



KEEP AWAKE

MARK 13:37

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
29 Advent 1 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Advent Vespers	30 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool	1 9:00 - 11:30 AM Pre-school 9:30 AM Pantry Volunteers 7:00 PM ZOOM Pre-school Mtg	2 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM No Parking on Springetts-bury 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool	3 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool 6:30 PM Music Ensembles	4 Office Closed	5
6 Advent 2 - ST. NICHOLAS DAY 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Advent Vespers	7 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool 7:00 PM Scout Troop 19	8 9:00 - 11:30 AM Pre-school 9:30 AM Pantry Volunteers	9 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool	10 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool 6:30 PM Music Ensembles	11	12

STAFF

Pastor
Youth Director
Organist, Choir Director
Bookkeeper
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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 **stpaulsyork.org**. Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul’s and our ministry partners.

*This week's flowers are given to the Glory of God in memory of my son,
Neil S. Shue by Norma Shue; and in memory of William Bortner by Joan
& Steve Langeheine*



Flowers This Week

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”.



Advent and Christmas Devotional ideas, activities and resources for all ages can be found on the church website. Look on the front page or under the tab LEARN. stpaulsyork.org

In our prayers we remember...

Deborah Fulton, Reid Weinbrom, Darrell Kopp, Becky Diggs, Bill Troutman, Shawn Sunday, Mike Johnston, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, David List, Jessica Ericson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey..

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

8:00 & 10:30 AM

During the time of COVID -19

PRELUDE

Savior of the Nations Come

Robert J. Powell

Stand

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.**

INTROIT *The refrain is sung by all. The stanza is sung by the cantor.
The concluding refrain is sung by all.*

Refrain
Em Bm⁷ Em

The King of glo - ry comes, the na - tion re - joic - es.

O - pen the gates be - fore him, lift up your voic - es.

*Stanza 1 Who is the King of glory; how shall we call him?
He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages.*

REFRAIN

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. . . Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

READING Isaiah 64:1-9

back page

At the conclusion of the reading The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 *spoken responsively by half verse*

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;*

shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

² In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,*

stir up your strength and | come to help us.

³ Restore us, O | God of hosts;*

show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

⁴ O LORD | God of hosts,*

how long will you be angered despite the prayers | of your people?

⁵ You have fed them with the | bread of tears;*

you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

⁶ You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,*

and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

⁷ Restore us, O | God of hosts;*

show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

¹⁷ And so will we never turn a- | way from you;*

give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

¹⁸ Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;*

show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

Stand

VERSE

Alleluia. **Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and give us your salvation. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

(back cover)

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

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Reep

Stand

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world.

Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Bring restoration to our world.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Relieve burdens for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ease suffering for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing. Sustain all who yearn for the completion of your redeeming work.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY

Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you,

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

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.* **C** *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.

C 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

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, We praise you for creating a world of order and beauty When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

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 life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both 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 Hymn *What Feast of Love (WOV 701)*

Stanza 1 All Stanza 2 Cantor Stanza 3 All



- 1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?
- 2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?
- 3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?
What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv-en!

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. Almighty God, in the Eucharist you cleanse us from our sins and prepare us for the coming of your Son. Make us ready always to welcome Him into our hearts as we receive your Holy Sacrament; though Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.**

Sit

POSTLUDE

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

Aaron David Miller

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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.*

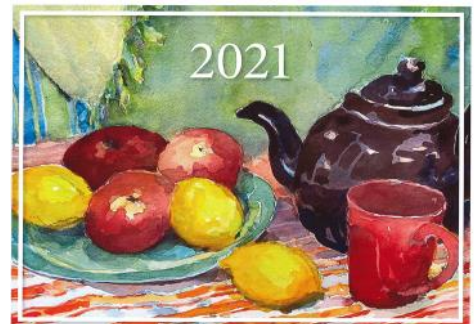
December 1

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. Follow along on ZOOM by contacting Miss Kelly for sign in information. 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.

2021 Calendar Sale

Make sure you get your copies of the 2021 calendar! They feature the watercolor paintings of Pastor Reep. The images highlight the beautiful cottages from the grounds of the Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua NY (painted during summer 2019) and fruits and flowers still life arrangements (painted during 2020). We ask for a minimum donation of \$20. All proceeds go to the Capital Campaign. The original paintings will be auctioned at our October 16th 2021 event. Thank you for supporting this fundraising effort.



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 Advent

8:00 AM	Holy Communion with Blessing of the Creche
10:30 AM	Holy Communion with The Ringing in of Christmas
5:00 PM	Vespers with Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Thursday, December 24, 2020 Christmas Eve

4:00 PM	Outside Christmas Carol Service 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
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Sunday, December 27, 2020 The First Sunday of Christmas

8:00 AM	Holy Communion, spoken
10:30 AM	Lessons and Carols
5:00 PM	Lessons and Carols

Sunday, January 3, 2021 Epiphany

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

Christmas Service Reservation Sign-up—We are utilizing a sign up for our Christmas services to help us monitor in person attendance for our liturgies. With the guidance of CDC and our own St. Paul's COVID-19 task force we want to maintain the 20% for worshipers gathering in doors. Through an advance sign-up we can plan accordingly. **At the time of this printing there remain: 10 seats at 7PM, 41 seats at 11PM, 49 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.**

Advent 1 Pastor's Sermon Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

Tear open the mail

Tear open the hot cocoa packet

Tear open the bag of potato chips

Tear open packages

Tear open the heavens, not so much. That is the image provided by the prophet Isaiah. Tear open the heavens and come down.

Come down to the chaos, come down to the suffering, come down to the warring, come down to the injustice, come down to the prejudice, come down to the heartache, come down O Lord God and bring the chaos, suffering, warring, injustice, prejudice, and heartache, to a screeching halt.

Isaiah was praying for God to come down, because in his time it seemed that God had abandoned the people, that because of their sin God was choosing to stay away, that God decided to hide himself and so they decided to sin all the more. It seemed fitting, if there wasn't any sign from God then they may as well keep living for themselves, full throttle, straight ahead, becoming more and more sinful, unclean, and drifting farther and farther from God. They had forgotten to call on God. It was as though the heavens were shut up. No angelic messengers, no word from God. It is as though the former time of Exodus from Pharaoh and slavery and Egypt was of no consequence. They have a memory that is shorter than the time it takes to tear open and consume a fun size candy bar. As a friend of mine reminds me, there is nothing fun about a fun size chocolate bar. There isn't enough candy to last, to last even for a little while. God's people have little memory of the lasting deeds and actions, of God's love and promise. They have even begun thinking that they are the potter, giving shape and purpose to their own lives.

The prophet Isaiah wants God to tear open the heavens and come down so that everyone can see, everyone will recognize, everyone will acknowledge that he is indeed the creator of all, the Potter giving shape and form and purpose to creatures and to creation alike. Isaiah seeks restoration for God's people and for the world in which they live.

In the Gospel of Mark we hear of the heavens being torn open and the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. This tearing open of the heavens welcomes the season of Advent. We turn our attention to a season synonymous with watching, working, and waiting for a day at once imminent and unknown. "In those days" there will be suffering, people will have forgotten God, they will be living for themselves, wars and violence will punctuate daily existence. It sounds an awful lot like the year we are having in 2020. And Jesus tells his followers then and now that while others try to plot and chart the time and attempt to figure out exactly when The Lord God will return; only the Father knows.

Jesus tells a story to shed light on the question of when. He uses the example of the fig tree pushing out new green branches, tender shoots, leaves, “when this is taking place” he says, “you know that summer is near.” So he says when these things are taking place you that God is near, at the very gates.

God is near. Advent comes around every year. Like the hands on the mantle clock, the leaves on the fig tree, the cyber Monday media posts, Advent comes. And with it comes the recognition that we have drifted from God, even at times conveniently forgetting that God is with us.

On most days I hear more about wars and violence, injustice and prejudice, natural disasters and unrepentant hearts than I care to. I, like the prophet Isaiah, want something to tear open to grab the attention of a world seemingly suffering the effects of amnesia where God is concerned. God, Church, faith community, for an increasing number of people are only on the radar when it is convenient or someone needs something that they think they are entitled too given their ancestral connection to the faith community. America’s consumer driven consumption tends to reinforce a false notion that we are the potter, rather than God the creator. And so we forget, like the people of Israel before us, that God has acted on our behalf leading us out from the bondage of sin and death through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Advent comes around calling out to us that things are going to be torn open, torn apart, torn down, and torn to bits. And we are called upon to turn our lives around, to end the things that are warring within us, to stop the violence that seizes life, to rebuild community, working on the side of justice, and continually calling on God in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Advent reminds us that neglecting God only leads us farther and farther from God.

Isaiah believed that God was hiding, staying away, because God was angry with the people. We believe that God is not hiding, that God is present with us now revealing himself to us in communion’s bread and wine and baptism’s water and Word. In the person of Jesus, Christ the Savior tears into the world offering life to all. To those at war, those engaged in violent acts, those who don’t get a fair chance, those whose lives are ravaged by natural disaster, and those whose hearts are every bit as hardened as the Pharaoh’s. Christ comes to you and me offering to us another way to live and work and play. Advent announces the one who tears into our world and into our lives with the lasting promise of life, which gives us hope.

So go ahead and tear into something this Advent season. Tear into something that gives life, offers hope, and announces Christ. Tear into the work and witness that is ours in Christ Jesus and keep praying, “Come Lord Jesus.”

Come and take away the chaos, the suffering, the warring, the injustice, the prejudice, the heartache, and replace them with your peace, hope, and love. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8.

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Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-R