

Come, inherit the kingdom prepared for you

MATTHEW 25:34

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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
22 CHRIST THE KING 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Evening Service	23 9-11:30 AM Preschool	24 9-11:30 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Pantry Volun- teers 12:30 PM Christian Ed Meeting	25 9:00-11:30 AM NO Preschool	26 Thanksgiving Day	27 Office closed	28
· · ·	30 9-11:30 AM NO Pre- school	1 9-11:30 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Pantry Volun- teers	Parking on Springetts- bury	3 9-11:30 AM Pre- school 6:30 PM Music Ensembles	4	5

Upcoming weeks at St. Paul's

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.

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.

We extend to our sympathy to the family and co-workers of Raymond Brunner. Ray was founder of Brunner & Associates Organbuilders. Their team have taken excellent care of our pipe organ and countless other church organs in PA notably the historic Tannenberg organ in York.

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, Jessica Ericson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacev, and the friends and family of Ravmond Brunner, Emily Swartz Colen and Kimberly Douglass (especially Deacon Ellen and Andrew Dougherty, Kimberly's Aunt & Uncle).

The altar flowers are presented to the glory of God for all healthcare workers by Jim and Nancy Bennett.



Flowers This Week

STAFF

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

Kelly Moore-Spencer Victor Fields Dale Zeiger Patee Pizzirusso Ted Weikert Deb Becker

Reverend Stanley Reep prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net kmoorespencer.stpaulsvork@comcast.net vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net dzeiger.stpaulsyork@comcast.net st.paulsvork@comcast.net st.paulsyork@comcast.net director@stpaulspreschoolvork.com

Christ the King November 22, 2020 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM The people's responses are in **bold**.



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . . Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things to your beloved Son, whom you anointed priest forever and king of all creation: Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united under the glorious and gentle rule of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit **READING** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (back cover) At the conclusion of the reading.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY
8:00 AM
10:30 AMPsalm 95:1-71a
Congregation Speaks the Antiphon
Sung by the Choir/quartet to a setting by Peter R. Hallock

ANTIPHON



Choir: Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON

Choir: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.

ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON

Choir: The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON

Choir: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

ALL REPEAT THE ANTIPHON

Stand

VERSE

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46 *(b*

(back page) Glory to you, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. 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 NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures: he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead. and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Longing for the fullness of Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's grace on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Bless all social ministries of the church through which we seek to serve others as we ourselves have been served. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all people in ways that are sustainable for the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages. Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heal the sinful divisions we erect between us and release us from systems of oppression and prejudice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on children and youth throughout the church. Sustain those who work in children's ministry, youth ministry, and campus ministry as they nur-

ture the gifts of young people. Especially we pray for Kelly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and tended to the sick. Move us by their example, that we may recognize your presence in those in need around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, our Lord. 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

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 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. Lord, in this Most Holy Sacrament you have given Christ, the King of all creation, as food for eternal life. Give us the grace to live by His Gospel, and bring us to the joy of His Kingdom, where He lives and reigns forever and ever.. Amen.

BLESSING

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

HYMN Crown Him with Many Crowns(LBW 170) stanzas 1&6



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Lift High the Cross I

Ronald Arnatt

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throughout eternity.

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. **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: **6 seats at 7PM, 44 seats at 11PM, 58 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.

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.

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 al-ways needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry".

Christmas Worship Schedule at St. Paul's



Please note the adjusted schedule for the entire Christmas season

Sunday, December 20,	2020 The Fourth Sunday of Adven	It
8:00 AM	Holy Communion with Blessing of the Creche	
10:30 AM	Holy Communion with The Ringing in of Christma	as
5:00 PM	Vespers with Sacrament of Holy Baptism	

Thursday, December 24, 2020 Christmas Eve

4:00 PM	Outside Christmas Carols with Brass Quintet
7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Vespers
11:00 PM	Christmas Eve Compline

Friday, December 25, 2020 Christmas Day

10:30 AM Holy Communion

Sunday, December 27, 2020

The First Sunday of Christmas

8:00 AMHoly Communion, spoken10:30 AMLessons and Carols5:00 PMLessons and Carols

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Epiphany

8:00 AM Holy Communion 10:30 AM Holy Communion 5:00 PM Epiphany Vespers

Christ the King A 2020	Pastor's Sermon	
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46

Failing miserably is not generally what anyone sets out to do. In the First grade Mrs. McMinn had 38 students crowded into her classroom. The rooms were especially full because one of the elementary school buildings in the district was destroyed by fire late that summer. Each remaining school absorbed half of the student body pushing enrollment to all-time highs. Students in the district were bussed long distances to and from school. Students who packed their lunch never saw the cafeteria or ate in the gym. Long rows of tables filled a hallway and we "packers" sat at those tables together. It was in first grade that I received my first big fat red letter F on the top of my test paper. I can still see it, big and bold and red, pressed into the surface of the page with a soft lead pencil. I had failed miserably. This was not something that I wanted anyone to see, was-n't something I wanted to share, wasn't something that I expected, wasn't something that I could even truly understand. What I did know, life at home would be horrible. There were consequences to accompany such an embossed colorful enhancement to the heading of my paper!

Failing miserably is not generally what anyone sets out to do. Failing miserably is often attributed from not truly knowing a situation, people, religious conviction, climate, geography. It is true in times of peace and war, with political and religious leaders, educators, administrators and students. It is true in the work place with CEOs and laborers. In the history of God's people there are plenty of times when people fail miserably.

That is where we encounter the prophet Ezekiel. Known mostly to us for the prophecy of Dry Bones, Ezekiel is announcing to the kings of Israel that they have done a miserable job. Instead of feeding, clothing, and caring for their people, they have scattered them. God's people are hungry and naked and provided no care. Ezekiel announces that God will be their shepherd and that God will bring them back, gather them, and feed them richly on the mountain heights in verdant pastures. This was a word for which the people were longing. They had endured enough hardship, endured enough displacement, and endured enough embarrassment from ruling kings who thought only of themselves. However, proclaims the prophet, this doesn't mean that it will be a good time party for everyone. God will be the shepherd and God will judge between sheep and sheep, between fat sheep that push others so that they can have more, and the lean sheep that have been neglected and oppressed. Through God's judgment **injustice will be destroyed**. God will set up a new shepherd in the line of King David who will truly feed, clothe and care for His people.

Feeding, clothing, visiting, and caring are the marks of kingdom life as witnessed in the gospel of Matthew. Those engaged in the work of the kingdom seem to be completely surprised that such common ordinary acts are what are being sought by the judge. "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king answers them "just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." They didn't recognize the king in the ordinary faces of those to whom they provided assistance, care, love.

The other group thinks that because of their own work and upstanding position that they are surely making the mark. But it seems that the mark they are receiving is more a kin to the one adoring my first grade paper. They didn't recognize the need, or the face of the king, in those who sought out assistance, compassion, help. According to the text, they failed miserably.

The King, Christ Jesus, does not want us to fail miserably. Jesus comes gathering us, the scattered and lost, with his word of promise and hope. He comes clothing us with baptism's garment of salvation. He comes feeding us with the bread of life, his body, to forgive our sins, our miserable failing. Jesus comes to us like no other king, political or religious leader. His desire is not failure for us, but justice and hope. Christ our King models for us the care and compassion that other shepherds (political and religious leaders) ages ago and in our present time have neglected and ignored.

Caring for others is the surprising theme that over takes the whole lot. "When did we see you?"

I don't believe for one second that any one of us sets out to fail miserably: Some manage to make the headlines more often, so we hear about the miserable failings of: politicians, religious leaders, CEOs, administrators, educators, and students. But they are not alone. In our human sinfulness we all fail miserably. That is why we all are in need of the gracious Shepherd King whose life and rule we celebrate today. He is the one who gathers the scattered and welcomes us into his verdant pasture of care.

The story is told again and again to open our eyes to the opportunities that abound. The opportunities to keep others from failure and to work on behalf of those who hunger, thirst, are sick or in prison, who need clothing and a voice to speak on their behalf. "When did we see you?" Ezekiel was announcing a word of hope to his community. Matthew was announcing a word to move his community into action. Jesus is our King. He is the Word who acts on our behalf, dying and rising, keeping us from failing miserably. Amen.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. 12As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. 16I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GoD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Psalm 95:1-7a

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23 [not printed]

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37.

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