



Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

WELCOME MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND VISITORS.

“Individuals need to follow healthy hygiene practices, stay at home when sick, practice physical distancing to lower the risk of disease spread, and use a cloth face covering... in community settings when physical distancing cannot be maintained. These universal precautions are appropriate regardless of the extent of mitigation needed.” [The Center for Disease Control]

Therefore out of love for one another as part of the Body of Christ, we will all wear masks, stay six feet away from other households, sanitize our hands, refrain from singing, and speak together very quietly only for the Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed. The louder we speak, the more potential viral spread there would be, even from behind masks.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

17th Sunday after Pentecost – September 27th, 2020

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemchurch.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

GATHERING

PRELUDES

God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens
Handbell Quartet

arr. Zabel

The bell rings calling us to worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands and faces the baptismal font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,

And turn us again to life in you

Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

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.

WORD

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Philippians 2:1-13

The assembly is seated.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,

but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, 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; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

The assembly stands for the gospel.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] 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?” ²⁴Jesus 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. ²⁵Did 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?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So 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.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which 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. ³²For 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor David Rowe

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY *All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name!*

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The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

- 1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all.
- 2 O seed of Israel's chosen race
now ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace
and crown him Lord of all.
- 3 Hail him, you heirs of David's line,
whom David Lord did call
the God incarnate, man divine
and crown him Lord of all.
The God Incarnate, man divine
and crown him Lord of all.
- 4 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet
and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your trophies at his feet
and crown him Lord of all.
- 5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.
- 6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792, sts. 1-4; J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, sts. 5-6

APOSTLES CREED

Spoken together quietly enough not to wake a baby, in order to share as little airborne virus as possible from community speaking. We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.

**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

As a local assembly of believers, we pray for the whole world and church, as well as our local congregation and neighborhood.

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

A brief silence.

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, damaged, or devastated by fire, so that all of creation may confess you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Turn the nations of the world 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 all whom we now raise in prayer before you. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Strengthen those who care for people with the coronavirus. Bring justice for the racially and economically oppressed.

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—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. 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 Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks.

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word,
for calling creation into being,
declaring forgiveness from the cross,
and delivering the spirit of rebirth.

We praise you, O God, for your Word:

we praise you, O God, for your Word.

Your word is a lamp lighting our path,
a mirror reflecting our selves,
a shield providing us refuge,
a fire burning for justice and truth.

Your word is sweeter than honey:
it nourishes our bodies like milk,
it sustains your people like bread.

We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.

We bless you, O God, for your Word:

we bless you, O God, for your Word.

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints,
and to all the cries of the needy.

Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ,
that heeding your voice of beauty and power

we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit – the Source, Word, and Breath --
we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word:
we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word.
Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Spoken together quietly enough not to wake a baby, in order to share as little airborne virus as possible from community speaking.

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.

PASSING THE PEACE

We greet each other with a nod or gesture of Christian fellowship from a distance, and we also invite you to text or email a word of peace to someone who cannot be here! Yes, now is the time to use our phones in church, on silent of course!

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM(s)

**(8:00) *Jesus Never Fails*
Jonathan Valori and William Timm**

by Gary Driskell

**(10:30) *Walk with Me this Day Lord*
Rebekah CdeBaca**

by Sonja Poorman

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly may be seated.

BLESSING

The assembly stands. The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Mothering God,

Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Golden Breaks the Dawn

852

*Qing zao qilai kan, hong ri chu tongfang,
xiongzhuang xiang yongshi, meihao xiang xinlang;
tian gao feiniaoguo, di kuo yehua xiang,
zhao wo qin gongzuo, Tianfu you enguang.*

- 1 Golden breaks the dawn, comes the eastern sun;
like a rider strong, set the course to run.
Birds above me fly, flowers bloom below;
through the earth and sky God's great mercies flow.
- 2 Holy, living God, keep me safe today;
though I weary plod, make me kind, I pray.
Let me guide our youth, honor weak and old;
let me serve with truth, and God's love unfold.
- 3 Give me daily bread, while I do my part;
bright skies overhead, gladness in my heart.
Simple wants provide, evil let me shun;
Jesus at my side, till the day is done.

Text: Tzu-chen Chao; para. Frank W. Price, 1885-1974

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DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

March

Thomas Chesterton

OFFERING

You may drop your offering in the plates as you leave. If you are worshiping at home, please mail your offering to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA. Or you can drop it through the slot in the door at the back, office entrance of the church building.

To avoid crowding and therefore lessening the six-foot physical distance, we ask you to leave starting from the front pews to the back. If you and others feel comfortable, you can continue fellowship conversation in the lobby and outside with masks from a safe distance.

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MINISTRY NEWS

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Charles Gurski, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Sam Huff, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Donna Evans, Joan Heckrote, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Kenny Noecker, Nancy Reese, David Huff, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Gemma Geary, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Cathy Hale, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Carla Zelinsky, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Kathleen Kelleher, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Family of Keith Ramsey, Cecelia Kacmar, Lois Pavelko, Edith Kriner, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Florence Shay, Clarence Zweizig, Jayden Leiby, Melvin Rodriguez & family, Dorothy Moyer, Bruce Stees, JoAnn Baker Copley, Deanna Carl, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Nancy Cooper, David and Angela Weiser, Fay Sausser, Kim O'Donnell, Denise Eiler, Brian Shwenk, Jim and Keven Shwenk

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Maureen Moyer, Karen Cockill, Janice Barr, Donna Drenzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Kathrine Smiley, Mark Noecker, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Joan Stefich, Bill Everly, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Sara Berger, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Will Timm	Rabekah CdeBaca
Cantor(s)	Jonathan Valori & Will Timm	Rabekah CdeBaca
Guides	Deb Reed	Jim Zeiglebein
	Joy Heffner	Don Boyer
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Rick Heckrote
Altar Guild	Alberta Hudson & Linda Collins	
Counters	Lou Messina, Rob Baessler, and Janet Sattizahn	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Phil Kriner	Lloyd Wertz
Cantor(s)	Bev & Phil Kriner	Lloyd Wertz
Guides	Bill Shay	Jane Mahoney
	Joy Heffner	Frank Mahoney
Sound Board	Paul Boyer	Gary Reager
Acolyte		Jillian Gipe
Altar Guild	Leslie Wagner & Sue Moyer	
Counters	Linda Collins, Deb Reed, Marie Shay	

WEEKLY NEWS

THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES are to the Glory of God, and in loving memory Anna Hoy, on her birthday, by the Melvin Schafer family.

HOLY COMMUNION WILL RESUME NEXT SUNDAY OCTOBER 4! There is a sign-up sheet in the church lobby to be a "Communion Servant" - for those interested in taking Holy Communion to our members who cannot worship with us in person. Following each worship service on October 4th there will be a training for Communion Servants.

NEXT SUNDAY, WE WILL OBSERVE HARVEST HOME ON OCTOBER 4th with a special offering of money and food for our Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry. You are invited to bring items of non-perishable food and place them in the grocery cart in the lobby or you may drop these items off at the church office on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Your gifts will help to provide food to about 180 families who need assistance with meals and receive food at the Pantry each month.

THE ANNUAL CROP WALK sponsored by the Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity Council of Churches will be held on Sunday, October 4 behind the Walk-In Center, with registration and devotions beginning at 12:45, and the walk starting at 1:00. OR – during this pandemic you may walk on your own, or even on a treadmill. Walkers at the event or on their own contribute money and gather additional sponsors, with the money going to alleviate hunger locally (25% goes to our Council of Churches' Food Pantry), nationally, and globally, through Church World Service (the hunger ministry of the World Council of Churches). Please sign up with Shirley Shackleton or Cheryl Miller, and turn your money into them. Shirley Shackleton can be reached on her cell phone at 570-294-0910. You can also gather contributions through the CROP website). As a congregation with some of the most walkers, let us have fun, be a visible presence in the community, and support the anti-hunger ministry of the Council of Churches and CROP.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION CLASS WILL BEGIN NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT 9:15. Sunday school for kids ages 3+ will be held in person. Children must wear a mask and proper social distancing will be observed. Confirmation class will also start up. 1, 2, and 3rd year confirmands will meet with teachers in class. Those about to be confirmed on Reformation Day, Sunday, October 25th will meet with Pastor Rowe.

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS will be held at 1:00 on Sunday, October 11. Critters of all kinds are welcome to receive a blessing in the tradition of Saint Francis of Assisi (his witness is commemorated on October 4). And of course, please leash or restrain your pets since there will be others there (and the pastor may bless snarling or snake-like critters from a distance).

MUSIC NEWS. The organ pipe repainting project is nearing! The pipes will be taken out on the week of October 12th, 2020.

BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS event is going to be bigger and better than before! On October 14 *and* 15 from 9 am to 9 pm you are encouraged to shop at Boscov's...either in person or online. Then, prior to checkout, select Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church as the organization you want to help and Boscov's will donate 5% of your total purchase to us! It's so easy...no coupon to purchase like in years past. Just shop, choose Jerusalem, and you're done! All shoppers get 20% off Boscov's lowest sale prices (some merchandise receives 10% off). We get 5% of your purchase! Tell your friends and family about this, too!

FREE DRIVE-THRU NARCAN DISTRIBUTION. A Narcan can treat individuals who overdose in emergency situations. There will be two free drive-thru distributions:

- Friday, October 2nd, from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at 410 North Center Street, Pottsville, PA 17901 (rear parking lot). For questions call 570-826-2483.
- Tuesday, October 13th, from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm at Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

TODAY 8:00am Worship
9:00am Holy Communion Guide Orientation
9:00am Altar Guild Meeting
10:30am Worship
11:30am Holy Communion Guide Orientation
WEDNESDAY 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting
THURSDAY 6:30pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting (Via Zoom)

STAFF AND LEADERS

Rev. David Rowe, *Pastor*: 610-987-9798(H), 570-933-5511 (C),
pastorowe@jerusalemlutheran.com

Audrey Christ, *Music Director*: musicdirector@jerusalemlutheran.com

Tanya Cartwright, *Director of Faith & Families*: faithandfamilies@jerusalemlutheran.com

Rachel Kramer, *Parish Administrator*: mail@jerusalemlutheran.com

Jill McCloy, *Treasurer*: treasurer@jerusalemlutheran.com

Karen Ochenrider, *Financial Secretary*: karenochenrider@comcast.net

Gina Cappel, *Child Care Director*: jccckids@jerusalemlutheran.com

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Deborah Reed, *President of Church Council*: dred1955@comcast.net