

God
will wipe
every tear
from their
eyes

REVELATION 21:4

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

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Facebook: *St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George*

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 (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

The Nursery, which is accessed from the double doors, front right, is available for any family needing a space away. We are currently gathering names of individuals willing to staff the Nursery.

Our Communion is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God in memory of my parents, Paul & Elsie Kennedy, by Judy (Kennedy) and Tom McKee



Flowers This Week

Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Entering and Leaving the Church:

Please wear a mask while in worship and 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 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 to the Chancel step alternating pulpit side (left) then font side (right).*
- *Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host There is no need to hurry.*
- *We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).*
- *Return to your pew by the side aisle.*

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, Norma Shue, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

All Saints Sunday

November 7, 2021

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

The people's responses are in bold.

PRELUDE

For All the Saints

Charles Ore

Stand

ENTRANCE HYMN

O God, Who Gives Us Life (ACS 1086)



1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,
3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . Almighty God, whose people are knit together in one holy Church, the body of Christ our Lord; Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:6-9 (back page)

At the conclusion of the reading.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Psalm 24

Spoken responsively by half-verse

¹ The earth is the LORD's and all | that is in it,*

the world and all who | dwell therein.

² For it is he who founded it up- | on the seas*

and made it firm upon the rivers | of the deep.

³ "Who can ascend the hill | of the LORD*

and who can stand in his | holy place?"

⁴ "Those who have clean hands and | a pure heart,*

who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, nor sworn by what | is a fraud.

⁵ They shall receive a blessing | from the LORD*

and a just reward from the God of | their salvation."

⁶ Such is the generation of | those who seek him,*

of those who seek your face, O | God of Jacob.

⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O ever- | lasting doors;*

and the King of glory | shall come in.

⁸ "Who is this | King of glory?"*

"The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, might- | y in battle."

⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O ever- | lasting doors;*

and the King of glory | shall come in.

¹⁰ "Who is he, this | King of glory?"*

"The LORD of hosts, he is the | King of glory."

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:1-6a (back page)

At the conclusion of the reading.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

Christ is the Life (ACS 927)



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive
2 Christ is the death of all that is; a broad and beck - 'ning
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the



Word, whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the
tomb, who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to
fire, whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as
End; cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans -



worlds to Be - ing stirred. Christ is the life be - yond all
 dark - ness of the womb. Christ is the death, the sink - ing
 kin - dling for the pyre. Christ is the death of dust - y
 form - ing burn - ing brand. Christ is the life, in whose wise



time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath, whose la - bor
 down past all de - sire and fear, whose prom - ise
 days of un - cre - a - tive strife, for out from
 love cre - a - tion lives and dies and thus for -



brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
 in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.
 fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.
 ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 11:32-44

The Holy Gospel according to *St. John*. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the reading.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Rev. Stan Reep

CHANCEL CHOIR

Blest are the Pure in Heart

Antony Baldwin

Stand

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
 begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

**by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin
 Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, we give thanks for all missionaries who have brought your message of hope to new communities. Continue to raise up courageous missionaries to share your gospel of hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, we praise you for abundant harvests and the goodness of creation. Create communities of care for your earth so that all land, water, and soil will be celebrated and cherished by future generations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of peace, we give you thanks for nations of peace that serve as a refuge for all whose homelands are afflicted with violence. Strengthen those who continue to work for peace and support all veterans who carry the scars of war. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, we give you thanks for health care workers who labor around the clock to answer cries for help. Bring wholeness to all who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, addiction, and all who long for healing in any way (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of justice, we praise you for the feeding ministries and for all meals that bring people together for nourishment and fellowship. Bless chefs, bakers, servers, dishwashers, communion assistants, and meal ministry coordinators. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

The prayers continue with the Necrology

NECROLOGY

God of the ages, we give you thanks for saints, those of our day and of days before,

who nurtured us in faith, who told us the stories of Jesus, and who cultivated among us the sense of our own vocation to follow God's path. Help us not only to remember them, but also to follow their example, to nurture their expectant hope, and to live our lives so that others might see your love reflected in all that we say and do.

Thank you, God, for the gift of your saints.

God of all time...

Betty Zehner	Brian Hoover	Harriette Adams
Mary Shank	Sandy Shellenberger	Ralph Wolfe, Jr.
Tyler Smith	Betty Mehring	James Ackerman

We also remember with thanksgiving saints alive today who continue to touch our lives and our faith journeys, and we look ahead with hope to the people whose faithful witness to God's love will inspire future generations.

Keep us grateful for the witness of the saints of all generations, and make us, like them, eager to follow in the way of Christ. Then at the last, bring us with them to share in the inheritance of the saints of life. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The minister prepares the altar for Holy Communion.

Stand

OFFERTORY 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.

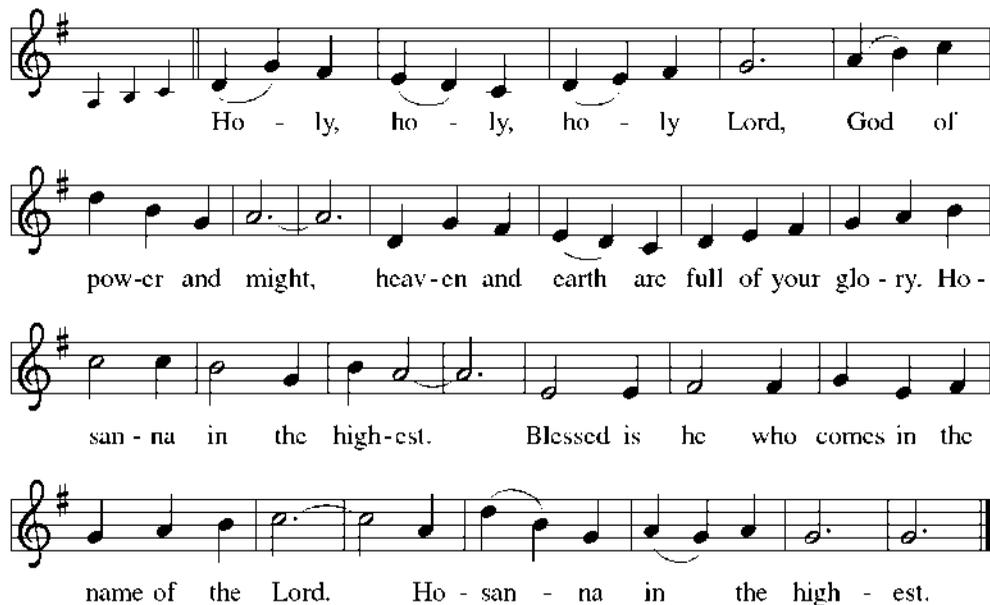
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. In the blessedness of your saints you have given us a glorious pledge of the hope of our calling; that, moved by their witness and supported by their fellowship, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us and with them receive the unfading crown of glory. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

FRACTION *a brief silence is kept*

AGNUS DEI



Sit *The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.*

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty Father, in the Eucharist you give us a foretaste of the Lamb's Feast of Victory. Keep us faithful to you so that we, with all your saints in heaven, may at length celebrate the Feast which has no end in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

BLESSING

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

HYMN *Founded on Faith* (ACS 1048)



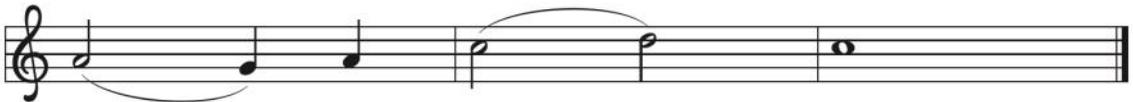
1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'ed to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
Em - pow'ed to serve with gifts, both great and small,
we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.
Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

DISMISSAL

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

Sit

POSTLUDE

Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness

Paul Manz

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*Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave.
Feel free to gather outside for conversation.
Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Cantor	Acolytes	AV Team	Ushers	Early: Altar Set-up Late: Altar Clean-up
11/7 All Saints	Early	Tony Culp	Tanner Culp	Kirstin Moyer	Leah McCo-			Joe Triggs John Monk	Norma & Ron Riese
	Late	Aaron Jacobs	Larry Becker	Deb Becker	Emily Reep	Allen Reep Jaclyn Kinkilla	A	Steve Heistand	Larry & Janet Moore

In our prayers we remember...

Elaine Mummert, Brian Reineke, Steph Reid, Betty Hoffmaster, Rick Lloyd, Deirdre McManama, Drew Herdson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey, Morgan Lanzalotti, Courtney Snell.

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	orreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Children's Music Director	Cody Messersmith	cmessersmith.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Faith Formation Opportunities

Sunday Morning Classes

9:15—10:15 AM.

Classes for Children

Children up to Grade 3 gather at 9:15 AM in the church nave with Pastor Reep. They then move to their classrooms on the Upper Level.

Infants- Pre-K: Red room #213

Kindergarten-Grade 3: Yellow room #214

Grades 4-6: Go directly to their classroom #202 at 9:15 AM

Adult Classes

Youth room, Upper Level.

Isaiah: Messages of Hope

Tuesday Evenings

CREATE

Youth and music activities for ages 2—grade 6

6:00—7:15 PM

Wednesday Mornings

Adult Scripture Study

10:30—11:45 AM

Christ Hall.

Christ in Our Home devotional booklets for Oct/Nov/Dec are available in the narthex and in the Good Shepherd Room.

Food Pantry—November

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”.

This Week at St. Paul’s November 7 –14

Church office open Tues—Thurs, 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. & Fri, 7:30—11:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 7 All Saints Day

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - live streamed.
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Monday, November 8

7:00 PM Scout Meeting—ZOOM
7:00 PM Council Meeting—Christ Hall
7:00 PM Mid-week Adult Studies—ZOOM

Tuesday, November 9

9:30 AM Pantry
6:00 PM CREATE—Youth & Music

Wednesday November 10

Annual Reports Due
10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall

Thursday, November 11

6:30 PM Handbell Choir—Chancel
7:30 PM Chancel Choir—Music Rm

Sunday, November 14

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - live streamed.
1:00 PM Recital—Matinees Muisical Club
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm
6:30 PM Confirmation Game Night

NEWS AND UPDATES

All Creation Sings—The three hymns today are from a new hymn supplement. The texts are wed nicely to the Biblical readings assigned for today.

Prayer Shawls - Today we have prayer shawls available for you to take to anyone that you might know who is grieving. The shawls provide a tangible expression of support, comfort and love.

Interior Directional Signs—The signs have been installed. We trust they will help you find your way throughout the building.

Annual Meeting Luncheon—Please sign up in the Good Shepherd Room for the Annual Meeting Luncheon or send an email to st.paulsyork@comcast.net or call Patee @ 843-8155 so we know how many to anticipate. The annual meeting is November 21, at 10:45 AM in the Nave followed by lunch at 12:00 in Fellowship Hall.

Menu: Broasted chicken, baked potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, pumpkin crunch dessert

2022 Offering Envelopes - Envelope packets for 2022 are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury Ave. Entrance). Please help us get all of the envelopes out of the church building and into the homes of our members by simply taking envelopes to neighbors and family members who may not be able to attend church services in person.

God's Work Our Hands Water Project - On the second Sunday in September between the 8:00 & 10:30 AM liturgies the children of the congregation participated in a variety of water awareness activities. The morning produced gifts totaling \$871, enough to purchase a family H2O system through Lutheran World Relief.

Exterior Steeple lighting - After more than a year we have secured both the new LED lighting fixtures and a company to install them on the lamp posts. When you come to the church in the evening you should notice a difference with the steeple illuminated.

Thank you for supporting the Harvest Wine Dinner and Auction - In appreciation to all who worked to bring the event to fruition, to all who attended, all who bid, all who secured items, and all who simply made gifts in support of the ministry of the congregation, thank you! The event netted more than \$15,000.

2022 American Heritage Calendars - You may wish to call ahead to reserve your copies as we are printing a smaller quantity in hopes to sell out rather than have to recycle unsold copies. The finished calendars should arrive by mid-November in ample time for gift giving. Requested donation of \$20 is desired.

Youth Nights for Confirmation Students - The Confirmation students have concluded their fall term of instruction. Sunday November 14 & December 12 @ 6:30 PM Miss Kelly and Pastor Reep have planned activity nights for the youth. One night there will be a movie and discussion and one night there will be games. Snacks will be available both nights. It will be great to simply get together for fun!

Christmas Worship Schedule

Please note the alternate service times throughout the Christmas/Epiphany Season

Sunday December 19 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM, The Holy Eucharist (liturgy spoken)

Blessing of the Crèche

10:30 AM, The Holy Eucharist (liturgy sung)

The Ringing in of Christmas

Friday, Christmas Eve, December 24 - The Nativity of Our Lord

4:00 PM, The Holy Eucharist (liturgy sung)

Youth Handbells, Organ, Children's Choir

7:00 PM, The Holy Eucharist (liturgy sung)

Handbells, Organ, Choir

Saturday December 25 – Christmas Day

10:30 AM, The Holy Eucharist

German Chorals

Sunday December 26 – The Feast of St. Stephen

10:30 AM, The Holy Eucharist

“Lord, Jesus, receive my spirit”

Sunday January 2 – The Second Sunday of Christmas

10:30 AM, The Holy Eucharist

Lessons, Readings & Carols

Thursday January 6 – The Epiphany of Our Lord

7:00 PM, Vespers

Piano, Flute, Handbells

Sunday January 9 – The Baptism of Our Lord

8:00 AM, The Holy Eucharist (spoken liturgy)

With Thanksgiving for Holy Baptism

10:30 AM, The Holy Eucharist (sung liturgy)



Cost is \$12.00 per plant.
They will be RED in
color.

List plant(s) as shown below
(please print clearly)

Number of plants _____ in Honor of:

Number of plants _____ in Loving Memory of:

Number of plants _____ Dedicated to the Glory of God

Your Name:

Plants may be picked up anytime *after* the
10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 26th.

Total # of Plants _____ @ \$12.00 each = \$ _____

Checks made payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

The completed order form with payment attached may be placed
in the offering plate or returned to the church office.

Orders due by Sunday, November 15th

All Saints Sunday B, 2021

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 24

Revelation 21:1-6a

John 11:32-44

Mary is weeping.

The Religious community leaders are weeping.

Jesus is weeping.

It wasn't until an acquaintance of mine from Nigeria received word that her father died that I experienced weeping. A kind of weeping that went on and on and seemed to be endless. Tears and wailing, arms folded across the chest and rocking back and forth like a mother trying to console an infant. But in that instance it was the woman herself who could not be consoled. The tears streaming over her cheeks, rolling down her chin, and wailing that filled the room with a volume such that words could not be spoken. This was a different kind of weeping than the kind of bottled up restrained emotion that accompanied weeping in my upbringing. The pain associated with such loss, the death of a parent, compounded by the distance between continents, and the inability to be with others who knew and loved him, was expressed in the weeping.

What I later came to know, in her culture, the weeping expressed the loss of love that she had experienced from her father. Love from her father; the providing, nurturing, sustaining, educating, hoping and dreaming, taking risks and following passions kind of love that was experienced through him. That love was gone, lost, cut off, when the breath of life went out of him. And so she wept.

I think it must have been something similar to my friend's grief, when we hear of the weeping that particular day in Bethany, when Jesus arrived on the scene and Lazarus was already four days dead. Mary is weeping. The Religious community leaders are weeping. Jesus is weeping. The weeping is quickly associated with the love that was between them. Love between Mary and her brother. Love between the religious leaders and a community member. Love between Jesus and his friend Lazarus. "See how he loved him!" they said.

Others who were not as emotionally connected, and who were not overcome with grief, took opportunity to question "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying? This group, the non-grieving group, didn't call the dead man by his name. Their question only sets the stage for God the Father to do something beyond opening eyes of a blind man. But at this moment they are still questioning. Their own eyes blind.

Jesus arrives at the tomb. A conversation ensues regarding the removal of the stone. Martha, the other sister, the practical one, the one who is aware of how many days have passed and the odor associated with a decaying corpse, raises her own question. Her question adds to the stage set only moments before by the non-grieving crowd. Her

love for her brother is couched in her desire to keep the entire scene from turning to public spectacle. She is securing her Brother Lazarus' dignity. She doesn't want his stench to be what is remembered about him. At this moment she is still questioning. Her own eyes blind.

Through prayer to his Father, Jesus permits something that will open all of their eyes to the reality of who Jesus is and his relationship to the Father. Through his command the glory of God will be revealed, Lazarus comes out!

At Jesus' command Lazarus comes out! Out of death, out of the tomb, out of linen cloths, out of what bound him, out of a community that viewed him as good as dead! And everyone gathered there that day, those weeping and those questioning, witness the Father's love of his Son, and the love of Jesus for his friend Lazarus. Eyes are opened. Through this, people come to believe that God sent Jesus to love, by opening, unbinding, freeing, forgiving and giving life so that love may abound. *"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."*

My friend from Nigeria explained to me the relationship between the weeping and the loss of love she experienced at the death of her father. It is an expression of deep humanity and connectedness. It is loss that is beyond comprehension. That day in Bethany the weeping was swallowed up in the love God has for his Son, and for the love Jesus has for his friend Lazarus and for all humanity. The love Jesus has for you and for me. That day was a foreshadowing of Easter and the Resurrection of Christ Jesus opening the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Easter is the opening, unbinding, freeing, forgiving, giving life event so that love abounds.

We come to church on All Saints Sunday remembering those whom we love and the loss of that love through death. (Betty Zehner, Mary Shank, Tyler Smith, Brian Hoover, Sandy Shellenberger, Betty Mehring, Ralph Wolfe, Jr., James Ackerman and Harriette Adams) Jesus comes among us knowing the loss of love, the pain of grief, and the need for opening, unbinding, freeing, forgiving, giving life so that love abounds. Our eyes are open to the love he gives and the love he is so that our weeping, our tears and our wailing, are turned to joy trusting the promise of eternal life him and with those we love and with those who loved us. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make
for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged
wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears
from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take
away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him,
so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

or Wisdom 3:1-9 [not printed]

Psalm 24**SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6a**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for
the first heaven and the first earth had passed
away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the
holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down
out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride
adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud
voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be
no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne
said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he
said, “Write this, for these words are trustworth-
y and true.” ⁶Then he said to me, “It is done!
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning
and the end.”

GOSPEL: John 11:32-44

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw
him, she knelt at his feet and said to him,
“Lord, if you had been here, my brother
would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her
weeping, and the Jews who came with her also
weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit
and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have
you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come
and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews
said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of
them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes
of the blind man have kept this man from
dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came
to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying
against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”
Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to
him, “Lord, already there is a stench because
he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to
her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you
would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took
away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and
said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.
⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have
said this for the sake of the crowd standing
here, so that they may believe that you sent
me.” ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a
loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴The dead
man came out, his hands and feet bound
with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in
a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and
let him go.”

Next Sunday's Readings: Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25; Mark 13:1-8.

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