

October 9, 2011 | Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

The Readings from Scripture

(Please be seated)

The First Reading

Isaiah 25:1–9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing everyone up—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah:

O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.

³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

Philippians 4:1–9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

A Reading from the Book of Philippians:

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:1–14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

The Holy Gospel according to St. _____ the _____ chapter

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying:

²The kingdom of heaven may be compared

to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.

³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying,

'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready;

come to the wedding banquet.'

⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.

⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves,

'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.

⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find

to the wedding banquet.'

¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless.

¹³Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen."

The Gospel of our Lord.

The Prayers of Intercession

In grateful response to God's endless bounty of grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, unite the wills of your people. Empower us to be of the same mind in the Lord, so that through word and deed we might give faithful witness to you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Creator of valleys and green pastures, of small towns and urban centers, give your care to this world. Inspire in us, your creatures, a love for all you have made, and grant us wisdom to care for it. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all people, establish your peace in the world. Give the leaders of the nations a desire for reconciliation and a yearning for justice. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Merciful God, lead all who are sick to the healing waters of your mercy. Bless the work of doctors, nurses, and caregivers, and through their efforts restore the sick to health (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, by your power grant this congregation the faith to stand firm in Jesus Christ. Send your Spirit to this place, so that through all its ministries your wisdom and truth might be made known. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For what else do the people of God pray?

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of blessed hope, comfort those who grieve with the promise of new life in Christ Jesus (*especially*). Give us the blessed assurance that you will swallow up death forever. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, holy God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

St. Paul's Prayer List # Weekly update to the October Vision

Norman Benner – *Recovering at home*
Robert Stevens – *Recovering at home*
Judy Schupe – *Sister of Corinne Thomas*

Franny Lechner
Pastor Bill Phillips – *Luth Comm. Telford*

Please look in the current edition of the Vision Newsletter for other names on our prayer list. The Sunday bulletins only list updates to the complete list in the Vision.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents Mr. & Mrs. Guy Leiby, presented by children.

The Sanctuary Lamp is given to the glory of God and to celebrate the 70th Wedding Anniversary on October 12th of Linwood and Mildred Gensler, presented by their family.

The Bulletin is given to the glory of God and in honor of the birthdays of Nancy Yerger on October 13th, and Patricia Walter on October 25th, presented by Elsie Rehak.

Capital Improvement Fund ~ We have currently received a total of \$66,754 in our Capital Improvement fund toward our goal of \$225,000. Pledges amount to \$64,914.

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| Elevator Project~ | Project cost | \$170,000.00 |
| | Gifts Received as of 9.20.11 | \$72,950. |

If you are not currently on our group email list for electronic mailings and news updates from the church office please send us your contact information.

ASP Planning Meeting – today at 4:00 PM – please join us.

Victory House – We will be traveling to the Victory House Soup Kitchen Today at 4:00 PM. Contact Laura Foreman to help out: foreman3@hotmail.com.

Lunch Bunch ~ You are in for a treat! LUNCH BUNCH CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO OUR TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION! The date is Wednesday, October 12, at 11:30 am in Church Fellowship Hall. Pack your lunch and bring a mug and we will all enjoy the Anniversary Cake and Ice Cream. Anyone aged 50+ is welcome. Bring your friends and family. We want a full room. Everyone will enjoy our featured entertainment, the Red Hill Band Ensemble. They will entertain us with a variety of music including their wonderful marches. Don't forget your Redner's tapes.

Ham Dinner ~ The ASP will be hosting its Ham Dinner on November 12, 2011 at 3:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This event benefits the Appalachian Service Project's home repairs ministry. Come enjoy food and fellowship while supporting a great cause.



The Upper Perkiomen Child Care Center will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary with an evening celebration on October 21 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the pavilion.

The Appalachia Service Project at St. Paul's will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary with an ASP reunion picnic on July 28, 2012. A combined worship hour will be held at 9:15 on July 29 with Pastor Bill Bixby as the guest preacher. Pastor Bixby was associate pastor during the initial years of ASP.

This Week at St. Paul's

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| Sunday | Early Service with Holy Communion | 8:00 AM |
| | Contemporary Service with Holy Communion | 9:15 AM |
| | Sunday Church School | 9:15 AM |
| | Late Service with Holy Communion | 10:30 AM |
| | ASP Planning Meeting in the library | 4:00 PM |
| | Victory House | 4:00 PM |
| | Generations Choir | 6:30 PM |
| | Bell Choir | 7:30 PM |
| | Narcotics Anonymous - <i>Fellowship Hall</i> | 8:00 PM |
| Monday | Cub Scouts Den Meeting | 6:00 PM |
| | Praise Team | 7:30 PM |
| Tuesday | Robotics Team | 6:30 PM |
| Wednesday | Lunch Bunch | 11:30 AM |
| | AA | 8:00 PM |
| Thursday | Bible Study – at home of Bonnie Bonser | 7:00 PM |
| Friday | Frontier Girls & Daisies | 6:30 PM |
| | Jr Youth Group Something Pumpkin Night | 6:30 PM |
| Saturday | Robotics Team | 9:00 AM |
| Sunday | Early Service with Holy Communion | 8:00 AM |
| | Contemporary Service with Holy Communion | 9:15 AM |
| | Sunday Church School | 9:15 AM |
| | Late Service with Holy Communion | 10:30 AM |
| | Table Talk | 4:30 PM |
| | Generations Choir | 6:30 PM |
| | Bell Choir | 7:30 PM |
| | Narcotics Anonymous - <i>Fellowship Hall</i> | 8:00 PM |

Today's Worship Assistants

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|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Altar Guild: | 8:00AM | Sandy Landis |
| | Wash: | |
| Assistant: | 8:00AM | Cheryl Weiss |
| | 10:30AM | Robert Walp |
| Ushers: | 9:15AM | Carol Elias |
| | | Brad Hendershot |
| | 10:30AM | Barbara Green |
| | | Paul Godshall |
| Monday: | Sandy Bergey | |
| | Diane Leister | |
| | Eleanor King | |

Next Sunday's Worship Assistants

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| 8:00AM | Nicole Walter |
| Wash: | |
| 8:00AM | Henry Thomas |
| 10:30AM | Jan Woertz |
| 9:15AM | Dabbie Gryshuk |
| | Katie Gryshuk |
| 10:30AM | Tom Landis |
| | Sandy Landis |
| Monday: | Fern Roth |
| | Dorie Brendlinger |
| | Linwood Genszler |

Thank you for the anniversary book presented on the occasion of my 20th anniversary of service here at St. Paul's. The photographs recall wonderful memories. The written reflections are most gracious and kind. It is an honor to serve among you as we bear witness to God's amazing grace. - *Pastor Vanderslice*