



Prepare the way of the Lord

MARK 1:3

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
6 Advent 2 - ST. NICHOLAS DAY 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Evening Service	7 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool 7:00 PM Scout Troop 19	8 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool 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
13 Advent 3 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Evening Service	14 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool 7:00 PM Council Meeting	15 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Pantry Volunteers 6:00 PM Christmas Rehearsal	16 6:00 PM Church Decorating Poinsettia Delivery AM 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool	17 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool 6:30 PM Music Ensembles	18	19

STAFF

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

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

prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
dzeiger.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
st.paulsyork@comcast.net
st.paulsyork@comcast.net
director@stpaulspreschoolnyork.com

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 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 by Richard & Patsy Griffin; and in honor of our children and grandchildren by Allan & Bonnie Wysocki.



Flowers This Week

Food Pantry—December

Items needed: Stuffing, Canned beans, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, canned beans, canned vegetables, canned meats, apple sauce, mashed potato mix, rice, pasta side dishes and peanut butter & 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..

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

8:00 & 10:30 AM

Holy Communion Setting 9 ELW

PRELUDE

The King Shall Come

David Johnson

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 2 In all of Galilee, in city or village
He goes among his people, curing their illness*
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 our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; 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 **Isaiah 40:1-11**

back page

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

PSALM **Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13** *spoken responsively half-verse*

- ¹ You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;*
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.
- ² You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people*
and blotted out | all their sins.
- ⁸ I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying,*
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their | hearts to him.
- ⁹ Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,*
that his glory may dwell | in our land.
- ¹⁰ Mercy and truth have | met together;*
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.
- ¹¹ Truth shall spring up | from the earth,*
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.
- ¹² The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,*
and our land will | yield its increase.
- ¹³ Righteousness shall | go before him,*
and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.

Stand

VERSE

Alleluia. **Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight his paths, all nations shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

(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, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. Especially we remember....Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work. Make their generous lives an example for all and gather us with them in your heavenly kingdom. 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.

10:30 AM Handbell Ensemble *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* arr. Kathleen Wissinger

OFFERTORY



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.

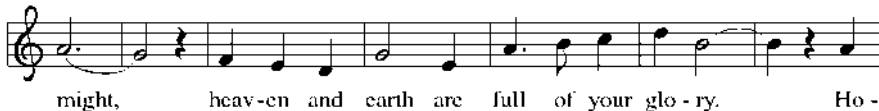
We lift them to the Lord.

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..."*



Continued on next page...



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 *On Jordan's Banks (LBW 36)*

Stanza 1 All Stanza 2 Cantor Stanza 3 Women Stanza 4 Men Stanza 5 All



1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounce - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our rel - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

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

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

Robert J. Powell

Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies

Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave.

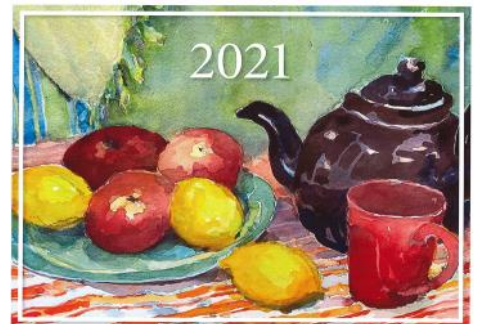
Feel free to gather outside for conversation.

Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.

Advent Zoom Bible Study: The women in Jesus lineage according to the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 1. Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. 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 Ensemble
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 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: 41 seats at 11PM, 49 seats at 10:30AM Christmas Day. The 7PM service is full.*

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 2B, 2020

Pastors Sermon

Isaiah 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-8

Mend a fence

Bury a hatchet

Apologize

Pay attention to your child

Re-discover fidelity

Come clean

Get responsible

Seek God's forgiveness

Turn around

Have a paradigm shift

John the Baptizer sums up all of these by calling out "repent!" Yes, you.

He appears in the wilderness, the places where we find ourselves; alone, broken, fearful, cut-off, frustrated, anxiety ridden. He announces the way of the Lord. Get ready. Make haste. Don't wait. Now is the time. This is the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. And right about now all of us need good news.

The good news that John announces begins with *a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*.

Repentance is a really religious sounding word. In its root form, repent, it seems to be more at home with street preachers than with pastors preaching in a room filled with up-holstered pews. And yet that is the word that the prophet cries out in preparation for the way of the Lord. It is the word that the prophet announces to make paths straight.

You know the difference between a straight path and a crooked path? The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. I learned that in 7th grade geometry class. Websites like Map Quest and Rome2Rio perfected it showing you the shortest distance between destinations. Straight paths shorten distance, advance the end. Crooked paths lengthen distance, delay the end. The coming of the Lord, the coming of the promised One is something desired so therefore we need straight paths. That's why I began with a list that may have sounded like suggestions but is critical for building straight paths.

John knew that for the people to experience something different they would need to have a paradigm shift, turn some things around, seek God's forgiveness, become more responsible in how they were living, come clean with their deceit, re-discover fidelity and time with family, offer up some honest apology, bury a couple of hatches that have been whittling away at their well-being, and mend a few fences so that things would be better contained. In the words of John; repent.

Because we need to experience something different from American political strife, escalating international tensions, governmental grid lock, health pandemic and the isolation and unemployment that has accompanied it, in times like these, repentance may very well be the farthest thing from one's mind. And yet it is precisely what is needed. It straightens the path to God. It brings two entities that are far apart closer together. In the midst of our

tension, disappointment, fear, frustration and hopelessness turning back toward God puts us on a right path, a shorter path, a more direct footing. John announces God's prophetic Word. Repent. Turn around. Make your path straight!

In our own time, God's prophetic Word is delivered by Mary in a stable on the outskirts of Bethlehem. Jesus the Word made flesh enters into a world distraught by abuses in the political and religious realms. Jesus comes quietly, as a baby, born away from home in a less than ideal situation. But the Savior comes.

He is the Word of hope that John the Baptizer proclaimed was coming when he was out on the Judean countryside camping out along the Jordan River. John's message didn't sound all that hopeful, "repent," "be baptized," "turn your life around." But John's message was one of hope **for all who believed**.

For **all who believed** they knew that something else was possible,
something besides the daily cycles of poverty and injustice,
something besides the oppression of the elitist political system,
and something besides the exclusive religious establishment.

John's message was directed to people who needed hope. It seemed that nothing would change, nothing could change, and nothing was possible except for more of the same long arduous crooked path.

And yet everything **did** change and **does** change and **will** change in the presence of Christ Jesus, the true hope for the world. Advent is a season of hope and longing. Hoping and longing for something other than more of the same. The nation needs it, the international community needs it, our local community needs it, our homes and family need it too. That is why Christ comes to us again this morning in his Word proclaimed and quietly in the simple forms of bread and wine restoring our lives and showing us that something else is possible. In the words of absolution, in with and under the forms of bread and wine, Jesus comes forgiving our sins, straightening the path to God.

Sure we may need some repenting, baptizing, and turning around in order for God's Word to take hold of our lives, to take hold of our community, to take hold of our nation and to take hold of our world. But without Christ Jesus, the Savior, without him we are a hopeless lot that will be overtaken by violence, overtaken by oppression and overtaken by fear.

John calls out to us this morning. He announces good news. Such good news this is that ...Fences are mended. Hatchets are buried. Apologies are verbalized. Children regain attention. Fidelity is restored. Honesty springs forth. Excuses dissipate. God's forgiveness is given. Turning around shortens the journey. Shifting the paradigm brings hope.

*Then cleansed be every life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.*

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be dissolved.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

Cover: Cross, Chicago, Variation 2. Photo copyright © Lucinda Naylor. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our Web site at www.augsburgfortress.org.

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-R