Compassionate God, the strength of those who suffer,

bring hope and peace to all who are in mental, physical, or spiritual distress.

especially those who are on our heart this evening and those for whom we have  
promised to intercede. (*We pause to speak their names.*) In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

Almighty God, source of human knowledge,

give skill, wisdom, and compassion

to all who provide medical care.

In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

Loving God, our creator and redeemer,

give gentleness and courage to family members, friends,

and caregivers of those who suffer. In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

God of great and abundant mercy,  
with your presence sustain all for whom we pray.  
Drive away their suffering, give them firm hope,  
and strengthen their trust in you;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **LAYING ON OF HANDS**

Sisters and brothers, I invite you to receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Those who wish may lay their hands on their heart or head, hands or part of the body they desire healing. You may wish to lay hands on your own heart to pray for someone you know who is in need of healing.*

In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
be strengthened and filled with God's grace,  
that you may know the healing power of the Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us pray.

Living God, through the laying on of hands,  
grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing.  
When they are afraid, give them courage;  
when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope;  
and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

*We give our offerings in praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ and for the sake of Jesus' ongoing mission and ministry in this world. We have been entrusted to carry out this mission Jesus' name, bringing the good news of Jesus to the people of this community and around the world. Please, take a minute of your time to make an electronic gift through the St. Paul's Website [www.stpauls-edison.org/online-giving.html](http://www.stpauls-edison.org/online-giving.html). Please consider making this gift a recurring gift. You may also mail your offering to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 445 Old Post Rd., Edison NJ 08817.*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Into your hands, almighty God, we place ourselves: our minds to know you, our hearts to love you, our wills to serve you, for we are yours.

Into your hands, incarnate Savior, we place ourselves: receive us and draw us after you, that we may follow your steps; abide in us and enliven us by the power of your indwelling.

Into your hands, O hovering Spirit, we place ourselves: take us and fashion us after your image; let your comfort strengthen, your grace renew, and your fire cleanse us, soul and body, in life and in death, in this world of shadows and in your changeless world of light eternal, now and forever.

**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.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**Wednesday afternoon Zoom Bible, Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.** (Sign up to join the conversation: <https://calendly.com/james-krombholz/bible-and-bagels>)

**Thursday evening Zoom Bible study resumes this Thursday, September 17, at 7:00 p.m.** (Sign up to join the conversation: <https://calendly.com/james-krombholz/thursday-evening-bible-study>)

**Our one-year quest to read the entire Bible** has begun. Contact Pastor if you would like to join the quest.

**Bedtime Prayers on Zoom.** Every evening at 9:00 p.m. (e-mail [PastorJim2006@icloud.com](mailto:PastorJim2006@icloud.com) to request log in links and/or phone number)

**In-Person Gatherings.** The St. Paul's community will continue to gather online as its primary place of assembly until the risk of developing and spreading COVID-19 is greatly diminished. To supplement our online gatherings, we are offering an in-person services outdoors on Saturday throughout the summer. **Our next service of Holy Communion on Saturday, September 19, at 5:30 p.m. PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE.**

This will be an outdoor service and requires that you sign up in advance so we know who and how many people are planning to attend. To sign up to attend, please use the registration link in the e-mail announcement, your virtual bulletin and on the St. Paul's Website, or by calling the church office. We are asking that all who attend, in-person services abide by these three simple rules: 1) Always wear a face covering; 2) Maintain social distancing by giving your neighbor at least six-feet of personal space; 3) Treat your fellow worshipers with love and respect by actively looking out for their safety and well being.

**Prayers and Blessings to start the Week:** With aa the chaos of this year's school start up, let's get together on Zoom for prayers and blessings to start our week. This is special 30 minute gathering especially for children, parents, teachers and all involved in education. Sunday evening, 7 p.m. Meeting ID: 813 2114 5440: Passcode: 356809

**Share some food or volunteer.** You can donate non-perishable food to the food pantry by placing your donations in the box located outside the glass door entrance to the lounge. AT THIS TIME, WE NEED NO MORE PLASTIC BAGS ... Thank you to all who donated plastic bags! If you would like to volunteer in our food pantry, please call Jane Brady. We need volunteers for shopping, client registration, delivery, and running food to clients' vehicles.

**Volunteers:** We are looking for people to help work the sound system and to direct the livestream of our services. If you would like to help in these areas, please contact Pastor.

## **BLESSING**

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 Father, Creator of the universe,  
✠ Jesus, the Christ, Lord and Savior of the world  
and the Holy Spirit, the Advocate and Comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

**Amen.**

*From sundaysandseasons.com.  
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