

# Born of water and Spirit

JOHN 3:5



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)

[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://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 may be audible to those viewing from home.

**We are not relaxing our guidelines at this time. Procedures at St. Paul's are currently being reviewed by our Covid Task Force and by Church Council.**

**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](http://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.

**Holy Trinity**  
**Sunday, May 30, 2021**  
**Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM**

**PRELUDE**

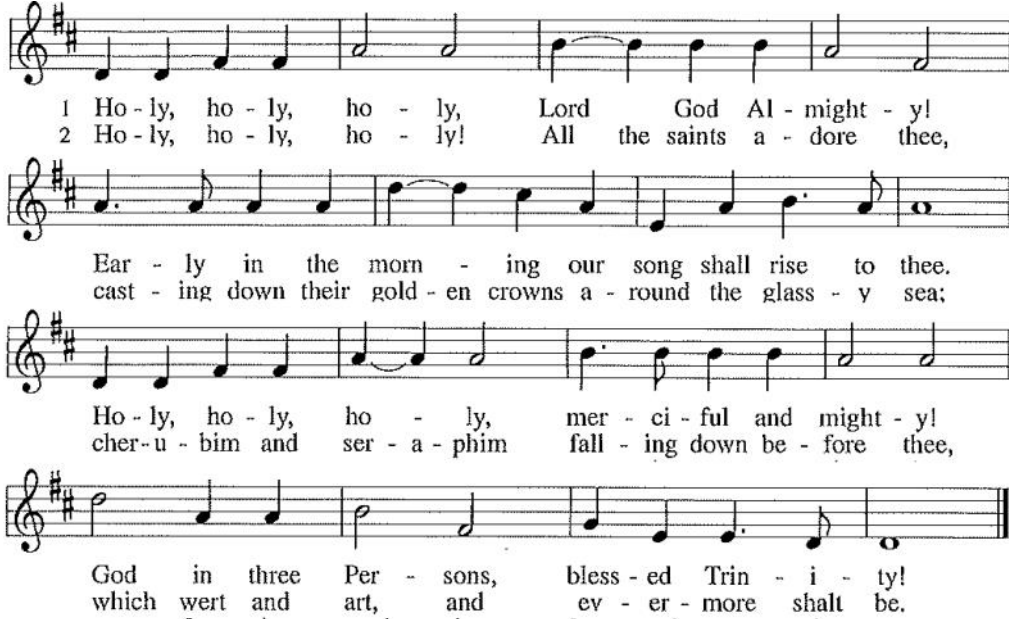
*All Glory be to God on High*

Paul Manz

*Stand*

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

*Holy, Holy, Holy (LBW 165) Stanza 1 & 2*

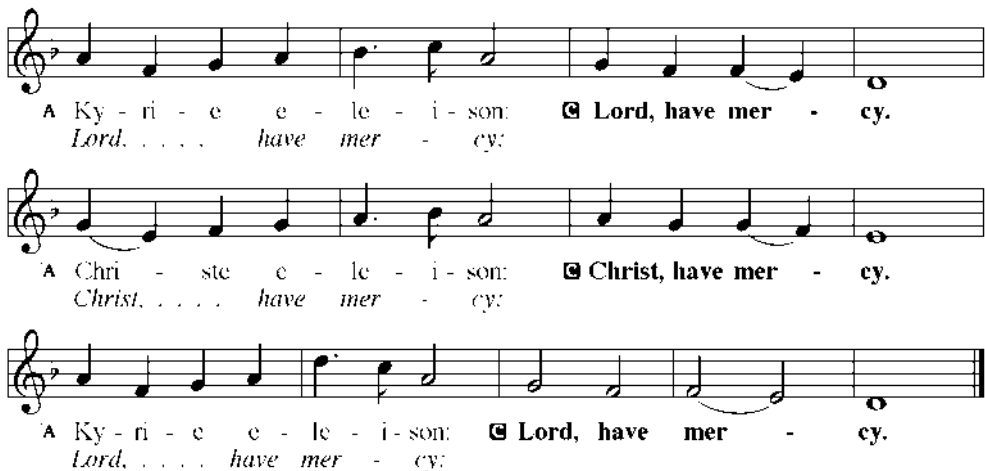


1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!  
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,  
Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.  
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.

**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.**

**KYRIE**



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:  
A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: ☩ Christ, have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:  
A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Almighty God our Father, dwelling in majesty and mystery, renewing and fulfilling creation by your eternal Spirit, and revealing your glory through our Lord, Jesus Christ: Cleanse us from doubt and fear, and enable us to worship you, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, living and reigning, now and forever. **Amen**

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 6:1-8

*(back cover)*

## PSALM

Psalm 29

*Spoken responsively by half verse.*

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,\*

**ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.**

<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;\*

**worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;\*

**the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.**

<sup>4</sup> The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;\*

**the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;\*

**the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;**

<sup>6</sup> he makes Lebanon skip | like a calf;\*

**and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;

the voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;\*

**the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**

<sup>8</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the | oak trees writhe\*

**and strips the | forests bare.**

<sup>9</sup> And in the temple | of the LORD\*

**all are | crying, "Glory!"**

<sup>10</sup> The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;\*

**the LORD sits enthroned as | king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup> The LORD shall give strength | to his people;\*

**the LORD shall give his people the bless- | ing of peace.**

## SECOND READING

Romans 8:12-17

*(back cover)*

*Stand*

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

*(back cover)*

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

*Let us pray.*

*A brief silence.*

*O God we pray for the holy church around the world. Renew us for life in your service.*

*Lord, in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*We give you thanks for your power revealed to us in creation; for cedar and oak trees,  
for rushing waters, for the echoes of thunder. Lord, in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*We pray for nations and leaders. Make them work towards world peace. We pray especially for Israel and Palestine. Lord, in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*We pray for healing for all those who suffer, especially victims and survivors of trauma  
or violence. Lord, in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*We pray for our congregation that the splendor of your majesty and the holiness of your  
mystery may be glorified through our worship. Lord, in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

*We give you thanks, O God, for those who have died in the faith (*especially*). We remember those whose lives have been lost due to the horrors of war. Lord, in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*We lift our prayers to you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, trusting in your abiding  
grace.*

**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.*

## OFFERTORY

*As the pastor prepares the altar the people sing.*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

**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 you created all things, and in him you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This is my blood poured out for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you:

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;  
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;  
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,

that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.  
**Through him all glory and honor are yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church both now and forever. Amen.**

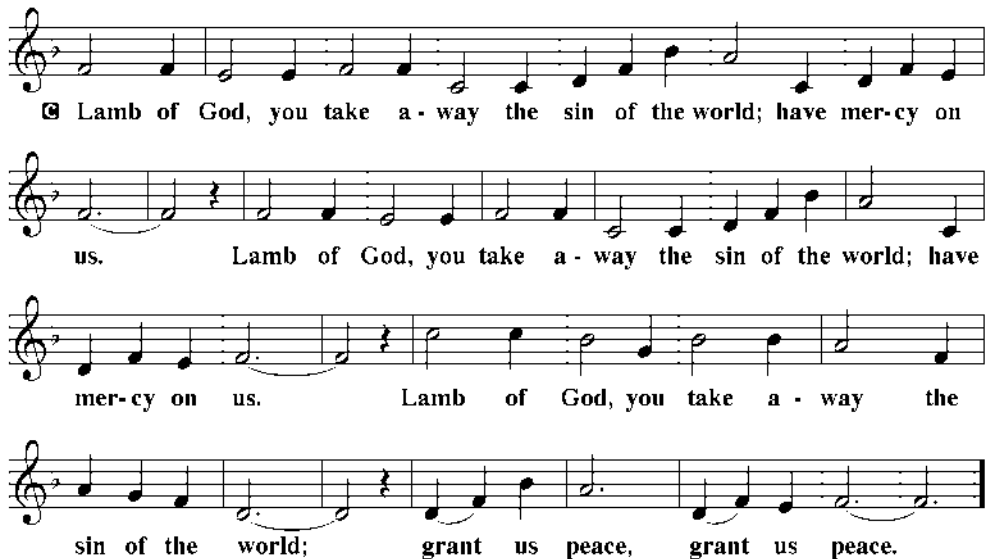
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

### 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 RITE** *The bread is broken. A brief silence is kept.*

**AGNUS DEI** *sung by all*



☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, 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. Eternal Lord and God, we worship you in the Holy Trinity and the Undivided Unity. Grant that the sacrament we have received may bring us salvation and keep us faithful to the light of your truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## BLESSING

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

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Now Thank We All Our God (LBW 534) stanzas 2 & 3*



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day,  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Fugue in Eb Major (St. Anne)*

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

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*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.*



***In our prayers we remember...***

***Terry Kaczor, Barbara Ruppert, Rick Hock, Tonya Cave, Amy Hollis, Sandy Beaverson, Chuck Oelsner, Chas Ebling, Morgan Lanzalotti, Courtney Snell, Sharon Cox, Jessica Arnold, Dante Fuligini, Alyuson Bucks, Delores Sergent, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey.***



**Flowers This Week**

***The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God in celebration of our  
29th Wedding Anniversary by Tina Llorente;  
and in loving memory of all our loved ones who have passed on this  
Memorial Day weekend by Norma Shue***

**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.

**St. Paul's Food Pantry – Volunteer Opportunity on Sunday Morning**

Thankfully, the St. Paul's Food Pantry has been able to remain open, with modifications, throughout the pandemic. In March 2020, pantry volunteers moved quickly to prepackaging food for clients and meeting them outside with groceries. Our highest numbers were up to 80 families per week. Now we are closer to 40 which is in the high range of pre-pandemic times. Every family receives 3-4 frozen meats, 1-2 dozen eggs, milk, cheese, and often a fresh fruit along with cereal, pastas, soups, canned fruits, beans, and vegetables.

While some volunteers were unable to continue serving, some stepped forward and began serving weekly instead of monthly. At least 8 new volunteers have participated as well. For those wishing to help, but unable to participate due to jobs or school during the week, there is a new volunteer opportunity. Twice a month volunteers work between Sunday services at 9:00 AM to stock the shelves. Contact Patty Snyder if you are willing to help in this ministry.

Pantry volunteers look forward to the time when we can once again safely bring clients into the building to select their own groceries.

**Food Pantry—June**

**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, Patty Snyder, 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".

## **Next Sunday Council and Committee Chairpersons Meet on Retreat**

The Congregation Council along with Committee Chairpersons will gather for a retreat on Sunday June 6 from 2:00 – 4:30 PM at St. Paul's. The retreat is for council members and committee chairpersons. The agenda addresses both shorter and longer term goals for the congregation. Some of the themes for the day pick up on items from the 2020 summer cottage meetings, moving forward from the pandemic, and connecting and reconnecting with congregation members and friends. Please keep the congregation's leadership in prayer as they gather faithfully to lead us forward in ministry and mission.

## **Next Sunday Outdoor Service at 8:00 AM**

During the 2020 summer cottage meetings the outdoor worship opportunities provided during the time of COVID-19 were highlighted as something good that came out of the pandemic. Participants in several of the cottage meeting groups hoped that we would continue to hold outdoor worship even after the virus released its hold.

On the first Sunday of June we will resume the 8:00 AM liturgy on the South Lawn. The liturgy is planned from inception to be held out of doors so there will not be a lot of singing or liturgical music. We are planning to have children's sermons utilizing Hula-hoops as a way to provide social distancing for the children. The Hula-hoops will be strategically placed so that the children can sit or stand inside the colorful circle for the children's sermon time. We are eliciting the musical talent of congregation members to provide music during the distribution of Holy Communion. This might be instrumental, vocal, or a combination. If you are willing to share your talent please communicate with Victor Fields as soon as possible to schedule a Sunday. And as we have done in the past, please bring your own lawn chair, maintain a safe distance, wear your mask, and remain vigilant until such time that vaccine is available for our children and youth. These outdoor Sunday services make great opportunities to invite a friend to join you in worship at St. Paul's.

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. 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 \(lss-elca.org\)](https://lss-elca.org) Contact Patty Snyder if you have questions.

**This Week at St. Paul's May 30—June 6**  
Church office open 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Mon—Thurs, 7:30 a.m.—12 noon Fri

**Sunday, May 30 Trinity Sunday**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - live streamed.  
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

**Monday, May 31 Memorial Day**

OFFICE CLOSED  
7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting— ZOOM

**Tuesday, June 1**

9:30 AM Food Pantry

**Wednesday, June 2**

**No parking on Springettsbury till noon**

10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall

**Sunday, June 6**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Outside  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - live streamed.  
2:00 PM—4:30 PM Council Retreat - St. Paul's  
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

**Serving the Lord with Gladness**

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Cross & Bell	Lector	Cantor	8AM Outside crew/ 10:30AM AV Team	Ushers	Altar Clean-up
5/30	Early	<b>Needed</b>	Mike Hanson	John Monk	Emily Reep		Alex Bastian, Jeff Riese	
	Late	Richard Griffin	Larry Becker	Carol Woodbury	Dave Rambo	Tom Gibson	Dave Kopp, Kem Vaught	Patsy & Richard Griffin

DATE	TIME	Prayers	Lector	Ushers	AV Team Livestream	Outside Set-up Crew	Altar Set-up Com munion Both	Altar Clean-up Communion 10:30AM
6/6	Early Outside	Tristan Ericson	Jessica Ericson	John Monk Tim Yakim		Axel & Ann Ulrich	Kathleen Lemke Janet Moore	
	Late	Aaron Jacobs	Nancy Bennett	Jerry Brigg Pat Rudacille	Andrew			Jerry Briggs Pat Rudacille

**STAFF**

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

Reverend Stanley Reep prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net  
Kelly Moore-Spencer kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net  
Victor Fields vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net  
Dale Zeiger dzeiger.stpaulsyork@comcast.net  
Patee Pizzirusso st.paulsyork@comcast.net  
Ted Weikert st.paulsyork@comcast.net  
Deb Becker director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Wednesday morning marked the last day of school for our St. Paul's Preschool. It was the last day for chapel with the children. We didn't have as much time together this year for chapel because of COVID-19 we didn't resume weekly services until Ash Wednesday. But we did cover some important aspects of our lives of faith.

Though Psalm 1 we stressed the importance of listening to God and doing what God asks. Being like a tree planted by a river, a tree full of fruit, with leaves that are always green (Marie Helena Delval). We listened to parables of Jesus; workers in the vineyard, the Good Samaritan, the farmer who sows seeds, the lost sheep and the joyful party. We counted "one, two, three, church" but acknowledged we cannot count the mercies of God (Gail Ramshaw). And before we prayed together the Lord's Prayer and received the blessing of God "Father, Son and Holy Spirit" we sang a paraphrase of Psalm 46. Psalm 46 inspired Martin Luther in the 16<sup>th</sup> century to pen the prose "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." But on Wednesday we recited a version of Psalm 46 from Marie Helena Delval's book *Psalms for Young Children*. "If the ground starts to shake, if the mountains break in pieces and fall into the sea, if the waves grow as big as giants, I'm not scared, God is with me." Then the children took their leave. Many of them I will most likely not see again. I pray that something they experienced in our short time together will move them to explore aspects of the Christian faith as they advance in years and mature in adulthood.

Then on Wednesday evening we learned of the death of Eric Carl, author of books we read to our own children; *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see*. Eric Carl equipped young readers with material that would move them more deeply into the joys of reading. And by moving them to read, he moved their minds, unleashed their creativity and imagination, gave shape to their understanding of language and strengthened their ability to communicate with those around them as they advanced in years and matured in adulthood.

In our lives of faith it is the scriptures, hymns, liturgy and sacraments that equip us to live fuller, richer, joy filled lives as Christian people. Through engagement with the scriptures, hymns, liturgy and sacraments we are strengthened providing us with language to communicate with those around us as we advance in years and mature in adulthood.

Isaiah equipped readers with material that opened them to the salvation and forgiveness that God provides for all people. Isaiah uses prose to capture the minds of all who would listen and to provide them a way to give shape to today and hope for tomorrow.

Back then the divides were great. Struggles for control were real. People living in close physical proximity were far apart in their thoughts and ideas and expressions of belief and unbelief. Alliances were strategically calculated in order to gain the upper hand, or in order to maintain the current situation, or to simply survive.

The Prophet Isaiah lived during such a time as this. The Prophet wrote oracles addressing God's people; where their loyalties must lay, inevitable consequences from straying from the law of the Lord, and a reoccurring theme of salvation. Isaiah lived a good long

time. His words of prophecy spanned 40 years. He had a way with words. Such a way that New Testament writers utilize his images, insights, and solace as they strive to communicate the gospel message of hope and salvation made known through Christ Jesus.

Such situations are not new to us. Divides remain great. Struggles for control are real. People live in close physical proximity and are far apart in their thoughts and ideas and expressions about what they do believe and what they don't. Alliances are strategically calculated in order to gain the upper hand, or retain it. They are deliberately designed in order to sustain the status quo. And some continue to build alliances in order to survive.

The recent events in what we call "The Holy Land" bear this out as do recent events in our nation's capital; Israelis and Palestinians, Democrats and Republicans. We have reached such divides that the chasm seems to have more in common with the one fixed between the Rich man and the old beggar Lazarus than the one spanned by the cross of Christ bringing all people together through his sacrificial love. The love Jesus communicated to Nicodemus that night when he came seeking knowledge of the kingdom of God. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."*

Today we are reminded that we are God's holy people. We may not have received a vision like Isaiah of old; a vision of the Lord enthroned, high and lofty, with Seraphs flying about, and announcing to one another the holiness of the Lord and the earth being full of such glory. And no, our lips have not been cauterized with a hot coal taken from the temple altar eradicating guilt and sin. But our lips are touched by Christ himself in the bread of Holy Communion, provided from the altar of the Lord, eradicating our guilt and sin; *The body of Christ given for you for the forgiveness of sin.*

God's voice is every bit as strong "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

Our lips announce the departing of guilt and the blotting out of sin. We remind God's people of Psalm one's listening and doing and continuous fruit bearing. We comfort God's people with Psalm 46 reminding them that when the waters rage and foam the Lord of Hosts is with them. We tell the stories of God's ways through the parables of Jesus. We pass on the prayer the Savior taught his disciples through our faithful recitation of it. We share the message of the cross, Christ Jesus being lifted up drawing all people to him for healing, narrowing the great divide.

"Here I am; send me" was the response given by Isaiah. Such responses come through the power of God. God's power; marvelous, mysterious, merciful, mighty, all made known to us in Christ Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Isaiah equipped readers with material that opened them to the salvation and forgiveness that God provides for all people. God opens hearts and minds, unleashes creativity and imagination, shaping understanding and giving language to communicate with those around us as we advance in years and mature in adulthood. God uses us to tell the stories of faith, shaping today and giving hope for tomorrow. Here I am send me. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

**Psalm 29****SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-17**

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

**GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”