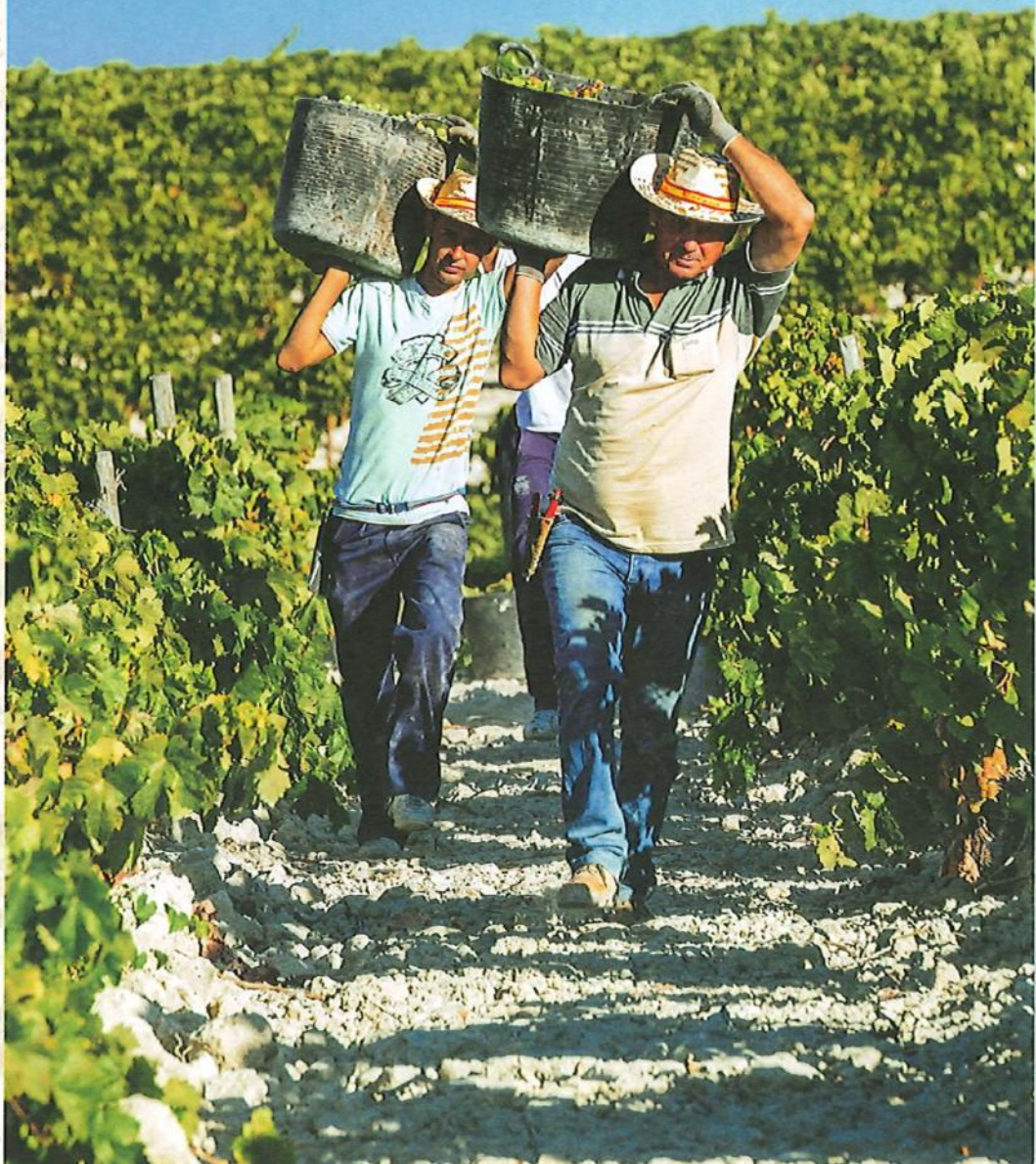


GO AND WORK
IN THE VINEYARD TODAY

MATTHEW 21:28



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

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. 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 (left) of the nave communes first followed by the font side (right).

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 a position 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 the Host 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...

Marianne Moran, Rick Hock, Betty Mehring, 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 .

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

www.stpaulsyork.org

www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

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.

This morning we welcome, Jonah Kappraff, guest musician.

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.

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.

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”.



Flowers This Week

*This week's flowers are given to the Glory of God
in memory of Anna Glessner.*

STAFF

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

Reverend Stanley Reep	prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
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Ted Weikert	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

September 27, 2020

8:00 & 10:30 AM

During the time of COVID -19

PRELUDE

Glimmers of Hope
Jonah Kappraff, trumpet

James M. Stephenson

Stand

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *Sung by the Cantor*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray. . . .O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, pursuing what you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

READING Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the LORD is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the LORD is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

At the conclusion of the reading The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

PSALM Psalm 25:1-9 *spoken responsively by half verse*

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my | trust in you;*
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

² Let none who look to you be | put to shame;*
let the treacherous be disappointed | in their schemes.

³ Show me your | ways, O LORD,*
and teach | me your paths.

⁴ Lead me in your | truth and teach me,*
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁵ Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,*
for they are from | everlasting.

⁶ Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;*
**remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.**

⁷ Gracious and upright | is the LORD;*
therefore he teaches sinners | in his way.

⁸ He guides the humble in | doing right*
and teaches his way | to the lowly.

⁹ All the paths of the LORD are | love and faithfulness*
to those who keep his covenant and his | testimonies.

Stand

VERSE

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

(back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to **St. Matthew.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Reep

Stand

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 for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Almighty and Everlasting God, give your church unity. Lead us with the mind of Christ. Shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be made known. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Our ways are unfair. Give us new hearts and new spirits. Teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit (especially). Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Turn us away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your

compassion and empathy. Bless ministries of care in our community. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Thank you for the witness of all who have gone before us into your heavenly kingdom—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their example, 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.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Sit

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

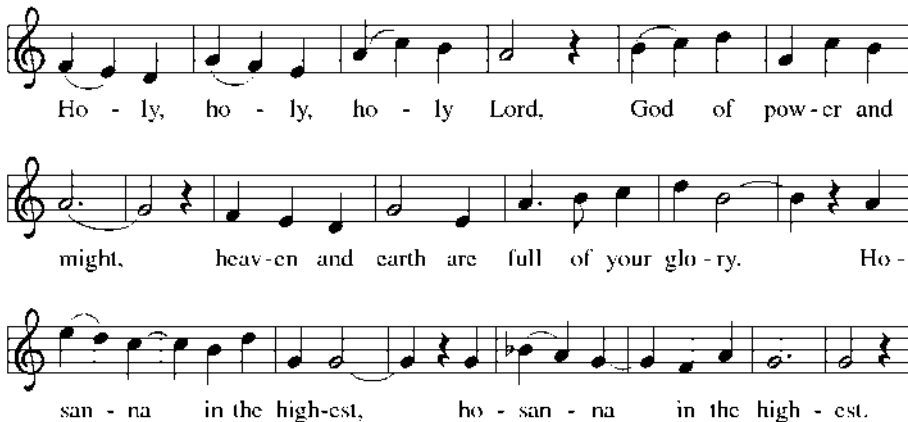
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is said.*

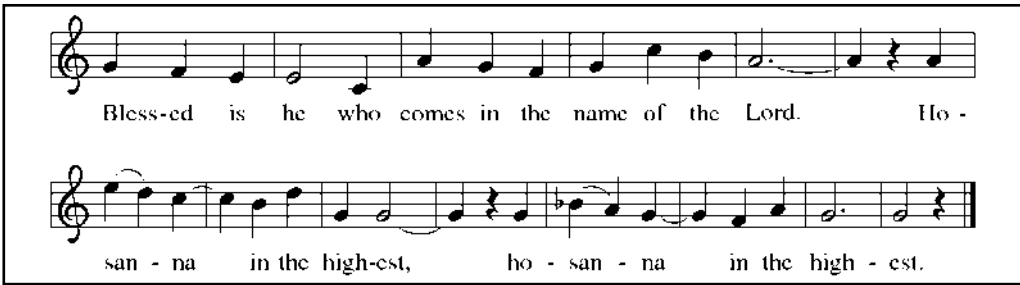
SANCTUS *Sung by cantor. Congregation joins at the “Blessed is he...”*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Continued on next page...

Congregation joins in singing



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 *a brief silence is kept*

AGNUS DEI *sung by the Cantor*

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

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, 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

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve (WOV 723) Stanza 1 & 4



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, o.s.b. b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

BLESSING

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

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Festive Trumpet Tune
Jonah Kappraff, trumpet

David German

Mission in Africa needs our support. Please make a contribution to the “Mpuguso Appeal”. While large gifts are always welcome, we are seeking small gifts of \$10-20 to support our sister congregation as they share the good news of God’s love in Christ Jesus. Gifts will be given to support their building project. You may donate through the website at stpaulsyork.org. Click on “Mpuguso Congregation”. Please know that through our regular budget we are supporting education for 2 Evangelists and for scholarships for children of pastors and church workers in the Konde Diocese of the Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Thank you for your support.

Helpers needed:

- **Ushers** are still needed during the Sunday Services.
- **Pantry helpers** are needed for Tuesday Food Pantry. Simply notify Larry or Janet Moore.
- **Tower Bell Ringers** are needed 15 minutes prior to the appointed service to Ring the Tower Bell.
- **Cantors** are needed for 8 and 10:30 AM liturgies.

Parents—Watch for your next issue of *Spark Family Magazine* which you should be receiving in late September. St. Paul’s Church provides for this subscription to be sent to your home four times a year to help in your faith journey with your children. Please enjoy this time learning together. Watch for further ideas in the October newsletter.

Personal and Family Devotional ideas during these challenging times. Did you know that our Lutheran Book of Worship has more than hymns inside? Some of the other resources include, Psalms, prayers for many occasions and, special prayer services. Spark Story Bibles (used in Sunday School by our children) are also available. Stop by the Good Shepherd Room to borrow a worship book and or a Children’s Bible that you can use at home.

Discussions on the Letters to the Philipians

Four Monday evenings at 7:00 PM via ZOOM, September 28 October 5, 12.

Join Pastor Tom McKee in conversations on Paul’s letters to the church in Philippi! St. Paul wrote letters to the Christians in Philippi to encourage them to keep the faith during difficult times. Pastor McKee will give some historical background. Participants will be invited to share what stands out to them and then reflect on what this means for their lives.

This week at St. Paul’s						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
27 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Outdoor 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Indoor	28 9:00 AM Pre-school 7:00 PM ZOOM Bible Study with Pastor McKee	29 9:00 AM Preschool 9:45 AM Pantry 6:00 PM Confirmation Class - Christ Hall	30 9:00 AM Pre-school 10:30 AM Bible Study - Christ Hall	1 9:00 AM Pre-school 6:30 PM Music Ensembles	2	3

Tuesday Evening Ministry—All Ages!

Because of Covid-19 and the uncertainty of coming inside the church building, Create, the Tuesday evening youth and family ministry night will now be held as video sessions.

Ms. Kelly will make 3 videos with craft and art projects based on 3 themes for fall, leaves to place on a tree for the healing of the nations, self-portraits for All Saints Sunday and crowns for Christ the King Sunday.

Victor will create 3 videos using household and kitchen items as percussion instruments to create rhythms with texts and words from scriptures and psalms.

Each of our videos will be sent out on Tuesdays as emails to our families and they will also be made available to view on our church website.

Finally, we will create a Gingerbread Nativity video with Christmas music. Gingerbread kits will be available for families to take home on Sundays, November 15, 22 & 29. Please call or email Ms. Kelly by November 1 as to how many kits you need for your household

Pastor Reep, Ms. Kelly and Victor feel this is the safest way currently to reach as many children and to have them stay involved from the safety of their own homes.

October 6 & 13

For the Healing of the Nations – All ages Miss Kelly will guide you in creating leaves to be placed on our tree “for the healing of the nations” based on the Revelation 22 text. The tree with the leaves that you make will be featured on Sunday October 18 in conjunction with the St. Luke Healing service.

Keep the Beat – All ages With a bucket, pot or pan and a wooden spoon from your kitchen, Victor will lead you in making music.

October 20 & 27

All Saints & Sinners – All ages Victor will teach the children a percussive piece with their pots and pans.

All Saints & Sinners - All ages Miss Kelly will teach you how to create a blind contour self-portrait, this will provide a creative release as you discover new things about how you appear.

November 10 & 17,

Crowns for the King – All ages Follow along with Miss Kelly in Making glorious crowns that you can wear or place around the cross for Christ the King Sunday, November 15

A Royal Beat – All ages Join Victor in making music that is fit for King Jesus!

December 1

Family Gingerbread Nativity – Everything needed to construct a gingerbread nativity scene will be provided. All you have to do is preregister and pick up your supplies at church on November 15, 22, or 29. You will get an email from Victor and Kelly that you can follow to have an enjoyable time with your family making a sweet delicious scene based on God’s sweet love for us.

When the Lord God spoke through the prophet Ezekiel saying “Know that all lives are mine” he had no idea how worked up people would become.

It seems rather obvious that the Creator of heaven and earth would lay claim to the individuals who populate the world. That God would, from the beginning, want all people to flourish. Along the way God laid claim to Abraham and his offspring and made it known that Abraham's people would be a blessing for all nations.

And then there are the generations that followed. And with every successive generation it seemed that God's people wanted to be more like all the other people of the earth. You might say that they wanted to blend.

Others had Judges.

They cried out to the Lord and the Lord God raised up Judges for them.

Others had kings.

They cried out to the Lord and the Lord God raised up kings for them.

Others abandoned the ways of God paying little attention to things like commandments and ordinances and justice. And before long God's people, those who were to be a blessing, they too jettisoned the commandments and ordinances and justice. And what transpired was a drift away from God. The drift came in some cases ever so slowly that God's people hadn't realized how far off course they had gone. We are perhaps more familiar with contemporary words like “recalculating” letting us know how far off course we are.

To call people back on course, to get people to pay attention to the commandments and ordinances and justice of God; God raised up prophets. There are a lot of them in the Bible. There are Major Prophets and Minor Prophets, not that their messages were weighted as more important and less important, but how much of the real estate in the biblical witness they occupy. The message of the prophet Ezekiel is a message that we might hear with contemporary ears as “recalculating.” It is time to make a correction to get back on the right course.

When God says “Turn, then, and live” or in words more familiar to us “recalculate” it is nothing more than a call to repentance. Repent.

Repent is a biblical word. The prophets said it. John the Baptizer said it. Jesus said it.
Go ahead, you say it. (Repent!)

Repent, for God has no pleasure in the death of anyone. Remember the big sign that God placed in his front yard? (Because it is an election year and everyone is placing signs in their front lawns God has one too.) God's sign states clearly “Know that all lives are mine.” God doesn't want the death of any of them.

In seminary it was Dr. Lorenz Neiting that clarified for me the difference between transgressions and iniquities. Transgressions are when we break the commandments, the basic ten with which we are familiar. Iniquities are those things that we do or are a part of that are unjust. Ezekiel highlights that it is the transgressions and iniquities that have pulled God's people off course, that

have fragmented the relationship with God; so much so that they have forgotten how to live. And if you are not living, then you are dying. Or some part of you is already dead. And if you are dead then you are certainly going to need a new heart and a new spirit to get you moving. So stop smashing through the commandments, take seriously the first three about relationship with God; having no other gods, not taking God's name in vain, keeping the Sabbath holy, and the remaining seven about how to live in relationship with humanity. And skip the iniquities, stop making things unjust, and work to put things back in balance.

Ezekiel had no idea how much upheaval his words would cause. But of course he is a prophet of the Lord God, and so these words calling for repentance; turning from transgressions, and escaping the iniquity that will ruin you, they were not joyfully greeted. The people say "the way of the Lord is unfair" because the Lord reminds them of their plight when they turn from doing what is right, when they neglect justice in the marketplace, the result is death. "The Lord" says Ezekiel "wants you to turn and live." Recalculate.

I have been thinking a lot about recalculating. Weekend before last my son and I journeyed out on a small road trip seeking a tree; his, a Hanoki Cyprus soon to be a Bonsai, and mine, a Cleary Limber Pine as an anniversary present for Emily. Seeking out an independent nursery I located it on the map and had a pretty good idea of the route to get there. Driving along the expressway talking with Allen about school and Youtube videos, and what kind of glaze would be appropriate on the Bonsai pot, I missed the exit and quickly decided to take the very next one hoping that it would bring me back around for another attempt. I became disoriented when I ended up on another expressway heading in a different direction. Allen switched on the GPS. It recalculated. All I needed to do was follow the direction graciously provided.

And soon we arrived at our destination. We arrived at a beautiful garden filled with trees. There was the Cyprus perfect for a Bonsai, and the Cleary Pine I deemed a perfect anniversary gift. We walked around the garden amazed by the beauty and splendor and wide variety of trees. I thought of the garden, the one where humanity first walked in close relationship with God. And I thought of the other garden, the one where Jesus prayed before his arrest, trial, sentencing and death. I thought of yet another garden, the one where the angelic messenger announced the resurrection news, news that made way for a new heart and a new spirit.

God's desire is that we have life, now and for eternity. According to God, all lives matter. It says so on the sign he placed in his lawn, a large wooden cross; "all lives are mine." Yours, mine, my son Allen's, the nursery owner, the family in the SUV loading a shrubbery, the woman at the drive thru window who announced that the milkshake machine wasn't working, the truck driver who cut me off in the intersection, the Amish couple in the buggy, the residents of the town we were zipping past on the expressway, university students, migrant workers picking fruit in the orchard, the teenager pumping Gas at Rutter's, the neighbor's little boy who popped over to see if he could help as Emily and I wrestled the tree out of the back of the van.

When the Lord God spoke through the prophet Ezekiel saying "Know that all lives are mine" he had no idea how worked up people would become. He did have an idea about how far off course they were and how easily they lost direction. Transgressions and iniquities were out of control. They didn't have a GPS but they did have the prophet Ezekiel who announced God's word. Recalculate; listen to the gracious direction of God given in the commandments. Abandon unjust ways that squelch life. "Turn, then, and live." Amen.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

[not printed]

Psalms 25:1-9

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

If 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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

When [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."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46.

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Tracks 1 and 2
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