

**Those who  
lose their  
life for my  
sake will  
find it**

MATTHEW 16:25

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

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[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

## Announcements

**WELCOME** Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 184 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

**Thank you for your faithfulness** in sending your offering through the mail or by using online options from your financial institution or through the “Donate” now from the church website **stpaulsyork.org**. Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul’s and our ministry partners.

**Ushers are needed.** New guidelines are in place. Please contact the church secretary if you can serve. (New procedures were emailed to those who historically served and are also in the August *Our Church* newsletter)

We continue to experience a surge in families needing assistance through the Food Pantry. We can use some additional volunteers. We are seeking folks who are not in the “at risk” category for COVID-19. Simply notify Larry or Janet Moore if you can help on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning. **Our most critical need is with help on Tuesday mornings.**

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul’s. Please thank Deacon Ellen Doughty, Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Tim Yakim for their dedication and service.

**Thank you** to Victor Fields for the use of his sound system for the outdoor service.



This week’s flowers are given to the Glory of God in Loving Memory of Linda Winey by Dave, Bret and Mike Winey and in memory of The William S. Eisenhart Family from son Christopher.

### STAFF

Pastor  
Youth Director  
Organist, Choir Director  
Bookkeeper  
Secretary  
Sexton  
Preschool Director

Reverend Stanley Reep	<a href="mailto:prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Kelly Moore-Spencer	<a href="mailto:kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Victor Fields	<a href="mailto:vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Dale Zeiger	<a href="mailto:dzeiger.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">dzeiger.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Patee Pizzirusso	<a href="mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net">st.paulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Ted Weikert	<a href="mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net">st.paulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Deb Becker	<a href="mailto:director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com">director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com</a>

## **Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19**

### **Entering and Leaving the Church:**

*Face masks are required both inside and outside. If you do not have a mask you may use one of the pre-packaged masks located at the entrances or at the usher stations. (If a face mask was provided upon arrival, kindly deposit it in the specially marked basket at the exterior doors or at the usher stations as you leave so that it can be properly washed and prepared for use again.)*

*Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered. This will help if we need to be in contact.*

*Please take your service bulletin with you or dispose of it properly. Please don't place it back into a basket.*

### **Offerings:**

*Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave or at the usher stations outdoors prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)*

### **While in the Nave or on the lawn:**

*You may sit together as a family. Outside worshippers should place their lawn chairs using social distancing. Inside worshippers should sit in designated pews only (green card 10:30 AM. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.*

### **Communion Procedure:**

***For the outside service:*** Communion positions are designated with a chalk cross marked on the sidewalks on Springettsbury Ave. and surrounding the lawn. Wearing your face mask., proceed to the closest sidewalk and take your place at a Communion position.

***For inside services:*** Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side of the nave communes first followed by the font side.

*Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.*

*Your entire household may gather at one of the five positions marked by the green cross.*

#### ***For all to receive the sacrament:***

- *Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.*
- *Please do not reach out to take it from the minister.*
- *Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew/seat by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.*

### ***In our prayers we remember...***

***Drew Herdson, Dana Sodor, David List, Sandy Shellenberger, Brian McKenna, Abbie Gayle Guyton, Amanda, Jim Young, Penny Bailey, Eddie Turner, Sr., Jessica Ericson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey, the family and loved ones of Gene Shue, especially his wife Norma.***

**Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost**  
August 30, 2020                      8:00 & 10:30 AM  
During the time of COVID -19

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**10:30 AM PRELUDE**

*Aria on a Chaconne*

Joel Martinson

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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.**

**KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.                      **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.                      **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.                      **Amen**



## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

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

*All* **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**

*Women* **We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

*Men* **Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:**

*Women* **You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

*Men* **You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.**

*Women* **For you alone are the Holy One,**

*Men* **You alone are the Lord,**

*All* **You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. . Almighty and ever-living God, you have given great and precious promises to those who believe. Grant us the perfect faith which overcomes all doubts, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Sit*

**READING** Jeremiah 15:15-21 (on back page)

*At the conclusion of the reading*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** Psalm 26:1-8 Spoken responsively by half verse

<sup>1</sup> Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived | with integrity;\*

**I have trusted in the Lord and | have not faltered.**

<sup>2</sup> Test me, O | LORD, and try me;\*

**examine my heart | and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup> For your love is be- | fore my eyes;\*

**I have walked faith- | fully with you.**

<sup>4</sup> I have not sat | with the worthless,\*

**nor do I consort with | the deceitful.**

<sup>5</sup> I have hated the company of | evildoers;\*

**I will not sit down | with the wicked.**

<sup>6</sup> I will wash my hands in inno- | cence, O LORD,\*

**that I may go in procession | round your altar,**

<sup>7</sup> singing aloud a song | of thanksgiving\*

**and recounting all your won- | derful deeds.**

<sup>8</sup> LORD, I love the house in | which you dwell\*

**and the place where your glo- | ry abides.**

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? **You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL**     *Matthew 16:21-28*     *(on back page)*

The Holy Gospel according to *St. Matthew*.     **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the Gospel.*

The Gospel of the Lord.     **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## SERMON

**Pastor Reep**

*Stand*

## APOSTLE'S CREED

We confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\* On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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

*Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and all who are in need.*

*A brief silence.*

*O God, you bid your people to follow Jesus. Set our minds on divine things. Grant us trust in you, that we lose our lives for the sake of Christ and thereby discover joy in life through him. Lord, in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*The earth is yours and all that is in it. Heal your creation and give us eyes to see the world as you do. As the seasons change, pattern the rhythm of our lives in harmony with all creation. Lord, in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*You call us to live peaceably with all. Give us ears to hear one another, even those we name as enemies. Fill all leaders with mercy and understanding, that they advocate and genuinely care for those who are poor and most vulnerable in their communities. Lord, in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

You promise to deliver us. Give those who suffer a strong sense of your presence and love. Accompany those who are uncertain, raise the spirits of those who are despairing, and heal the sick. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You call us to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer. Make our congregation a workshop of your love. When we quarrel, bring reconciliation. Help us overcome evil with good. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You give us everlasting life. In love we recall your holy ones who now live in your undying light (*especially Gene Shue*). In our remembering, give us a foretaste of the feast to come. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

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

## PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.  
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.  
Pour out your Holy Spirit,  
that by this Holy Communion we may know  
the unity we share with all your people  
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray;  
**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**

**FRACTION** *The bread is broken. A brief silence is kept.*

## **AGNUS DEI**

*Pastor* Lamb of God  
*Men* **Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**  
*Women* **Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**  
*All* **Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace. Amen**



*Sit      The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.*

## **COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL**

*Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.*

*Stand*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

We give you thanks, almighty God that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**HYMN**      *Lift High the Cross* stanzas 1&5 (back pages)

## **BLESSING & DISMISSAL**

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**10:30 AM POSTLUDE**

*Lift High the Cross*

arr. Lindsay Lafford

*Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave. Feel free to gather outside for conversation.*

*Please take your service bulletin with you or dispose of it properly. Please don't place it back in the basket or leave it in the pew.*

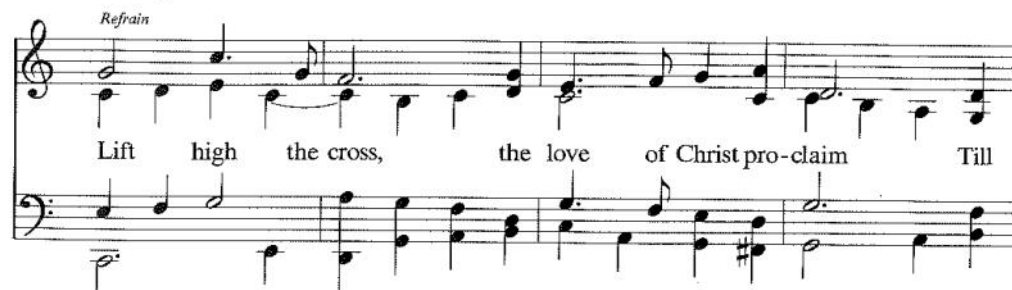
*If you were provided with a mask on arrival, kindly place it in the marked container at the exterior door. It will be laundered and returned for a future time.*

# Lift High the Cross

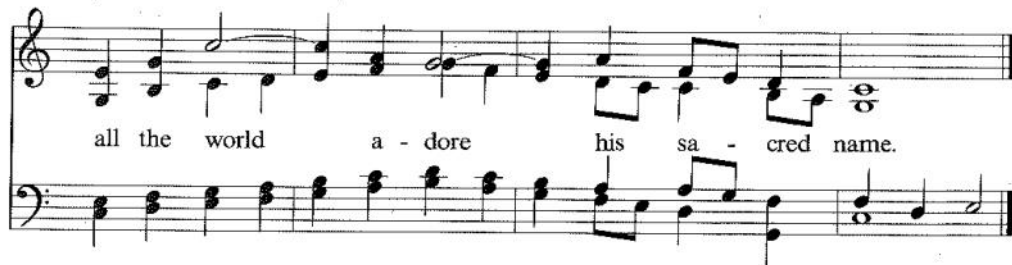
Stanzas 1 & 5

377

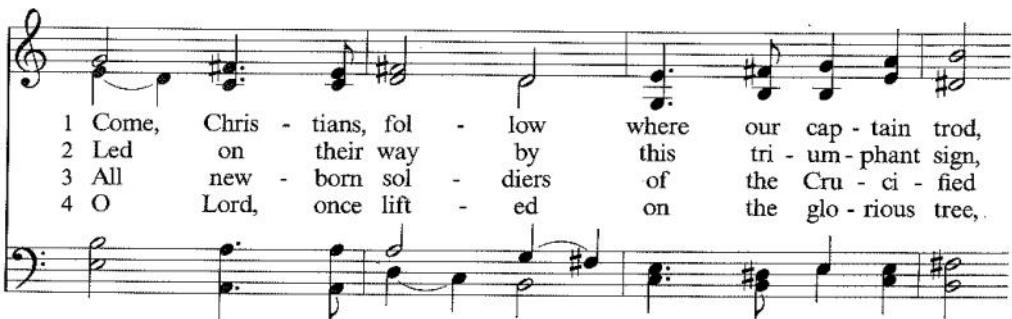
*Refrain*



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till

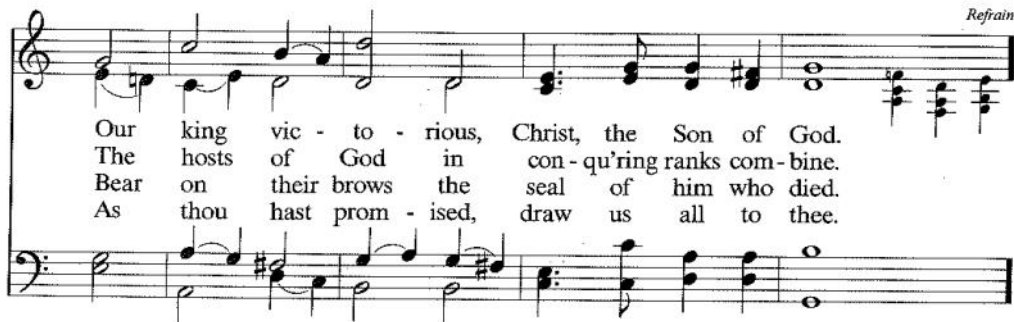


all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,  
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied  
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

*Refrain*



Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.  
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
As thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.

5 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

**Thank You for Your Consistent Giving**—During this time of pandemic we cannot thank you enough for your generous, consistent gifts to the church. Without them we would need to radically rethink our daily operation. Knowing that this is the month in which we transition from our construction loan to a traditional mortgage, the future lender has been keeping abreast of our financial commitment to the ministry undertaken by St. Paul's. To that end we are grateful that we do not need to seek out a new lender, or worse yet, scramble to show our financial capability. Because you have consistently given throughout these months of physical distancing we are able to continue to carry out the plans outlined and set forth at the annual meeting held last November. Thank you for financial giving to the work and witness carried out through St. Paul's Lutheran Church. We also extend our appreciation to the ongoing work of our Finance Committee.

**Small group musical ensembles are forming.** Please contact Victor Fields if you are willing to participate; vocally, handbells, instruments, percussion. Thank you.

**Confirmation Ministry** for students grade 7 and up will begin September 8. To enroll for the fall session please contact the church office 717-843-8155. Please see the September Newsletter for details.

### **Food Pantry—September**

**Items needed:** Canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned meats, mashed potato mix, rice, pasta side dish and peanut butter. We are in need of volunteers for the summer. Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry".



Boy Scout Troop 19 is taking orders for the sale of popcorn and/or nuts in the upcoming months of August and September. We will not be selling in-person this year. Our order will be placed in mid-October and will be available on November 14. If interested in helping out our troop and their program, please call Nancy Banta @ 717 848 6627 for more information. Thanks so much.

Clarissa lamented leaving her little brother when she went off to college. She lamented leaving him in the same volatile home in which she had maneuvered for 18 years. She lamented that she personally, physically couldn't be there to protect him from their mother's psychotic episodes. These usually occurred when their mom would try to be "healthy" and she would stop taking her medicine prescribed for her bipolar disorder. When her mom would try to get "healthy" and ditch her medication their home quickly, without warning, became an unknown environment of rage. Sometimes it was manifest through smashing drinking glasses randomly on the floor. At other times it was focused on Clarissa, attacking her with common household items; a ball bat, a guitar, a butcher knife. These episodes usually ended with police on the scene and hospitalizations and her brother staying with understanding neighbors. Clarissa stood in front of the house ready to leave for school. She lamented leaving her little brother to fend for himself.

Lament is part of Biblical tradition.

"How often did I want to gather you as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings" laments Jesus over Jerusalem.

"Lord, had you been here our brother Lazarus would not have died" laments Mary and Martha over the death of their brother.

At the burial of Stephen, the men wailed to God lamenting that he had been needlessly stoned to death.

In Egypt the Hebrew people lament their slavery under Pharaoh.

Job laments how quickly people turned away from God, and how friends abandon him.

Half of the 150 Psalms are Psalms of lament with varying themes; lament for humanity, lament for the earth, lament for the environment.

Why there is an entire book in the Bible bearing the name Lamentations sandwiched between Jeremiah and Ezekiel two of the most unpopular characters in Biblical literature because of their lament.

Society has all but forgotten lament. It is often depicted as weakness. Lament is messy and complicated. It usually has ties to personal situations. Coming to the end of a summer season during this time of pandemic there is lots for us to lament, personally and collectively as a faith community. Lament for vacations that never materialized. Lament for sharing time with family members we could not visit. Lament for Employment and jobs that came back for what seemed like a moment or two, and then things closed, shuttered, suspended for an unknown amount of time. We lament not being able to fully utilize our newly renovated building. We lament not singing hymns of faith with full voice, and choir rehearsals and anthems, and hearing children's voices heralding the sweetness of God's love in Jesus. We lament not fully sharing the peace of Christ within the liturgy. We lament not sharing bread and the wine in Holy Communion. Allowing for lament allows the listener to be pulled into a story, into a situation, often an unpleasant time of pain, heartache, sorrow, even despair. Much like Clarissa lamenting leaving her younger brother at home while she takes leave for college.

Lament. Jeremiah laments. He laments suffering the loss of everything for sake of the Lord. Being a prophet for the Lord God, has taken a toll on Jeremiah. The publicly perceived persona of a prophet often punctuates the prestige as messenger of the Most High God. We often equate it with the heavenly chorus singing on the night Jesus was born, but it was nothing like that. It is not prestigious work. Jeremiah has lots of lament and today's Old Testament reading is no exception. He suffers insult. He doesn't hang out with merrymakers (so you know who he is hanging out with). He ends up alone. His pain is unceasing. His wound refuses to heal. And he puts it all out there before the Lord. **The only thing it seems he hasn't lost is God's Word!** But he says that God is like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail, here today and gone tomorrow. Jeremiah's lament comprises the first half of the Old Testament reading.

The second half of the reading is the response of God. God wants Jeremiah as well as all the people including you and me, to return; to come back, to turn back. God says I will restore you, I will take you back, I will put things right. I want you, God says, **to proclaim what is precious and not the worthless things that so easily fall from your lips.** I will make you a fortified wall of the strongest metal to protect you. Others will fight against you but they shall not prevail, they shall not win, for "I am with you" says the Lord God. "I am with you to save you." "I am with you to deliver you." "I will deliver you from the hand of the wicked and keep you from the choking hold of the ruthless." God's command and promise; return, repent, turn back, and be restored, delivered, saved.

We are not lacking in laments here this morning; for the world, for the seeming lack of diplomacy, for the hatred infecting our nation, lack of respect, lack of prayer, these are not regrets, these are laments. This last Sunday in August is often a time of lament for me; things that didn't come to fruition over summer holidays. Such laments are most likely different for each one of us. This morning the voice of God calls to us to turn back, to repent, because God wants to take us back. God's desire is for restoration, for deliverance from all that seeks to overtake us, for salvation from the things that separate us from him.

Jesus tells the disciples *that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.* This suffering is necessary for him so that restoration, deliverance, salvation is lavishly bestowed on us. Peter of course thinks that there is another way. But there is not according to Jesus. Jesus wants us to set our mind on **divine** things. Our mouths are to utter **precious** things. Our lives are to reflect **good** things.

God wants Jeremiah to change his thinking so divine salvation may be realized. God wants us to change our thinking so divine salvation may be realized here now. Through the loving gift of Christ Jesus God opens to us an avenue that leads from lament to a broad boulevard of restoration and hope. The only thing that Jeremiah didn't lose was God's Word! That word of hope is spoken to us now and is given to us in the bread of communion; Jesus' body given for deliverance, for restoration, for salvation. For in with and under this gift of Holy Communion our sins are forgiven. God is with us setting our minds on **divine** things, our mouths uttering **precious** things and our lives reflecting **good** things even as we stand with people like Clarissa in front of her house lamenting leaving her brother as she goes to college. That intersection; of the avenue of lament and the boulevard of restoration and hope, is a cross, the cross that Jesus bore and the one that we take up. Amen.



**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21**

O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my  
persecutors.  
In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.  
<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy and the  
delight of my heart;  
for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.  
<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.  
<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?  
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:  
If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and not what is  
worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.  
It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.  
<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
says the LORD.  
<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

**Psalms 26:1-8**

**SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to  
what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual af-  
fection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do

not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.  
<sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere  
in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; ex-  
tend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not  
curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep  
with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one  
another; do not be haughty, but associate with the  
lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not  
repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what  
is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as  
it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved,  
never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath  
of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will  
repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hun-  
gry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them some-  
thing to drink; for by doing this you will heap burn-  
ing coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by  
evil, but overcome evil with good.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28**

From that time on [after Peter confessed that Jesus  
was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples  
that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suf-  
fering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and  
scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.  
<sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him,  
saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen  
to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get be-  
hind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for  
you are setting your mind not on divine things but on  
human things."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to be-  
come my followers, let them deny themselves and take  
up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to  
save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life  
for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them  
if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or  
what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels  
in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay ev-  
eryone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you,  
there are some standing here who will not taste  
death before they see the Son of Man coming in his  
kingdom."