

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155 www.stpaulsyork.org Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

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 186 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. The audio portion of the service is provided at 8:00 AM and the live-stream at 10:30 AM.

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

Today we thank Pastor Bill Snyder for serving as Presiding Minister at the 10:30 liturgy.

Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Entering and Leaving the Church:

Wearing a mask while in worship is optional.

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

Communion Procedure:

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle (about 8 adults per side).
- 2. Communion glasses are placed on credence tables at the front pews (left and right side).
- 3. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.
- 4. Take your place along the chancel step.
- 5. Extend your hands to receive the communion host.
- 6. Consume the communion host.
- 7. Hold the communion glass with both hands at chest height so that the communion assistant can easily pour the wine into the glass.
- 8. Consume the wine.
- 9. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.
- 10.Return to your pew using 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.

March 13, 2022 Second Sunday in Lent 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

TEMPLE TALK 10:30 AM

Rev. Glenn Beard

PRELUDE

Savior, When in Dust to You

Aaron David Miller

Stand turning to face the Baptismal font.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

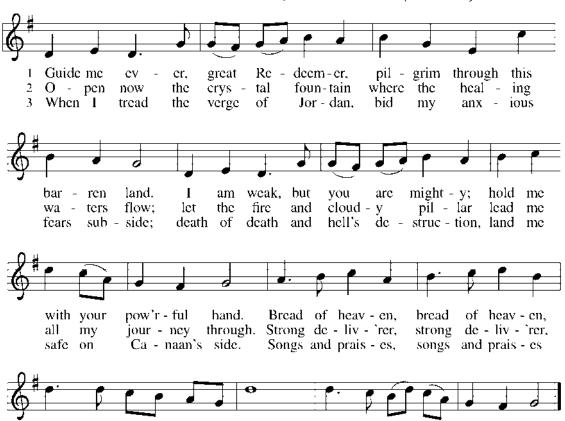
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the H Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

ENTRANCE HYMN

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer (ELW 618)



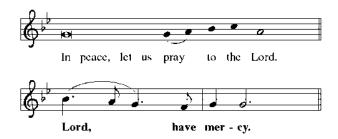
feed me now and ev - er - more, shield me with your might-y arm, I will raise for - ev - er - more, feed me now and cv - er - more. shield me with your might-y arm. I will raise for - cv - er - more.

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





PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Heavenly Father, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

READING Genesis 15:1-12, 17-17 (back cover)

PSALMODY Psalm 27 (spoken responsively by half-verse)

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?*

The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I | be afraid?

² When evildoers came upon me to eat | up my flesh,*

it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stum- | bled and fell.

³ Though an army should en- | camp against me,*

yet my heart shall not | be afraid;

⁴ and though war should rise | up against me,*

yet will I put my | trust in him.

⁵ One thing have I asked of the LORD; one | thing I seek;*

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days | of my life;

⁶ to behold the fair beauty | of the LORD*

and to seek him | in his temple.

⁷ For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe | in his shelter;*

he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high up- | on a rock.

⁸ Even now he lifts | up my head*

above my enemies | round about me.

⁹ Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds | of great gladness;*

I will sing and make music | to the LORD.

¹⁰ Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call;*

have mercy on me and | answer me.

11 You speak in my heart and say, | "Seek my face."*

Your face, LORD, | will I seek.

¹² Hide not your | face from me,*

nor turn away your servant | in displeasure.

13 You have been my helper; cast me | not away;*

do not forsake me, O God of | my salvation.

¹⁴ Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me,*

the LORD | will sustain me.

15 Show me your | way, O LORD;*

lead me on a level path, because | of my enemies.

¹⁶ Deliver me not into the hand of my | adversaries,*

for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those | who speak malice.

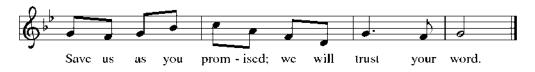
- ¹⁷ What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness | of the LORD* in the land | of the living!
- Oh, tarry and await the LORD's pleasure; be strong, and he shall com- | fort your heart;* wait patiently | for the LORD.

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:17—4:1 (back cover)

Stand VERSE





HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:31-35

(back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. 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

HANDBELL CHOIR

Fantasy on Two Songs of Love

arr. Philip L. Roberts

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.

Unify Christians around the globe in efforts to proclaim good news in the face of opposition and protect those whose lives are imperiled by the gospel. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Hinder those who would cause further destruction to our planet's fragile ecosystems, and augment the calls of those who advocate for thoughtful stewardship of the earth's resources. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Nurture in those who govern patience to receive criticism, openness to new ideas, and courage to change course when needed for the sake of the common good. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Attend to those expecting a child, and console those who have experienced miscarriage. Comfort veterans enduring post-traumatic stress. Shield those endangered by domestic violence. Uphold those who are ill or grieving (especially Elaine Mummert, Edwina Keech, Orven Cook, Shirley Pomeroy, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, James Young, Peggy Novotny, Deirdre McManama, Drew Herdson, Porter Stacey, Morgan Lanzalotti, Courtney Snell). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Guide children and adults preparing for baptism or confirmation. Empower Sunday school teachers, confirmation leaders, and parents who share their faith with younger generations. Give us all a renewed sense of vocation. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for those whose labors on earth are ended and who now rest with you. On the final day, gather us, with them, into your eternal realm. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

The people share signs of peace. The ministers prepare the altar for Holy Communion.

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

Stand

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

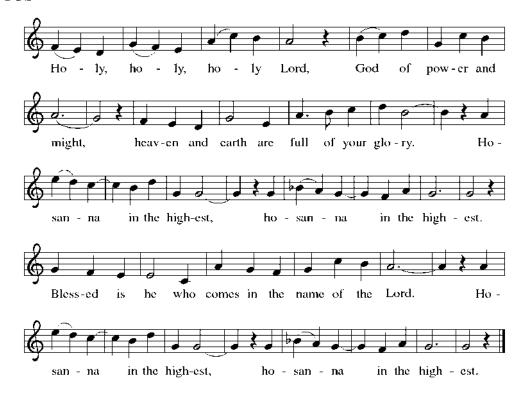
We lift them to the Lord.

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. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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;

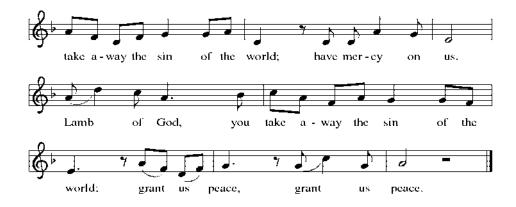
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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

FRACTION A brief silence is kept.

AGNUS DEI





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Today we receive Holy Communion, the body and blood of Christ, COMMUNION with both bread and wine. The wine is offered by pouring chalice using individual communion glasses. This is an option for those who choose to receive the sacrament in both kinds. You may continue to receive only the communion host if that is your desire. Kindly follow the procedure for reception of Holy Communion listed inside the front cover.

COMMUNION HYMNS Around You, O Lord Jesus (ELW 468)



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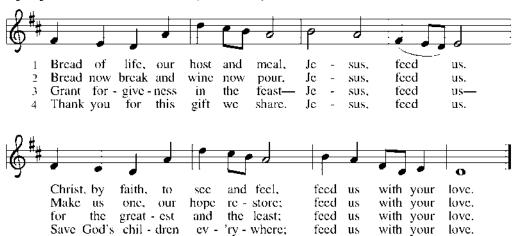
you

blood!"

part.

will.

Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal (ELW 464)



Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord God, in your mercy, give grace to us who have received this Most Blessed Sacrament that our Lenten penance may give you glory and bring us pardon and salvation. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

BLESSING

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

The worshipers remain in their seats until the ministers and choir have exited the chancel.

POSTLUDE

Fugue on BACH

Johann Krebs

This Week at St. Paul's March 13—20

Church office open Mon—Thurs, 7:30 AM—4:00 PM, Friday 7:30 AM—11:30 AM

Sunday, March 13 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Pantry, stocking shelves 9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist/Handbell Choir 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm Tuesday March 15 Newsletter deadline 9:30 AM Pantry 6:00 PM Create & Youth Music

Wednesday, March 16 10:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Lenten Vespers Thursday, March 17 6:30 PM Handbell Choir—Music Room 7:30 PM Chancel Choir—Music Room Sunday, March 20 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist/Chancel Choir 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Up-dates and Announcements 3-13-22

Ukraine Offering—Offerings to give aid to Ukrainian refugees, orphans, widows and humanitarian help can be given through St. Paul's website *www.stpaulsyork.org* by selecting the designated button or through our pew envelopes marking them "Ukraine".

Nursery – The 10:30AM liturgy may be viewed via live stream on the TV in the nursery. We are seeking persons willing to serve as attendants during the 10:30 AM service. Contact the church office if you are willing to take a turn.

Devotional Booklet – In partnership with our sister congregation, Mpuguso Lutheran Church in Tanzania, we are preparing one page devotionals. Out contributions will be translated into Swahili and theirs will be translated into English. The booklet is slated for use in the Pentecost Season. If you would like to write a devotional for submission see the information in the February issue of *Our Church*, the congregation's newsletter.

Benevolence Fund Applications – Start thinking about ministry projects within the congregation or ones focused in the neighborhood and world. Applications are available in the Good Shepherd Room and the church narthex.

Mother's Day Geranium Sale - Last day to order is April 6—Red, white and salmon geraniums will be available for Mother's Day, May 8 from the Auxiliary to SpiriTrust Lutheran. The cost is \$4.00 per plant. Kindly contact Jim Mummert at 717-309-4101 or elainenjim@comcast.net by Tuesday, April 5 and mail him a check payable to "SpiriTrust Lutheran" to cover your order.

Please join us in Christ Hall to learn about... MINISTRIES – LOCALLY, NATIONALLY, GLOBALLY. SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:15-10:15 AM

March 13 – Lutheran Disaster Response – Reverend Glenn Beard, (717) 471-1067, gbeard@luthercare.org, the point person for our local Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Reverend William Snyder will discuss what Lutheran Disaster Response does, locally nationally, and globally.

March 20 – St. Paul's Preschool – Deb Becker, director, and Allison Lehr, assistant director, will talk about the history of our preschool and its current ministry. Learn how this ministry not only aids in the emotional, physical, and academic development of young children but also supports the spiritual growth of these children and their families. A tour of some of the newly renovated classrooms will be included.

DATE		Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Cantor	Acolyte	AV Team	Ushers	Early: Altar Set-up Late: Altar Clean-up
3-13	Early	Bob Reed		Betsy Smith				Jeff Riese, John Monk	Lois Ann Schroeder, Kathy Monk
	Late	,		Dan Garber				• /	Deb Becker, Janet Fitch

Road trips are a part of family life. Whatever the reason or occasion a road trip brings out the best in us and the worst in us. I will tend to remember the best parts of road trips. I am a glass half full kind of guy. But that doesn't mean that I have blocked out the less desirable aspects of our past road trips.

I don't know if an example would even be helpful right now, because chances are you are already thinking about a memorable family road trip. And you may be caught up in the sheer joy of a trip or be in a looming downward spiral remembering unfortunate events that led to conflict and angst. But either way, you are aware of road trips and how they can quickly change from delight to conflict in what seems like a nanosecond.

Jesus is on a road trip. He is heading to Jerusalem. He has been teaching the disciples and crowds who have assembled along the way. And at certain intervals the religious leaders meet up with him too. He has sent people out in mission, told stories about a Good Samaritan, a rich fool and a mustard seed, took time to visit Martha and Mary in their home, taught the Disciples how to pray, he cast out unclean spirits, denounced the elite (among whom were the Pharisees and lawyers), encouraged his followers not to be fearful, and let them know that by following him there was bound to be divisions, he admonished those on the road trip with him to strive to enter through the narrow door.

And as he draws closer to Jerusalem the potential increases for conflict. There are many areas leading toward conflict of wills; the will of the Pharisees and the religious elite, the will of the government officials, the will of the Messiah, and the will of Jerusalem. The Pharisees want to maintain their status and their authority. They don't want anyone threatening the deal that they have. The governmental officials are concerned that a new king would bring a shake down and they might find themselves on the outs. The Messiah has been promised by the prophets of old. The Messiah signals a new era and a reckoning with past unfaithfulness. And Jerusalem has at best a checkered past. "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!

Jerusalem doesn't have such a good reputation. This is a city that needs a good dose of repentance, confession, and renewing. Even if you aren't aware of the long running history surrounding the city, the word on the street is that it needs redemption. Anna the prophet said as much when Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple for presentation. Anna praised God when she saw the Christ child; she knew that he was the one to redeem Jerusalem. And if you need to be redeemed, then somehow or other you haven't made it through the narrow door or you have been in a looming downward spiral leading toward conflict and angst. Jesus is on his way to rectify the situation. He has work to do.

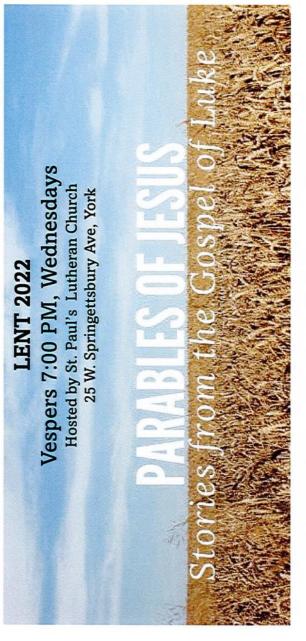
The Pharisees pull him aside and clue him in to the fact that the political leader Herod wants to kill him. Here is a conflict of wills. The political leadership is fearful. Herod has been afraid since the word about a new born king made its way to the palace. Now that the baby has become a man, the threat to his power is magnified. And this threat is making his way toward the city. Jesus politely tells the Pharisees to tell Herod, or that so and so, or as the text states, "go tell that fox" that he has work to do. Jesus will not be pulled away from his mission. He knows too well the history of Jerusalem. And he acknowledges his desire to redeem, save, rescue, gather its inhabitants into God's protection and acknowledges their unwillingness. How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and yet you were not willing!"

When my niece was a young girl she raised chickens. It was her first experience as an entrepreneur. She made a business plan calculated the startup costs and the reoccurring expenses. Because of her rural location she permitted her hens to have full run of the property by day and she secured them in the coop at night. Such consistent care was part of the business plan. During the days when the chickens roamed freely she would keep a watchful eye over them. When she would see a mother hen hoping frantically across the field attempting to gather her chicks she knew that a predator was soaring overhead or craftily waiting in the taller grass. She was aware of the cost if she lost even one chick.

Jerusalem's unwillingness to be gathered under the wing of a protective hen spoke volumes. The time would come said Jesus when they would recognize the Messiah riding into the city on a donkey and they will say "*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.*" That is the cry we shout out on Palm Sunday, the Sunday of the Passion, and that we sing out in the *Sanctus* in the Eucharistic liturgy. Those words proclaim the arrival of the long awaited one, the one who will and does redeem us from all that separates us from God and from one another.

Those of us who have been on the Lenten road trip before know full well where we are heading. We know that the cross looms. We know that Jesus' arms will be outstretched and that his love for us is greater than we can imagine. The costliness of his sacrifice brings us forgiveness, renewal, and a reorientation striving toward the narrow door. We state as much in the confession of sins; "Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name."

Delighting in God's will is a bit like a family road trip; there are fabulous moments and conflictual ones. Delight comes from the assurance that God is with us, like a mothering hen, gathering us together especially in times of danger and uncertainty. Delight, like road trips, isn't synonymous with happy, blissful, ecstatic. Delighting in God's will means that we are aware of our own will, and have checked it at the narrow door as we pass through into his joyful presence. Being in Christ's presence brings us together, a family road trip of sorts, with all of the memories, joyful and at times conflictual, and with the promised anticipated hope of eternal life. Amen.



Live stream: YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYCfdMzkJo_Xvbdkxn2IYIg Christ, Manchester St. Peter's, York St. Paul's, York

DATE	PARABLE	PREACHER	TEXT	LEADER	CANTOR
March 9 Rich Fool	Rich Fool	Rev. Stan Reep	Luke 12:13-21	Luke 12:13-21 Rev. Beth Schlegel Psalm 49::1-8 Carolyn Kapo	Psalm 49::1-8 Carolyn Kapoun
March 16	March 16 Great Dinner	Rev. William Snyder Luke 14:15-23 Rev. Beth Schlegel Psalm 100 Carolyn Ka	Luke 14:15-23	Rev. Beth Schlegel	Psalm 100 Carolyn Kapoun, Emily Reep, Stan Reep
March 23	March 23 Lost Sheep	Rev. Tom McKee Luke 15:4-7		Rev. Stan Reep	Psalm 23 Quartet
March 30	Dishonest Manager	March 30 Dishonest Manager Rev. Beth Schlegel Luke 16:1-11		Rev. Stan Reep	Psalm 67 Quartet
April 6	Ten Pounds	Rev George Fitch Luke 19:11-27 Rev. Beth Schlegel Psalm 15 Emily Ree	Luke 19:11-27	Rev. Beth Schlegel	Psalm 15 Emily Reep



EASTER FLOWER ORDER

	Indicate the total number of flow	ers desired:
	Hyacinth	_ Lilies
	Tulips	_ Daffodils
	Flowers are \$15.00 Please make check payable to Lutheran Church	St. Paul's
I desire that my plan	t(s) be listed: (please print clearly)	
Number of plants	in Honor of:	
Number of plants	in Loving Memory of:	
	Dedicated to the Glory of 0	
Amount Paid: Cash	n Check	

Orders are due Sunday, March 20, 2022

Plants may be picked up after the Easter Service on April 17th

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." 2But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." 4But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." 8But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Psalm 27

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. 18 For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. 19Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. 20But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. 21He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." 32He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. 33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 35See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9.