

Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ

JOHN 1:17



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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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. Bathroom 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.

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.

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 3, 2021

8:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM

Holy Communion Spoken

PRELUDE

As with Gladness Men of Old

Robert A. Hobby

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.**

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 God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

READING **Jeremiah 31:7-14**

back page

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

Thanks be to God

PSALM **Psalm 147 13-20** *spoken responsively half-verse*

¹³ Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem;*
 praise your | God, O Zion;
¹⁴ for he has strengthened the bars | of your gates;*
 he has blessed your chil- | dren within you.
¹⁵ He has established peace | on your borders;*
 he satisfies you with the | finest wheat.
¹⁶ He sends out his command | to the earth,*
 and his word runs | very swiftly.
¹⁷ He gives | snow like wool;*
 he scatters hoar- | frost like ashes.
¹⁸ He scatters his | hail like bread crumbs.*
 Who can stand a- | gainst his cold?
¹⁹ He sends forth his | word and melts them;*
 he blows with his wind, and the | waters flow.
²⁰ He declares his | word to Jacob,*
 his statutes and his judg- | ments to Israel.

Stand

VERSE

Alleluia.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL **John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

The Holy Gospel according to **St. John**

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

HOMILY

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

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith (*especially*).

With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

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.

THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you...

Through him all glory and honor are 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 *spoken responsively*

Lamb of God, **you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, **you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, **you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

***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. Almighty Father, in the Incarnation of your Son you began the work of our deliverance from sin and death. Through the grace of this Holy Sacrament, strengthen us in spirit and renew in us the New Birth we have through your Son, 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

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Robert A. Hobby

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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.*

2021 Flower Chart—The 2021 flower chart is posted on the Springettsbury vestibule bulletin board. The cost of the flowers is \$30 per vase. You are welcome to sign up to provide one or both vases. After you have signed up, simply make a check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and mark it altar flowers. This is a great way to honor someone, celebrate a milestone in life, or remember a loved one. The flowers may be taken home with you at the conclusion of the 10:30 AM liturgy or you may have them given to someone who is sick, shut in, or hospitalized. If you wish, you can contact the office to reserve a date, and to provide us with all of the correct information for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. In advance, thank you.



*The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God in memory
of Richard and Margie Martin's 75 wedding anniversary
by the Martin Family.*

In our prayers we remember...

Jenny Zimmerman, Rick & Candy Hutton, Connie Reed, Deborah Fulton, Reid Weinbrom, Darrell Kopp, Shawn Sunday, Mike Johnston, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, David List, Jessica Ericson,

Food Pantry—January

Items needed: Jelly, peanut butter, mashed potato mix, stuffing mix, canned beans. 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”. A special thank-you to the preschool for their donations to the pantry.

STAFF

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Bookkeeper
Secretary
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Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,

"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of
the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the
earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.
⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not
stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong
for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of
Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of
the LORD,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for
sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

or Sirach 24:1-12 [not printed]

Psalm 147:12-20

or Wisdom 10:15-21

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14
[not printed]

GOSPEL: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

[In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was
with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the
beginning with God. ³All things came into being
through him, and without him not one thing came
into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was
life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The
light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did
not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name
was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the
light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He
himself was not the light, but he came to testify to
the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens every-
one, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into
being through him; yet the world did not know him.
¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people
did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him,
who believed in his name, he gave power to become
children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or
of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of
God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among
us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a fa-
ther's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John tes-
tified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom
I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me
because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness
we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law
indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth
came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen
God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the
Father's heart, who has made him known.