Protect them in your name

JOHN 17:11

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 185 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.

The 10:30 AM Liturgy is live streamed. Please be aware that conversations can be audible to those viewing from home.

We are not relaxing our guidelines at this time. Please remain diligent. Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Entering and Leaving the Church:

Face masks are required inside,

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. Occasionally an usher may seat a guest in the red zone.

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.
- 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, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

Seventh Sunday of Easter Sunday, May 16, 2021 Holy Communion 8:00 and 10:30 AM

PRELUDE Be Still My Soul, the Lord is on Thy Side Aaron David Miller

Stand

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Let us pray,

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

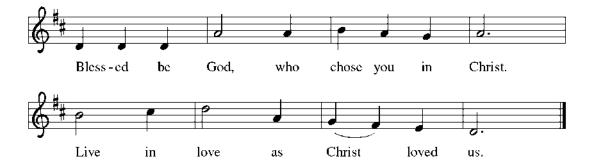
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

During the sprinkling with water, ELW #215 "Blessed be God Who Chose You", will be sung 4 times; first by the Cantor, then Women, Men and All



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.

С Sung by the cantor. **People join at** HYMN OF PRAISE Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Glo - ry God in the high to С and to God's peo - ple earth. est. пеасе on

PRAYER OF THE DAY

And also with you. The Lord be with you.

Let us pray. . . . Almighty and eternal God, your Son our Savior is with you in eternal glory. Give us faith to see that, true to his promise, he is among us still, and will be with us to the end of time; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST READING Acts 15-17 21-26 *(back cover)*

Psalm 1 From "Psalms for Young Children" by Mairie-Helene Delval PSALM

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL John 17:6-19 The Holy Gospel according to St. John. At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

(back cover) Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit **SERMON**

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

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. Let us pray.

A brief silence.

Holy God, send us into the world as your loving people, ready to testify to your Spirit at work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Mighty God, guard and keep this world for the well-being of all your creatures. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, grant grace and truth to the leaders of nations so that people can live abundant lives. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Generous Savior, grant healing and love to all in need (*especially*). Give them tangible signs of your steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, give us thankful hearts as we claim the gifts that are unique to us and keep us from being envious of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Saving God, your wonderful promise is the gift of eternal life in Jesus. Through the witness of those who have died in you, strengthen us now in this gift of life. We cherish the memory of your saints (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

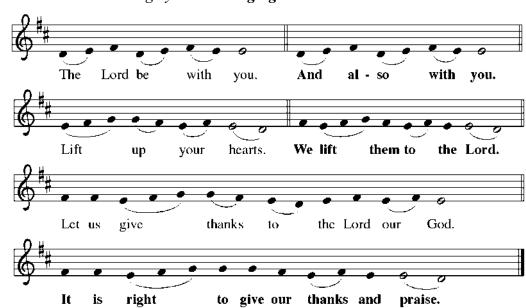
Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your neverending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

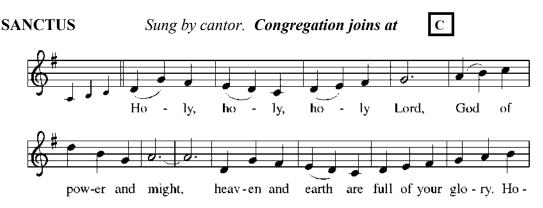
The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you. The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

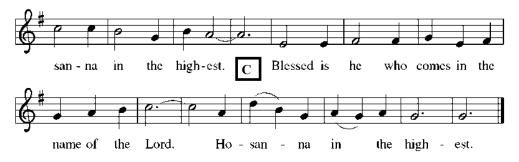


DIALOGUE Sung by Pastor/congregation

PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

- You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
- We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.
- 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.
- For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

- Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.
- To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

Continued on next page...

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 RITE

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.

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.

COMMUNION CANTICLE

Congregation sings refrain Cantor sings stanzas



Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches, wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

REFRAIN

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

REFRĂIN

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Amen **REFRAIN**

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

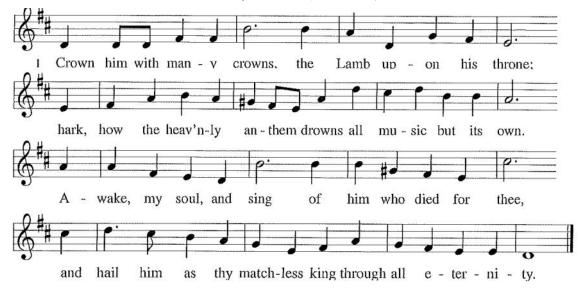
Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

BLESSING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns (LBW 170) stanza 1



DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Go in peace. Serve the Lord. He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDEToccata BrevisDaniel E. GawthropCopyright © 2021 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. ...take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.



The Feast of Pentecost will be celebrated indoors at 8:00 AM and outdoors at 10:30 AM. Remember to bring a lawn chair. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated at the outdoor liturgy at 10:30 AM. The hymns for the outdoor service will be led by a brass ensemble. Please come share Pentecost with us.

Summer Worship 8:00 AM Outside

Through the 2020 summer cottage meetings it was determined that even after the time of COVID-19 passes away holding a service outside on the south lawn during the summer months was a welcomed idea. The public visible witness strengthens our evangelism efforts. Children enjoy the relaxed setting. Currently we are finalizing the plans for summer worship. One aspect of holding an outside service is the weekly set up prior to and the clean up after each service. Last year the bulk of the set up fell upon staff members. There was always a core of faithful volunteers who would help with the clean-up and put away process. If you are supportive of an outside liturgy during June, July, and August and are willing to donate physical strength and 30 minutes prior to the 8:00 AM service time, please sign up to help by calling or emailing the church office with the dates you will be available. Thank you.

In our prayers we remember...

Tonya Cave, Amy Hollis, Sandy Beaverson, Chuck Oelsner, Chas Ebling, Mogan Lanzalotti, Courtney Snell, Sharon Cox, Jessica Armold, Dante Fuligini, Alyuson Bucks, Delores Sergent, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey and the family and friends of Mary Shank.



The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God.

Altar Flowers

The Springettsbury Hallway bulletin board has the sign-up sheet to sponsor flowers for available dates for the year. Many Sundays are still available! Cost is \$30 per vase.

This Week at St. Paul's May 16-23 Church office open 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Mon-Thurs, 7:30 a.m.-12 noon Fri

Sunday, May 16	
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist
6:30 PM	AA meeting—Community Rm
Monday, May 17	
7:00 PM	Finance Committee-ZOOM
7:00 PM	Boy Scout Meeting– ZOOM
Tuesday, May 18	
9:30 AM	Food Pantry

Wednesday, May 19 Bible Study—Christ Hall 10:30 AM Sunday, May 23 Pentecost 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Outside **Brass Ensemble** 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Food Pantry—May

Items needed: Pancake mix, 4 pks of toilet paper, canned or boxed potatoes, stuffing mix, jelly, boxed rice. We also need paper grocery bags with handles.

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".

Join members of St. Paul's Church Lutherans throughout our Lower Susquehanna Synod in a book study and discussion on Drew Hart's book 'Who Will Be A Witness; Igniting Activism for God's Justice, Love, and Deliverance'. The group will meet via Zoom on Thursday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. from May 13, 2021 through June 10, 2021. Each week will be facilitated by a different congregation in our synod and will feature a special guest faith-based community activist "storyteller". (Please plan to also join us from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 19, 2021 for our synod Juneteenth Celebration featuring a keynote from Drew Hart himself) Read more and register by clicking this link or log into the Synod's Website. Journey Towards Justice - Lower Susquehanna Synod (lss-elca.org) Contact Patty Snyder if you have questions.



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"Between," Derrick is "between" jobs. One job and place of employment ended on Friday. He begins a new job at a new place of on Monday. This weekend seems to be different from others. He isn't sure what he should be doing. It all seems weird.

Sarah is "between" conception and delivery; having confirmed that she is pregnant and the due date circled on her calendar. The remaining months until the baby is born seems to be different. There is so much to be done, prepared for, and yet she can't quite imagine her new life as a mother.

Mark and Sophia are "between" houses. They put their home on the market in anticipation of a future move across the country. Their home sold the first day. Good news. Except that their new home will not be ready for them to move into for another 7 months. There is great anxiety surrounding what they are doing, where they will live, how they will manage.

"Between" is one of those words we use to describe a situation that is neither here nor there. It is a difficult place to find one's self; the 12 year old who isn't yet a teenager, the college student who isn't quite an independent adult, the seminarian who has completed her academic degree but awaits ordination anticipating a call to a congregation. Perhaps you have your own "between" experience to draw from this morning.

I am one of those who is "between" those who were first eligible to receive a vaccination and those who are vaccine hesitant. As one "between" I didn't get early satisfaction of virus protection and now that I am vaccinated I'm not eligible to receive free beer or tickets to a baseball game by stepping up to receive a shot in the arm.

The eleven disciples along with Mary the mother of our Lord, some other women who accompanied Jesus, and his brothers, a mixed group numbering 120 are "between." They have just witnessed the Ascension, Jesus being taken up into heaven. And they were told to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In this "between" time is where we encounter them this morning. In the First Reading from Acts they are between the physical resurrected Jesus departing from them and the Spirit of God, Jesus had promised, descending upon them. This is a weird time, a time of uncertainty about what their new life will be like, a time of great anxiety about what they are going to do, how they will manage. There isn't a handbook for them to consult. They can't google what people do in such a situation. And they can't turn to Jesus and ask him for clarification. What they do is **look around, evaluate the situation**, and **try to discern a path forward**. In this case the path forward is to fill the vacancy left by Judas. They want to bring the balance of the twelve back into reality. Having no constitution to reference in such matters or any existing ecclesiastical hierarchy to consult, they take a common sense approach and identified qualities, traits, requirements for the position. When they identified a couple of individuals who met the criteria they elected one of them, Matthias, using the popular means of their day, "*they cast lots.*"

Now the followers of Jesus, his disciples once again numbered 12. There were 12 tribes of Israel. So it seemed somehow fitting that there would be 12 disciples all of whom witnessed Jesus' baptism, went in and out with him, were there in Jerusalem when his followers shouted "Hosanna," and later when the angry crowd shouted "crucify." They were

there behind closed doors when the risen Lord came to them Easter evening and spoke peace, brought peace, gave peace, modeled peace. And of course they saw him being taken up into heaven, ascension. Now the 12, with the newest member Matthias, they would have to wait for the promised gift of the Spirit.

In their "between" time we don't know what else they did to fill up ten days. It's good for Derrick that he only has the weekend to fill up. For Sarah she only has five more months or so more until her child is born. For Mark and Sophia they have a seven month window to try and find accommodations before their new house is completed. But for the twelve disciples along with Mary the mother of our Lord, some other women who accompanied Jesus, and his brothers, that mixed group numbering 120 they are "between." The Biblical text moves quickly on to chapter 2 "*When the day of Pentecost hand come, they were all together in one place*" indicating to us that they were indeed together, they hadn't separated, or gone their own ways, or decided to split up to accomplish some other tasks. No, they were all together in one place. They were together waiting for what the Lord Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit.

"Between," is not a convenient place to find one's self. It is often wrought with uncertainty and fear. Derrick labels it "weird." Sarah has trouble "imagining" it. Mark and Sophia find it to be "anxiety producing." For the disciples it was Jesus himself that thrust them into their "between." They had known him since his baptism, had shared meals with him, prayed with him, witnessed his miracles, and saw him put on a cross to die. They encountered him as resurrected Lord and I am sure would have done anything to have kept him with them. But Jesus departs so as to send forth the promised Spirit on those patiently waiting. They are "between."

We are patiently waiting in our "between" time. "Between" new jobs, new birth, new home, new chapter of life, new realities as the pandemic begins to recede and more folks are vaccinated. We are patiently waiting together for the fulfillment of all of God's promises to us. Waiting as ones who are baptized, who share a meal, pray together, witness miracles, and know of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection to save, and redeem, and make whole, and forgive, and amend, and give peace. The gospel writer John calls this abundant life. We wait with anticipation; sometimes fearful, sometimes anxious, sometimes uncertain, but trusting the Word, Christ Jesus, in all things, in all of life's circumstances.

Such trust in Christ Jesus is what keeps us together. It is the trust that allows us to move forward with those things that are within our reach. There is much to be done. We need only to look around and evaluate the situation, discern a path forward and see what is needed to bring about; some renewal, some wholeness, some unity into the congregation, community, and world in which we live. Oh it might seem nice if we were provided with something more than the means of grace to live out our "between" time. But the spoken word, the written word and the tangible sacramental word are what those twelve passed on to us. These means of grace were received from Christ and handed on to us, so that in our waiting, in our "between," we have calm, steadfastness, peace, and the assurance that Christ's victory is just that. In Christ our "be tweens" no matter what they may seem, are gifts to deepen relationships, draw us together in the Spirit, and point us toward God's promises for his people. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶"Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ²¹"So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us-one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." 23So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. 24 Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Psalm 1

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

GOSPEL: John 17:6-19

[Jesus prayed:] "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 11And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. 13But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15.

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