

Abide in my love

JOHN 15:9



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

***We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Pastor McKee
for leading the liturgy and preaching this morning.***

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 are all 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.

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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 9, 2021
Holy Communion 8:00 and 10:30 AM

PRELUDE

Pastoral Dance on "Simple Gifts"

Andrew Clarke

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*



Bless-ed be God, who chose you in Christ.



Live in love as Christ loved us.

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Sung by the cantor. People join at



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,

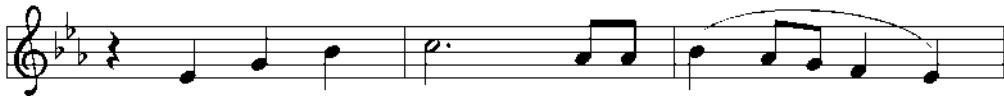
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

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 to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray. . . O God, from whom all good things come: Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to think those things which are right, and by your goodness help us to do them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

FIRST READING

Acts 10:44-48

(back cover)

PSALM

Psalm 98

Spoken responsively by half verse.

¹ Sing to the LORD | a new song,*

for he has done | marvelous things.

² With his right hand and his | holy arm*

has he won for him- | self the victory.

³ The LORD has made | known his victory;*

his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

⁴ He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the | house of Israel,*

and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

⁵ Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;*

lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.

- ⁶ Sing to the LORD | with the harp,*
with the harp and the | voice of song.
- ⁷ With trumpets and the sound | of the horn*
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.
- ⁸ Let the sea make a noise and all | that is in it,*
the lands and those who | dwell therein.
- ⁹ Let the rivers | clap their hands,*
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to | judge the earth.
- ¹⁰ In righteousness shall he | judge the world*
and the peo- | ples with equity.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:9-17

(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 McKee

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.

Loving God, strengthen the bonds among all Christians. Today we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church and hymnwriter. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering (*especially*). Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives (*especially*). Keep us united with them in your lasting love. 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 never-ending 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

Spoken by Pastor/congregation

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord Our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.


PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is 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:

SANCTUS

Sung by cantor. Congregation joins at



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est.  Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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...

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*

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

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.

REFRAIN

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

Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing (LBW 363) stanzas 1&2

1 Christ is a-live! Let Chris-tians sing. His cross stands
2 Christ is a-live! No long-er bound To dis-tant
emp-ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal-es-tine, He comes to claim the
prais-es ring. In death his love shall nev-er die.
here and now And con-quer ev-'ry place and time.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

O God Beyond All Praising

David Cherwien

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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.*

The Feast of Pentecost will be celebrated indoors at 8:00 AM and outdoors at 10:30 AM. Remember to bring a lawn chair. Please plan accordingly for Sunday, May 23.

In our prayers we remember...

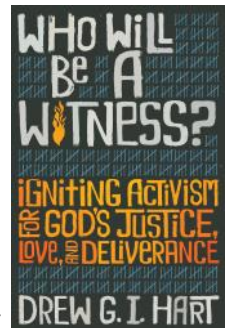
*Tonya Cave, Amy Hollis, Sandy Beaverson, Chuck Oelsner, Chas Ebling, Mogan LanzaLotti, Courtney Snell, Sharon Cox, Larry Moore, Jessica Arnold, Dante Fuligini, Alyuson Bucks, De-
lores Sergeant, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey and the family and
friends of Dave Lambert and Joanne Schiding.*

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



Flowers This Week

***The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
with love and honor to all Mothers, past and present,
by Mike & Becky Bingham.***

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 9-16

Church office open 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Mon—Thurs, 7:30 a.m.—12 noon Fri

Sunday, May 9 Mother's Day

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
6:30 PM AA meeting—Community Rm

Monday, May 10

7:00 PM Council Meeting—Christ Hall
7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting—ZOOM

Tuesday, May 11

9:30 AM Food Pantry

Wednesday, May 12

10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall

Thursday, May 13 Ascension Day

7:00 PM Pre-school Committee Mtg-ZOOM

Sunday, May 16

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Recognition of Graduates for the June issue of "Our Church" newsletter. Please provide the church office with the graduation information of our faith community members who mark this important time in their lives. We ask for: name, institution, degree, date of the event and future plans. Thank you.



Wednesday Bible Study The Book of Acts

Wednesday Bible Study is held at 10:30 AM in Christ Hall. During the season of Easter the first reading each Sunday is from the book of Acts. We will spend a portion of our time together gaining greater insight into the book of Acts while still spending time reflecting on the Easter gospel readings. The Acts of the Apostles is a continuation of the narrative of the Gospel according to Luke. The book of Acts can be divided into two large portions. The first portion centers on Peter and deals with the early church in Jerusalem in the days following the resurrection of Jesus. The second portion centers on Paul and deals with his three missionary journeys and the expansion of the message of Christ crucified, raised and ascended. These readings direct our Sunday worship during this joyous season of Easter with a dual focus on the good news that God has raised Jesus from death to life and in our missionary effort to tell and share the good news with others here and around the world. Please bring your Bible and join us!

STAFF

Pastor	Reverend Stanley Reep	prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
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Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Acts 10:44-48; I John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles is the conclusion of the story of the conversion and baptism of Cornelius and his family and friends. Cornelius was a devout, God-fearing man, who had not yet come to know Jesus as the Incarnate Word of the Father. Cornelius was also a centurion – a Roman soldier, a Gentile, one considered an outsider to the people of Israel. To a Jew, he was the oppressor. How is it that he comes to be a part of the community of the Church?

An angel of the Lord had appeared to him and told him to send for Peter. At the same time Peter also had had a vision telling him to go to the home of Cornelius. We need to remember that Jews did not go to the homes of non-Jews. It was considered unclean to do so. Peter was a devout Jew. But in a vision from the Holy Spirit Peter was told that the good news of Jesus was not only for the Jews, but for all people! If Jesus is Lord of creation, he is Lord of all of creation! Peter comes to understand that God shows no partiality. This was not an easy word for Peter and for the early Jewish Christians to hear.

Peter, obedient to the Spirit's guiding, goes to the home of Cornelius and proclaims to him and his household the good news of forgiveness and new life through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Filled with the Holy Spirit, given through the preaching of Peter, Cornelius asks to be baptized.

The book of Acts is full of stories of conversion: The disciples proclaim the Resurrection, and the Spirit falls upon the crowd gathered in Jerusalem and turns scoffers into repentant believers. An Ethiopian eunuch is converted by the preaching of Philip and asks to be baptized. A raging enemy of the Gospel and of the early church, Saul of Tarsus, is converted into a courageous brother in Christ, Paul, bold missionary to the Gentiles.

Today we hear of a Gentile, a Roman, a soldier, and his family being adopted into the family of Christ, the Church, through the waters of baptism. Wherever the Gospel is preached, the Spirit brings change of heart, mind, and life. Both those who hear and those who speak this Gospel are changed. Peter was changed from an apostle to his Jewish brothers and sisters into an apostle to all humanity, to anyone who would hear and believe, both Jew and Gentile. The Ethiopian eunuch and the Roman soldier Cornelius were inquiring persons who, filled with the Spirit, came to faith. Saul was a fierce enemy and persecutor of the Christian church. His conversion demonstrates the power of the Gospel to change even its enemies.

These stories of the conversion of the Ethiopian, of Saul, and of Cornelius, do not flow like a gentle stream from the day of Pentecost. They come on the heels of great persecution of believers. They come following the stoning of Stephen, a deacon of the church, who helped serve widows and orphans, as he proclaimed the resurrection of Christ.

Those first followers of Jesus had been devastated by the reaction of the world to their preaching. They could not help but ask if the world with all its power and might, its agen-

das and self-interest, would be victorious in silencing them. Was this persecution the beginning of the end of the Gospel's life in the world?

NO! It was not. And it is not. That is the resounding response of the book of Acts. The stories of the conversion of the Eunuch, of Saul, of Cornelius, point the followers of Jesus beyond the persecutions, beyond despair, to God's new beginning, to God's faithfulness, to God's Spirit at work in the world. These stories are told and retold by the church as witnesses to the power of the Spirit to call forth the Christian community in each new generation despite any roadblocks thrown in the way. It

We live in a time of great divisions and isolation from one another. COVID makes us suspicious of being too close to one another and has forced many to become isolated from even their closest family members and from the community of the church. The results of this pandemic have made the divide even greater between economic classes, those who are struggling financially and those who are not. It seems like our whole world is polarized. Politically the radical left and the radical right leave little room for moderates of both parties. Racially divisions seem to be growing rather than disappearing among people of Asian, or European, or African, or Native American or Latino descent. Who is on the inside and who is on the outside our circle of friends, family, acquaintances? We desire to take control of our lives as well as the lives of those around us.

Into our midst comes the Holy Spirit, taking control of our lives, our desires, our wishes and transforming them through the power of our Risen Lord. The story of the Gospel's spread is the story of ever increasing, ever widening circles reaching out to include all peoples. The story of the Gospel's proclamation is the story of the Holy Spirit gathering through the preaching of that Gospel and by the gift of Baptism more and more persons into the community that is the Body of Christ, the Church. We are never Christians in isolation. We are never alone in our calling. We are called into the Body of Christ, into the community that is the Church. The story of the Gospel's work in the world is the story of the Holy Spirit calling that community into a life of speaking and acting and sharing the Good News that Christ is Risen and lives, bringing hope, forgiveness, new life to all.

In the Gospel for today Jesus says: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love." We who have been called by the Spirit through the waters of baptism abide in Christ's love as we are fed by his Word and by his Holy Supper, as we live in community with one another, sharing each other's joys and sorrows, sharing responsibility for one another's well-being, as we pray together for one another and for the world. His love will break down all barriers and walls, all divisions and separations. His love will restore community and bind us together. His love will change us. His love will make us bold in proclaiming the Good News to even those we find cantankerous, or unlovable, or difficult. His love will open new possibilities for community. His love will bring unity and peace to a world divided and at war with one another. His love will fill us with joy unbounded! Thanks be to God!

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Psalm 98**SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

[Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."