PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 17, 2025, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Pastor Christian Magnell

WELCOME AND GREETING

HYMN "He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We lift up our eyes to the hills.

Where does our help come from?

It is God who watches over us and keeps us!

He keeps us and protects us now and forever.

And yet we find that we don't always listen, respond, or live in a way which glorifies God. (time for reflection) Let's pray together:

Lord God, we've sinned against you in the things we've done and in the things we haven't done. We haven't loved you with our whole heart and we haven't loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us and renew us daily.

This is the Good News: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and renewed daily by the Holy Spirit!

Thanks be to God!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN "Praise You Anywhere"

READING: Psalm 121

This is a psalm that pilgrims to Jerusalem would read or sing as they ascended to Jerusalem.

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? ²My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. ³He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. ⁶The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

HYMN "This I Believe"

SERMON – Summer in the Psalms – Psalm 121

PRAYER AT RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION "Thy Will"

PRAYER AND BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

And now may the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace!

Amen!

CLOSING SONG "Lead On, Good Shepherd"

DISMISSAL

Let's go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 121 – Devotional Thought:

Psalm 121 is one of the Psalms (or songs) of Ascent. The pilgrims would read or sing these psalms as they went up to Jerusalem. Jerusalem, the City of David, is about 2500 feet above sea level so, considering its proximity to the Mediterranean, this was quite an elevation change!

These psalms go from Psalm 120 to Psalm 134. They likely sang them in anticipation of their arrival at the Temple and the opportunity to confess their sins and make atonement for those same sins.

We have a different relationship with God today through the New Covenant. We do not offer sacrifices for sin (which cannot actually do anything according to Scripture but foreshadowed what God would do in Christ). Instead, Jesus was the sacrifice for sins. When we have communion, Jesus is not re-sacrificed but is truly present as we share this meal "in remembrance" of Him.

In Christ, through faith, you have "ascended!" While we remain in this body, we can look forward to our eternal life with Christ. Take some time this week to read through the Psalms of Ascent (again, 120 to 134,) and praise God for what He has done for us in Christ!

Get in touch with us: Pastor Chris cell: 715-441-1741 / Laura cell: 651-239-5832