

Continue in my Word

JOHN 8:31



Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Entering and Leaving the Church:

Face masks are required inside,

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.

Offerings:

Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

While in the Nave:

Please wear your mask. You may sit together as a family. Please sit in designated pews only. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.

Communion Procedure:

- *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.*
- *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.*
- *We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).*



Flowers This Week

This week's flowers are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Ruth N. Rhoads & Ervin R. Rhoads by their daughter; and in celebration of the birthday of my brother, Ronald E. Rhoads by Chloe R. Eichelberger

Open sponsor dates: 11/15, 12/13, 12/27

Please sign up in the Springettsbury Hallway and complete a Flower Sentiment form or contact the church office.

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Bookkeeper
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Preschool Director

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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.

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.

Upcoming weeks at St. Paul’s						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
25 Reformation Sunday 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist	26 9:00 AM Preschool	27 9:00 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Pantry Volunteers 12:30 PM Christian Ed Meeting 6:00 PM Confirmation Class - Christ Hall	28 9:00 AM Preschool 10:30 AM Bible Study - Christ Hall	29 9:00 AM Preschool 6:30 PM Music Ensembles	30	31
1 All Saints Day Daylight-Saving Time Ends 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Evening Service	2 9:00 AM Preschool	3 9:00 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Pantry Volunteers	4 8:00 -12:00 PM No Parking on Springettsbury 9:00 AM Preschool 10:30 AM Bible Study - Christ Hall	5 9:00 AM Preschool 6:30 PM Music Ensembles	6	7

In our prayers we remember...

Lynn Wicker, Anna Mae Cook, Shawn Sunday, Mike Johnston, Marianne Moran, Rick Hock, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, David List, Sandy Shellenberger, Brian McKenna, Amanda, Jim Young, Penny Bailey, Eddie Turner, Sr., Jessica Ericson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey .

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2020

8:00 & 10:30 AM

During the time of COVID -19

PRELUDE

A Mighty Fortress

Paul Manz

Stand, turning to face the font

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Holy and gracious God,

I confess that I have sinned against you. Some of my sin I know – the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed – but some are known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me.

By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

When we were joined to Christ in the waters of Baptism, we were clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Together let us remember our baptism.

We give you thanks,

for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth.

By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family.

You led Israel by the pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed by the Spirit.

By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life.

He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth.

In obedience to this command we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Through this water remind us of our baptism.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

ENTRANCE HYMN

God's Word is Our Great Heritage (LBW 239)



God's word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;
to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while
time shall last your church may hold it fast through-out all gen - er - a - tions.

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. . . Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

READING **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

(back cover)

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

Thanks be to God

PSALM **Psalms 46** *sung by the cantor to a setting by Rick Erickson*

¹God is our ref- | uge and strength,*
a very present | help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,*
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths | of the sea;

³though its waters | rage and foam,*
and though the mountains tremble | at its tumult.

⁴The LORD of | hosts is with us;*
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
⁵There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,*
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
⁶God is in the midst of her; she shall not be | overthrown;*
God shall help her at the | break of day.
⁷The nations make much ado, and the king- | doms are shaken;*
God has spoken, and the earth shall | melt away.
⁸The LORD of | hosts is with us;*
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
⁹Come now and look upon the works | of the LORD,*
what awesome things he has | done on earth.
¹⁰It is he who makes war to cease in | all the world;*
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
¹¹“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;*
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”
¹²The LORD of | hosts is with us;*
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

Stand

VERSE

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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

(back cover)

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

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Judy McKee

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.

O God, Renew and inspire the church. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, make us care for our planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give guidance to areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Provide relief for those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing to those who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to Christ. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

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.

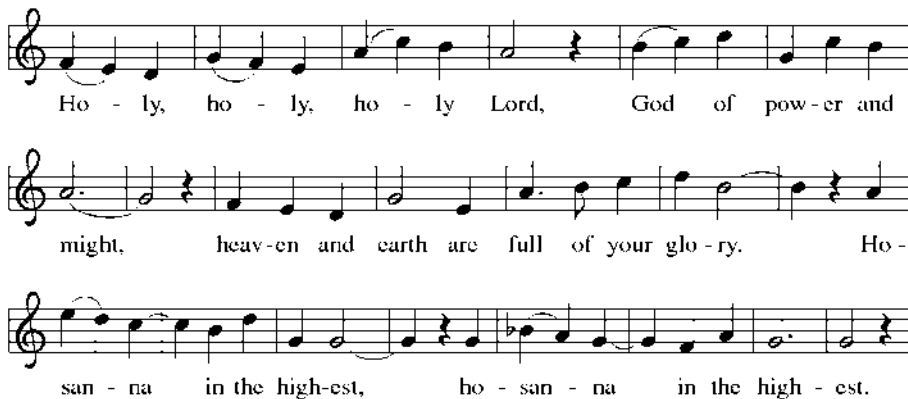
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

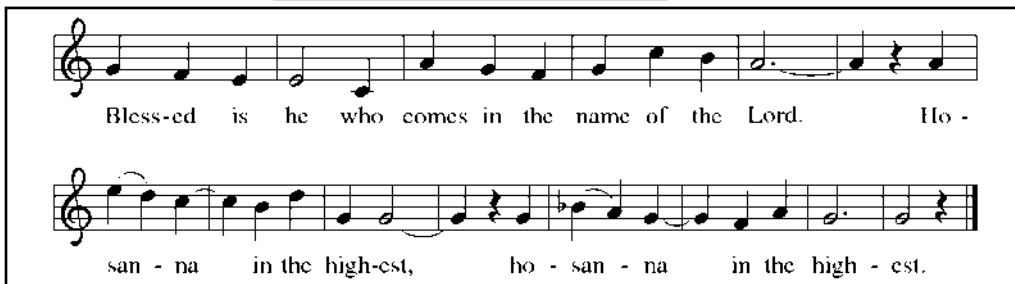
PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is said.*

SANCTUS

Sung by cantor. Congregation joins at the "Blessed is he..."



Congregation joins in singing



THANKSGIVING

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 glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen**

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.

Communion Solo *Deck Yourself, My Soul with Gladness* arr. Hal Hopson
Victor Fields, organ and handbells

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 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (LBW 294) Stanza 1*

My hope is built on noth - ing less than
Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
Refrain
On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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

A Mighty Fortress

Charles Ore

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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.

Mission in Africa needs our support. This is the last Sunday to show support and give financially to help our sister congregation in Tanzania. Remember that we are asking for small donations of \$10-\$20. 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.

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. Watch for the next sessions!

October 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 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.

Food Pantry—November

Items needed: Stuffing, Canned beans, canned vegetables, canned meats, apple sauce, mashed potato mix, rice, pasta side dishes and peanut jelly. 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”.

Christmas Poinsettias—As you may recall, we were unable to hold Easter services with the beautiful flowers that some of you had ordered. In their place, we will be ordering Poinsettias for use during the Christmas services. Your Poinsettia order is already taken care of if you ordered Easter flowers. You may use the form if you would like to order Poinsettias or if you would like to add to your original order. A list will be in the November newsletter if you forgot what you ordered for Easter ***Please note: The deadline for ordering is November 8th. Thank you.***



Cost is \$12.00 per plant.
They will be RED in
color.

List plant(s) as shown below
(please print clearly)

Number of plants _____ in Honor of:

Number of plants _____ in Loving Memory of:

Number of plants _____ Dedicated to the Glory of God

Your Name:

Plants may be picked up anytime after the
10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 27th.

Total # of Plants _____ @ \$12.00 each = \$ _____

Checks made payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

The completed order form with payment attached may be placed
in the offering plate or returned to the church office.

Orders due by Sunday, November 8th

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The relationship between God and humankind has, to say the least, been a tumultuous one. In the beginning God said: "let us make humankind in our image, in our likeness, ... So God created humankind in God's own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female God created them."

To be made in the image of God is to be created for community with God who is within God's own self a community of three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and in community with one another. To be created in the likeness of God is to be created to live in a covenantal relationship with God and with one another. It is to be created by, with, and for self-giving love. It is to live in obedient trust in the One who formed us from the dust of the earth.

But from the beginning humankind has broken that relationship, not being content with being created in the image of God, but wanting *to be* God. And we are participants in that brokenness. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God; we have not trusted God to be God. We have not trusted God's will to be for our good, our life. We have sought gods who fulfill our wishes and desires. We have rejected our Creator. Yet from the beginning God has sought to restore a positive relationship with humankind. God chose Abraham and Sarah to be the beginning of a special people, a people who would be a blessing to the nations, a people who would proclaim the love and mercy of the Creator to all the world, a people who would bring all peoples into the embrace of God's bountiful love and care. But even this chosen family turned to their own interests. Jacob stole Esau's birthright. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery in Egypt. God raised up Moses to call an enslaved people to freedom and gave them the Law to proclaim how God's people live together before God and one another in righteousness and justice. God cared for this people in the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. And still they complained and sought other gods. The history of Israel is the story of God seeking to restore the relationship between the Creator and humankind through Israel and of Israel repeatedly turning from that relationship.

By the time of Jeremiah the break was great. Jeremiah called upon leaders and people to repent, to return to the Lord God. He announced that they were only an instant away from a cataclysmic event of God's judgment. They had provoked God's anger by their turning away from God and worshipping the works of their own hands. They sought protection and safety from political alliances with foreign governments, often playing one against another. God's sorrow and disappointment were great. Yet so was God's love and faithfulness. The people had a stubborn and rebellious heart, a heart they were unable to cure themselves. Only God can give a heart that knows the Creator and Redeemer. Only God can bring about the transformation of every person, a transformation which fulfills the Creator's will for a righteous and holy people.

After years of the prophet's announcing pestilence, slaughter, famine, and captivity if Israel did not turn from her sinful, idolatrous ways, calamity did indeed strike. Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed; the people carried off into captivity. And now Jeremiah had a new word to speak: a word of hope and comfort proclaiming that Babylon's harsh rule would not last forever. A word that God's covenant with Israel was eternal. As Abraham Heschel writes: "Jeremiah proclaimed the promise of a covenant which will mean not only complete forgiveness of sin, but also a complete transformation of Israel." Jeremiah announced that Israel's future depended not

on the Temple, nor the kings but on God's faithfulness and mercy and on a new covenant to be written by the creative power of God's love upon human hearts. The day is coming, Jeremiah announced, when God's people would know and keep the covenant and be obedient to God's law. The people of God would know the truth. They would know the life and freedom which comes with living in a covenant relationship with God. They would know the joy and peace which comes from living lives obedient to God's will.

What is envisaged is not a new law negating the law given on Sinai, but a new way of knowing and keeping that covenant. God's Spirit will move the hearts of Israel to be obedient. The relationship of life and love between God and humanity, ruptured by humanity's idolatry, will be restored by a matchless act of Israel's God. The very Word of God by which all things were created, the second person of the Trinity, became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth. Jesus, Son of God, Son of Mary – God deep in the flesh. Here God shows the extent of God's love and faithfulness – a love that reaches out to embrace all peoples from arms outstretched on the cross, a love that takes our death and sin into God's own life in order to break its power over us, a love that rises from the grave in triumph – Love is victorious!

To know this Jesus is to know the God who sent him. To know this Jesus is to be set free – free from the destructive power of sin, free from our own selfish wants and desires, free to serve and love our neighbor as ourselves, free to live in a loving relationship with our Creator and Redeemer. Only through this Jesus can we know the life for which we were created. Only through this Jesus can we know true joy and peace and community.

And how do we know this Jesus? We know him as the Spirit opens our ears and hearts to meet him through the witness and proclamation of others. We know him as we hear the proclamation of the Gospel. And to that end God calls men and women to speak his Word and tell of his love.

God has called women and men from the beginning to do his will and proclaim his word. Moses was the law-giver. Miriam was a prophetess, Deborah and Samuel were judges. Jeremiah and Isaiah, Ezekiel and Daniel were prophets. Mary, betrothed to Joseph, was called to be a bearer to the world of the Word of God. Mary Magdalene was an Apostle to the Apostles, announcing the good news of the Resurrection of Jesus to the disciples. Peter and Andrew, James and John and the other Apostles spread the good news of the resurrection. Paul and Timothy, Dorcas and Phoebe proclaimed this good news. And so it continues throughout the ages: Polycarp and Augustine, Monica and Lydia, Jerome, Martin and Katie, Stan and Emily, Kelly and Victor, Patty and Bill, Jessica and Tristan and on and on.

Humankind continues to rebel and turn away from the God who loves us relentlessly. And God continues to raise up persons to call humanity back to live in a relationship of love and obedience. God calls you and I through our baptisms into Christ.

Let us seek to respond faithfully and joyfully to the call to speak God's Word and care for God's people. Let us boast in the Cross of Christ. Let us call all God's people to repentance and to a restored, life-giving relationship with our Creator and Redeemer. God's Spirit is at work among us giving us new minds and hearts and voices so that we can live faithfully before God and in community with one another and so that we can call others also so to live. Praise be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalm 46**SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28**

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness

of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”