JESUS TOOK HER BY THE HAND AND LIFTED HER UP

MARK 1:31

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.

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 Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Norma Shue, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

Sunday, February 7, 2021 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Holy Communion 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM

PRELUDE

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

Carson Cooman

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage 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 Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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

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.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe with joy what the Scriptures proclaim, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

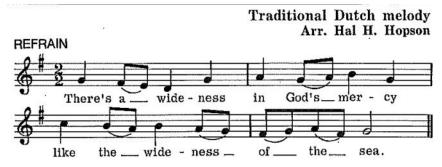
Sit

FIRST READING The Word of the Lord. Isaiah 40:21-31 (back page) Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 147 C

Congregation sings refrain where noted.



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¹ Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!* How pleasant it is to honor | him with praise! ² The LORD re- | builds Jerusalem;* he gathers the ex- | iles of Israel. ³ He heals the | brokenhearted* and binds | up their wounds. ⁴ He counts the number | of the stars* and calls them all | by their names. REFRAIN ⁵ Great is our LORD and might- | y in power;* there is no limit | to his wisdom. ⁶ The LORD lifts | up the lowly,* but casts the wicked | to the ground. ⁷ Sing to the LORD | with thanksgiving;* make music to our God up- | on the harp. REFRAIN ⁸ He covers the heav- | ens with clouds* and prepares rain | for the earth; ⁹ he makes grass to grow up- | on the mountains* and green plants to | serve mankind. ¹⁰ He provides food for | flocks and herds* and for the young ravens | when they cry.

¹¹ He is not impressed by the might | of a horse;* he has no pleasure in the strength | of a man;
¹² but the LORD has pleasure in | those who fear him,* in those who await his | gracious favor.

REFRAIN

SECOND READING

The Word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 9:16-23 (back page) Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA VERSE

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

HOLY GOSPEL

St. Mark 1:29-39 (back page)

The Holy Gospel according to Glory to you, O Lord. At the conclusion of the Gospel The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Stan Reep

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Continued on next page...

For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you (especially), let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For this congregation: for outreach and social ministries centered here, for our food pantry, for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for the young people in this place who open us to new understandings, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING 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. 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

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

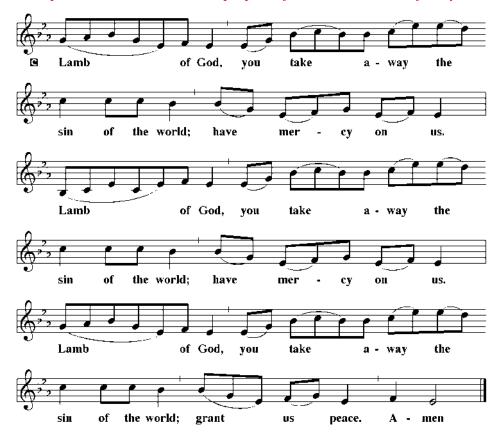
LORD'S PRAYER

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 RITE A brief silence is kept.

AGNUS DEI Sung by 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 God, grant that all who have been fed with Bread from heaven may be renewed in the covenant of their Holy Baptism and, following your Son in true faith and obedience, may become your children in name and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

BLESSING

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

HYMN O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come (LBW 360) stanzas 1 & 4



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

POSTLUDE

Pasticcio

Jean Langlais

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In our pravers we remember...

Earline Jones, Wayne Wagner, Sandy Dickensheets, Sue Kopp, Judy Himmelwright, Jannette Guetersloh, Oonagh Newman, Jenny Zimmerman, Deborah Fulton, Reid Weinbrom, Darrell Kopp, Shawn Sunday, Mike Johnston, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, David List, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacev.

2021 Offering booklets are available in the lobby on Springettsbury Ave. Please deliver booklets to those who are staying at home or who do not have transportation. Thank you.

The 2021 January, February, March Devotional Booklet, "Christ in Our Home" Copies are available in the Narthex and the Good Shephard Room.

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 it, 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.



Today's altar flowers: In loving memory of Thelma Delancey on her 93rd birthday....from Barb Young and all her family.

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.paulsvork@comcast.net director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

CREATE

CREATE will be held on Tuesday evenings via Zoom. Ages 2 through grade 1 will be held 6:00pm till 6:30pm. Grades 2 through Grade 6 will be 6:45pm through 7:15pm. Each participant will receive a group of packets, each containing all the supplies that are needed for the designated weekly lesson. The Zoom sessions will include



Bible Stories, Church Seasons, Holidays, Crafts and Art Projects. You can also do these sessions on your own with your children. Please let me know if you are interested in being part of CREATE Zoom. Miss Kelly

Next Sunday we bring the season of Epiphany to a close with the celebration of the Feast of the Transfiguration.

Confirmation Students will begin their next unit, *The Ten Commandments*, on Sunday, February 21st at 5:00 PM. Packets of material are available from Pastor Reep this morning or they may be picked up during the week from the church office.

New Members Class will be held on Sundays during the month of March at 9:15 AM in Christ Hall. If you or someone you know is interested in uniting with our faith community please notify the church office. Masks and physical distancing will be practiced during the four sessions.

Bible Study In-person will begin on Wednesday, February 17 at 10:30 AM in Christ Hall. Please look at the Epistle reading from 1 Peter 3:18-22. We will spend most of our time during the Lenten Season on the epistle reading for the up-coming Sunday.

Food Pantry—**February**

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".

Adult Faith Formation

What Can We Learn from Dietrich Bonhoeffer About Living With the Word? Join Bishop Carol Hendrix, retired, in conversations on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We will be looking briefly at Bonhoeffer's writings about daily meditating on the Word, the Psalms as our prayerbook, and the Sermon on the Mount as direction from the Word made Flesh for a life of discipleship. The last class in ths series will be on Wednesday evening from 7:00-8:00 PM on February 10. No prereading required. Contact Patty Snyder 717-578-2253 or the church office 717-843-8155 to register and receive the Zoom link.



Epiphany 5 B, 2021 Isaiah 40:21-31 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39

This is a biblical passage that substantiates for me the practice and tradition for gathering in the home for communal Sunday dinners. "As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue, they entered the home of Simon and Andrew, with James and John." They presumably had planned to gather for a post worship luncheon only to discover that Peter's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever.

I have envisioned this scene with Peter's wife being attentive to her mother, and making certain that her needs were met, decided to forgo laying out a meal for her husband, his brother Andrew, their fishing buddies James and John and the new guy they have been following; Jesus.

The surprise is that when they told Jesus, the one whom they have been following, about how sick, how feverish, the senior member of the household was, he didn't waste any time. He came to her and took her by the hand and lifted her up. And the fever left her. And she began to serve them the Sabbath meal that had been lovingly prepared on the day before.

A few summers ago there was a brilliant dance presenter at the Chautauqua Institute who used body movement to make sense of the poetry she witnessed through observing people in a variety of situations; from people walking and playing fetch with their dogs in Miller Park on a Sunday morning, to the young girls and boys selling The Chautauquan Daily newspaper on Bestor Plaza. She was able to capture what she saw and instantly relay it into graceful gestures of arm and body movement.

The dance instructor was called upon that particular Sunday to capture the Bible reading for morning worship. So the lector read the assigned passage. There was a period of silence. And then in fluid lyrical movement she gave visual shape to the audible words spoken moments before. The reading this morning lends itself to such treatment.

Jesus came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

The shape and movement of the text leads us to an understating that service to Jesus begins after he has lifted us up and the fever has left us.

Fever; historically this has been the time of year for fevers. Fevers accompany sickness. We tend to take a temperature to see if we are anywhere near normal, or in an acceptable range. (I once had a parishioner, Faye, who said that the only thing "normal" was a setting on her clothes dryer!) We may discover that we are running a low grade temperature or experience at any moment acceleration into a full-blown fever. Fever; often equated with sickness, physical sickness, but rarely talked about as the underlying condition of our human sinfulness, our separation from God. We may not be aware of how low grade or elevated our fever really is. Saint Jerome who preached on this very text in Bethlehem about 1,600 years ago said:

"O that he would come to our house and enter and heal the fever of our sins by his command. For each and every one of us suffers from fever. When I grow angry, I am feverish. So many vices, so many fevers. But let us ask the apostles to call upon Jesus to come to us and touch our hand; for if he touches our hand, at once the fever flees (*Corpus Christianorum*, LXXVIII, 468)." Now it is not our theological position to pray to the saints, to the apostles, we rather pray with them. But 1600 years ago Jerome was preaching of the cure for our fever coming through the command of Jesus. And even now we continue to need the healing touch of Jesus to restore humanity, to restore us, to health and wholeness.

Throughout the centuries, women and men have born witness to the need of Jesus' healing touch to restore what is fevered, what it not normal; what prevents us from getting up and serving. Some two hundred years ago John Whittier, an American Quaker poet and an advocate to abolish slavery in this country, was aware of the fever of our unjust and self-centered ways. In addition to his anti-slavery writings he is probably remembered for penning the words of what has become a great American hymn:

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,

Forgive our feverish ways;

Reclothe us in our rightful mind

In purer lives Thy service find,

In deeper reverence praise.

John Henry Newman, contemporary of John Whittier, connected the fever of life being over when our work, our service is done in his well-known prayer:

"O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last."

It is Christ Jesus who comes to us. In the fever of accusations, unjust trial and sentencing, Jesus is lifted up on a cross to die crushing the fevers that put him there and the fevers of our humanity. It is Christ Jesus who comes to us as Easter's resurrected one in the bread of Holy Communion and the words absolving us of both the low grade and full-blown fevers that threaten to overtake us. Taking us by the hand, he lifts us up from loneliness and despair, and through his merciful presence with us forgives us so that we are free to serve him and our neighbor. Through Christ's command we are set free from the fevers that keep us down and prevent us from being lifted up. With Jesus in the house we are freed for service and welcome, like it was that day in Capernaum with his disciples at the home of Simon Peter. When they all went home after worship to share in a meal together, only to discover that the matriarch of the household lie ill with a fever; Jesus acts to bring about healing, restoration and hope. Peter's mother-in-law served them that day. And such news spread.

Jesus may not be the new guy for you to follow. He may be more of a trusted lifelong friend. He comes to our house today taking us by the hand, placing himself in the palm of our hand in the bread of holy communion, lifting us up, so that the fever of life dissipates long enough for us to serve him, and our neighbor who is in need. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the carth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength,

mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Next Sunday's Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9.

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