

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 and 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. Please sit in designated pews only. You may sit together as a family. 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 by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.
- We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).

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.

The altar flowers are presented to the glory of God for all our blessings by Bill & Nancy Banta.



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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, by using online options from your financial institution, or through the "Donate" now from the church website **stpaulsy-ork.org**. Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul's and our ministry partners.

In our prayers we remember...

Reid Weinbrom, Darrell Kopp, Becky Diggs, Bill Troutman, Phyllis & Alan
Comery, Lynn Wicker, 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,
and the friends and family of Thelma Delancey and Andrew Barresse.

Upcoming weeks at St. Paul's

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
15 Newsletter Deadline 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Indoor 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Indoor 3:00 PM ANNUAL MEETING - In person or ZOOM 5:00 PM Evening Service - Indoor	16 9-11:30 AM Preschool 7:00 PM Finance Committee	9-11:30 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Pantry Volunteers 7:00 PM Finance Committee	18 9-11:30 AM Pre- school 10:30 AM Bible Study - Christ Hall	19 9-11:30 AM Preschool 6:30 PM Music Ensembles	20	21
22 CHRIST THE KING 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Indoor 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Indoor 5:00 PM Evening Service - Indoor	23 9-11:30 AM Preschool	24 9-11:30 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Pantry Volunteers 12:30 PM Christian Ed Meeting	25 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM NO Preschool 10:30 AM Bible Study - Christ Hall	26 Thanksgiving Day	27 Office closed	28

Twenty-fourth Sunday of Pentecost

November 15, 2020

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

The people's responses are in **bold**.

PRELUDE The God

The God of Abraham Praise

Richard Proulx

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 10:30 AM Sung by the Cantor

PRAYER OF THE DAY

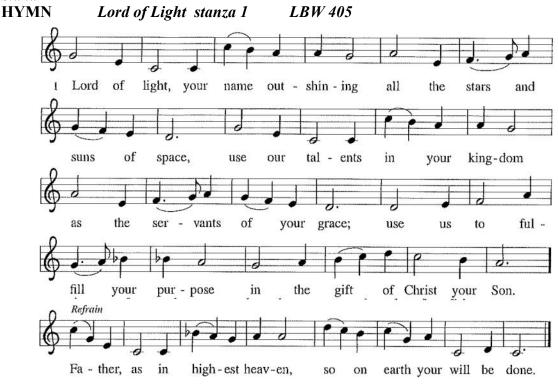
Let us pray. . . Lord, when the day of wrath comes we have no hope except in your grace. Make us so to watch for the last days that the consummation of our hope may be the joy of the marriage feast of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (back cover)

At the conclusion of the reading.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Stand



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30 (

(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 A time of silence follows the sermon.

Rev. Stan Reep

Stand

APOSTLES' 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.

Continued on next page...

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.

Lord God, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us for service to the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bless the earth. Restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Search out all who cry to you in distress. chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Extend healing and health to all who suffer sickness and adversity, especially... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

Stand

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. 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

DIALOGUE

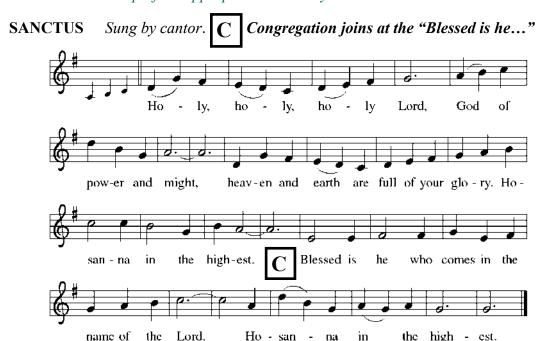
The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

And also with you. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The preface appropriate to the day is said. PREFACE



THANKSGIVING

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

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, 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 10:30 AM 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.

BLESSING

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

HYMN God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending (LBW 408) stanzas 1&3



- 1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end less store:
- 3 Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je - sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat - tered door, ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our - selves in praise; O - pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra-cious do - nor of our days. heal-ing, teach-ing, and re - claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer J. Bert Carlson

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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 and dispose of it properly.

November 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 22

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.

Advent Zoom Bible Study: The women in Jesus lineage according to the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 1. Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. November 18, 25th, December 2, December 9, and December 16. Pastor Reep spoke in his sermon on October 11th, about the book of Matthew beginning with the long list of names that starts with Abraham and ends with Jesus. In that list there are five women named. Join us as we learn about these women and what their lives could mean for us today. To register and receive Zoom information, call the church office, 717 or Patty Snyder 717-578-2253.

The Annual Meeting is TODAY November 15 @ 3:00 PM In Person and via Zoom

The Annual Meeting of the congregation is an important part of our life together as sisters and brothers in Christ. It is the time when we conduct business, elect leaders for various aspects of our ministry and mission, and share our collective hopes and dreams for our family of faith. This year the meeting will be held in the church nave on Sunday afternoon at 3:00 PM. A Zoom link will be available. At this meeting the 2021 budget will be presented for adoption, elections will be conducted for: Council members, the Benevolent Committee, and Voting Members to the 2021 Synod Assembly, and members for the Mutual Ministry Committee. The Council will present a summary of the information gathered through the cottage meetings held during the summer. This is a time for you to ask questions, offer insights and ideas, and seek collaborative ways to strengthen our life together in Christ. Please make every effort to take an active role in the life of our St. Paul's Church congregation by attending the Annual Meeting.

Christmas Service Sign-up—We will be utilizing a sign up for our Christmas services to help us monitor in person attendance for 80 people for our liturgies. With the guidance of CDC and our own St. Paul's COVID-19 task force we want to maintain our percentage for worshipers gathering in doors. To assure worshiper's of the maximum amount of people (20% at the time of this publication) that will be in the church nave, simply fill out the reservation form located at the entrances to the church and place in the offering plate or slip under the secretary's office window, or call/email the church office with your name, number of individuals that will be seated in the same pew with you and the service: 7:00 PM & 11:00 PM Christmas Eve or 10:30 AM Christmas Day. We want to facilitate all of our members and friends who desire attending in person Christmas services. Through an advance sign-up we can plan accordingly. At the time of this printing there remain: 26 seats at 7PM, 49 seats at 11PM, 60 seats at 10:30AM Christmas Day.

The 4:00 PM outside Christmas Eve Service does not require a reservation. Please note that you will need to bring a lawn chair (if desired). A face mask is required.

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".

Stan Marberger resided at Interfaith Manor, a six story apartment building across the street from Palm Lutheran Church. His religious convictions landed him among the plain clothes people of Lancaster and Lebanon Counties. His bishop was not as strict as some. He was allowed to have an automobile, as long as the bumpers and wheels were painted flat black. He wore plain black cloths and a wide brimmed black hat. Married men sported beards. He was a widower. Stan's beard was long and white. After caring for his wife during her long sickness, and now that she "had gone to be with the Lord," Stan didn't quite know what to do with his time each day. That is when he began to visit the church, and me, on a daily basis. He loved the fact that we shared the same name, talked theology, and drank black coffee.

Stan was a whiz at church history and well versed in biblical content too. He was a preacher. He could preach a sermon on just about any topic. At age 87 he had preached his share of sermons. At that time I was young, newly ordained, and single. I sported a short beard. Stan always told me to let it get longer, "like our Lord when he died on the cross" Stan would say. I invited Stan to attend our Sunday liturgy. He would politely decline. But the daily visits to the church office, a cup of fresh coffee, and some theological conversation, those things continued.

He was often critical of the members of his faith community. This surprised me. From the outside they appeared to be so devout. Stan would say "sure they love to get together, gather with people just like themselves and sing in full voice "When we all get to heaven." "I've got news for them; the Bible says to enter through the narrow gate. Wide is the gate and easy the road that leads to destruction and many take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

On nice days when the weather was pleasant Stan would sit on a bench at the corner of Railroad Street. Women from the Garden club would tend the flowers. Stan would drill them on their religious knowledge. He would point out lapsed members of the Lutheran congregation. It didn't take them long to figure out that Stan knew more about what Lutheran's believe than those who identified themselves with the congregation I served. It was Stan who boldly told one of my members that they shouldn't be wrapping their treasurer in a napkin and burying it. They should not be idle; they need to produce for the kingdom of God.

And that is where we begin today. With treasure, all of which according to the biblical story, has been entrusted to us. Now, what are you going to do with it? What are we going to do with it? For those who think that these are easy questions, I fear that they may be on the course of the wide gate and the easy road that Stan referenced from the gospel of Matthew.

Matthew's community knows that it is essential for them to proclaim the gospel message for the well-being of the church and for the spread of the Christian message in the world. They need to be comfortable speaking about what they believe. They can't sit

back and hope and pray that someone else will do what has been entrusted to them through the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism. In their time they couldn't begin to think that the proclamation of the Good News of God's gracious love would be carried out and overseen by a group of religious professionals (Popes, Bishops, Pastors, Deacons, Deaconesses, and hosts of Associates). This was work that was entrusted to them. The parable underscores the need for risk. It underscores the need to act, to be aggressively engaged using the resources entrusted, to mysteriously create more.

The ministry in which we share has been entrusted to us. Men and women of former times were convinced that for others to be included in the worshiping community the liturgy needed to be in English. Our ancestors provided a space for ministry to be carried out. The spaces changed as the needs of the worshipers and community changed. Why we just changed spaces around so that the building would be accessible, with a multitude of barriers removed.

The servant who wrapped his talent and buried it to keep it just as it had been given him acted out of fear. "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."

Wicked and lazy are not words of support, encouragement, or affection. They are words spoken in exasperation, disappointment, and frustration. As far as the outer darkness and weeping and gnashing of teeth, that is not the situation for which I am aspiring. Nor is that what I want for others.

We have been hearing the parables of Jesus through the lens of Matthew's gospel account. We have heard of: The Laborers in the vineyard, the two sons and the will of the Father, Landowner who planted a vineyard, the wedding banquet, Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids, and today the parable of the talents. All of them have religious and human significance. They have been told and retold to keep followers on the way toward the narrow gate. God's desire for us in Christ Jesus has never been destruction. God's desire is to save us from sin and death, to save us from things that destroy. That is the message that went forth from the early Christian community and is the message that has been entrusted to us.

Stan did attend worship one Sunday morning. He took the very last seat under the balcony. He was delighted when I told him to move forward and "take a higher seat." He sat right up front and took in all of the "pageantry," Stan's word for our liturgical celebration. The following week when he stopped by the office he commented on his Sunday experience. He was struck by how welcoming we were, how fluently we talked about and enacted God's grace. While he didn't commune with us that day, it wasn't because he didn't want to, or because he didn't feel welcome, but was because he was preoccupied with what members of his own faith community would think of him. How sad he confessed. "You were sharing the treasure and I was trying to stay wrapped up."

Amen.

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 [not printed]

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way,

the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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Tracks 1 and 2
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