

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 Judy McKee 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. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.
- 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 20, 2022 Third Sunday in Lent 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

TEMPLE TALK

Bridge of Hope

Patty Snyder, Kathryn Garber

PRELUDE

Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley

Francis Jackson

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,

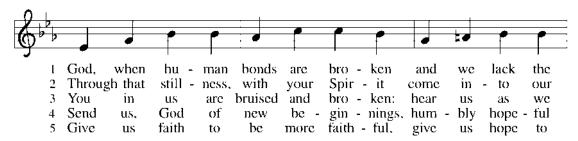
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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

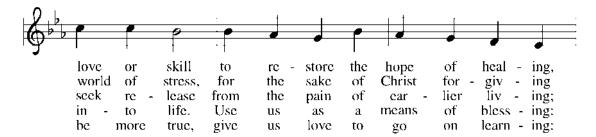
Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Holy Spirit.

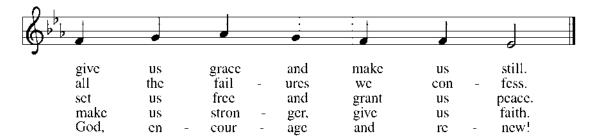
Amen

ENTRANCE HYMN

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken (ELW 603)





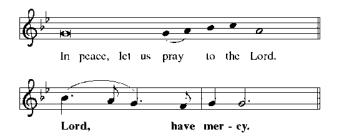


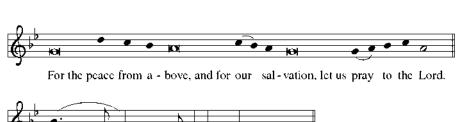
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

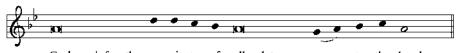






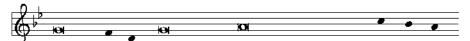


For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.





For this ho-ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and







Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Eternal Lord, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

READING Isaiah 55:1-9 (back cover)

PSALMODY Psalm 63:1-8 (spoken responsively by half-verse)

¹ O God, you are my God; eager- I ly I seek you;*

my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,

as in a barren and dry land where there | is no water.

² Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,*
that I might behold your power | and your glory.

³ For your lovingkindness is better than | life itself;*

my lips shall | give you praise.

⁴ So will I bless you as long | as I live*

and lift up my hands | in your name.

⁵ My soul is content, as with mar- | row and fatness,* and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,

⁶ when I remember you up- | on my bed,*

and meditate on you in | the night watches.

⁷ For you have | been my helper,*

and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.

⁸ My soul | clings to you;*

your right hand | holds me fast.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (back cover)

Stand VERSE





HOLY GOSPEL Luke 13:1-9 (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

CHANCEL CHOIR 10:30 AM O, Bone Jesu Carson Cooman

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.

We pray for the church: for pastors, deacons, bishops, chaplains, and mission developers; for church councils, committee chairs, and all lay ministry leaders; for congregations contemplating difficult decisions about the future of their ministry. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

For diplomats and leadership teams working for peace; for a peaceful and just resolution between Russia and Ukraine. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For early childhood education: for preschool teachers and aides, for elementary teachers and administrators whose work strengthens the lives of all young people. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

For those called into positions of civic responsibility: for judges, attorneys, and court administrators tasked with uncovering truth and delivering justice; for activists and community leaders who cast a vision of a more compassionate and equitable society. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For those who call upon you for mercy: for all who live in poverty and experience hunger; for any who feel tested beyond their strength; for those who are hospitalized or near death, and for all in need of healing (especially, Heidi Glaudel, Edwina Keech, Orven Cook, Shirley Pomeroy, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, James Young, Peggy Novotny, Deirdre McManama, Drew Herdson, Porter Stacey, Morgan Lanzalotti, Courtney Snell, and the family and loved ones of Elaine Mummert). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For the advocacy efforts of this congregation: for those whose faith leads them to speak difficult truths and engage in difficult conversations with policymakers; for those who promote mercy over vengeance or retaliation. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For those whose earthly journeys have ended, we give thanks. With (*names* and) all the saints, we praise you for the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.

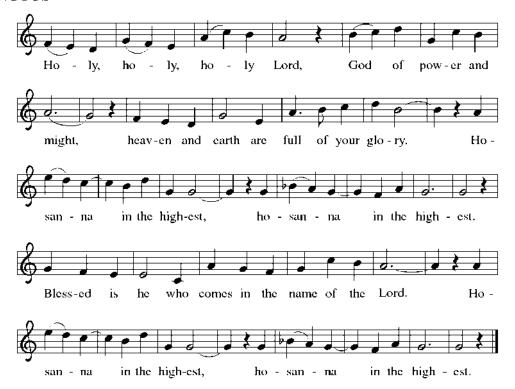
We lift them to the Lord.

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.

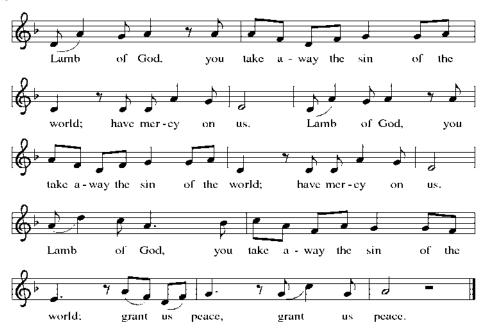
Give us this day our daily bread;

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.

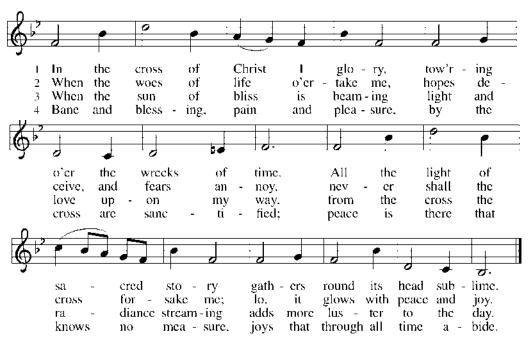
AGNUS DEI



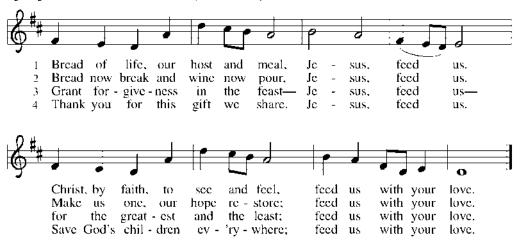
Sit

COMMUNION We receive Holy Communion, the body and blood of Christ, 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 In the Cross of Christ I Glory (ELW 324)



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

From Deep Affliction, I Cry to You, Lord

J.S. Bach

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

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.

March 27 – Mpuguso Lutheran Church in Tanzania and other ministries to Tanzania – Pastor Judy McKee and Pastor Stanley Reep will tell of St. Paul's history with this congregation in Tanzania, including visits from both churches to each other's homes, and the many ways we have worked together to further God's Kingdom through scholarship aide and assistance with construction projects.

This Week at St. Paul's March 20—27

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

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

Monday, March 21

7:00 PM Finance Committee

Tuesday March 22

9:30 AM Pantry

6:00 PM Create & Youth Music

6:00 PM Property Committee

7:00 PM Worship and Arts - Good Shepherd Rm

Wednesday, March 23

10:30 AM Bible Study

7:00 PM Lenten Vespers

Thursday, March 24

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

Sunday, March 27

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist/Chancel Choir &

Children's Choir

6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Up-dates and Announcements 3-20-22

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.

Congratulations to Leah & Sean McComas on the birth of their daughter, Molly Mae on March 14th!



Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is now open!
You may visit the church website to register or contact the preschool via email at director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com
or call 717-854-1996.

DA	ΙTΕ		Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Cantor	Acolyte	AV Team	Ushers	Early: Altar Set-up Late: Altar Clean-up
3-2	20	,			Dale Smith				'	Lois Ann Schroeder, Kathy Monk
			Larry Moore	DJ Zart			Allen Reep Jaclyn Kinkella		Dave Kopp, Carol Woodbury, Sandy Dickensheets	Deb Becker, Janet Fitch

The horrific images coming from Ukraine tell a tragic story. As if the current situation is not bad enough; people fleeing their homes, trekking to safety in foreign lands, abandoning occupations, and with residences, businesses, schools, stores, houses of worship, and hospitals laid waste by shelling, missiles, and bombs, the aftermath of all of this will stay around. This physical damage brought on by a foreign aggressor will linger for decades if not half a century. The effects to the collective psyche of the Ukrainian people are too great to calculate.

The fight for freedom and civil liberty is real. Aggressors determine size, military might, financial resources, as well as observing their target as lessor, a value of "inferior" placed on the other. The aggressor simply wants others to be in service to them and to their own particular agenda. Currently the determination of the Ukrainian people is to persevere, to carry on, and to defend freedom and civil liberty. I don't know the outcome of this invasion of Russia on Ukraine. What I do know is that the effects of these three weeks of intense warfare will linger long after there is a cease fire.

Isaiah the prophet is addressing people whose memory is vivid with story and image of being attacked by an aggressor. The military might of the Babylonian empire sent God's people fleeing their homes, trekking to safety in foreign lands, abandoning occupations. Everything that they had worked for and established was laid waste; residences, businesses, schools, markets, centers for religion and healing. The powerful blow from the Babylonian army changed every detail of their lives. They had to deal with destruction and departure. This was a move contrary to what they knew of salvation history; God leading them out of slavery to freedom.

This text is one of the readings assigned for the Vigil of Easter. It is part of the story of salvation, how God through time acts to redeem and save. The slavery to freedom story recounts the Pharaoh, the Egyptian taskmasters, the need for a spokesperson with Moses arriving on the scene. We hear of the parting of the Red Sea waters and recount the song of Miriam singing joyfully about their departure to freedom.

Now, the tragic situation brought on by a hostile aggressor was sending God's people from freedom into slavery. God's people are torn and tattered. Their thoughts, now that more than forty years have passed, have drifted from God. God it seems is as far away as the peace, freedom, and the daily life they once knew, lived, and celebrated. Questions of doubt have arisen.

There aren't any magic words to comfort people in such situations. There isn't a quick fix to soothe such suffering. Isaiah comes with an encouraging word, God's word, a word of hope. Let's face it; a stressed listener doesn't easily grasp onto words of hope. When they are displaced, when everything that they once knew is destroyed, when thoughts of freedom and liberty have become a distant memory, words of hope are difficult to embrace. The prophet speaks God's reassuring word over and over again. The prophet persists in reassuring God's people that they have a future, and that there is hope.

A recent news clip from a train station in Poland aired a digital image of a mother and her toddler who had just arrived on a packed train from Ukraine. As they disembarked and while still on the crammed platform, the mother was caught on video com-

forting her scared child. "It will be okay." "It will be okay." "It will be okay." The phrase reiterating the mother's comforting words translated across the bottom of the screen as she held her toddler with a tight grip close to her chest.

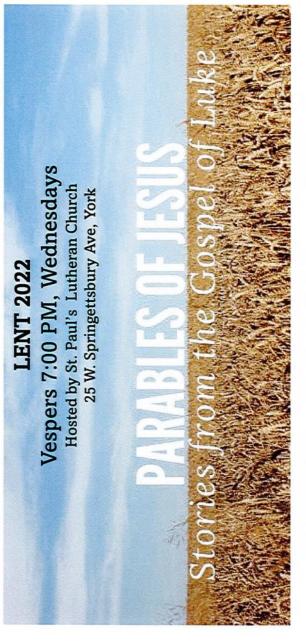
Isaiah reiterated his message in order to encourage and reassure God's people. But now, given the horrific situation, the message is not limited to God's people alone. The message is proclaimed to a far greater audience; everyone. "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!"

The prophet is pleading with the people to seek God. This is not a casual message that is spoken in passing. This is God's word addressing people who have endured more than anyone should have to endure. God's word of hope proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah is a word calling for return. Return to God whose thoughts are different from theirs and from those who attacked and displaced them. God's ways are different from the war mongering aggressors who rob, steal, thwart, manipulate and control. God's desire is to feed with a word that is different; "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live."

Rarely in my lifetime have I heard such impassioned speech as that which has been captured through the video messages of President Zelenskyy; messages to his own citizens, messages to those willing to fight against oppression, messages to world leaders, messages to prime ministers and presidents. Such was the passion of Isaiah toward people needing help and passion toward God's message of hope. *Call upon the Lord. Forsake wicked ways. Return to the mercy of God who abundantly pardons*. Long for and desire what is lasting. This is not a plea requiring skill, status, security, smarts, steadfastness or things that we can plot in a column of positive attributes. No what is needed is thirst. Such thirst the prophet cries out will bring you into God's realm. Such thirst will unite you, and permit you to hear God's word of hope. Hearing opens possibilities and makes a way forward even for what seems like the impossible.

For God's people the words *David* and *Feast* might just carry enough weight, enough memory to allow them to catch their breath. David; king and mighty warrior the one through whom God established a covenant that brought about peace for a time. That memory along with feasts, meals shared together with those they loved; family united under one canopy, those who were scatter brought together to feast, eating and drinking. Those words might perk up our ears to remember, remember God's promise and steadfast love.

This morning we are addressed by the passionate word of God proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah and the patient word of God proclaimed through Jesus. Listen says the prophet Isaiah. God's desire for you is life. Return to God so that together the past can be confronted moving us confidently into the future. And Jesus tells a parable reminding all who listen that he gives another year, he gives food and drink, his body and blood, signs of passionate love, pleading, and consoling which cost him his life. His passion for us opens up new possibilities and makes a way forward even when things seem impossible. During these troubling days God's desire remains for us to return to God's loving embrace assuring us like the mother clutching her toddler that with God there is a way forward. 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. William Snyder Luke 14:15-23 Rev. Beth Schlegel Psalm 100 Carolyn Ka	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 George Fitch Luke 19:11-27 Rev. Beth Schlegel Psalm 15 Emily Ree	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: Isaiah 55:1-9

of Israel,

for he has glorified you.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalm 63:1-8

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the

same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 7Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." 8We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. 10 And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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