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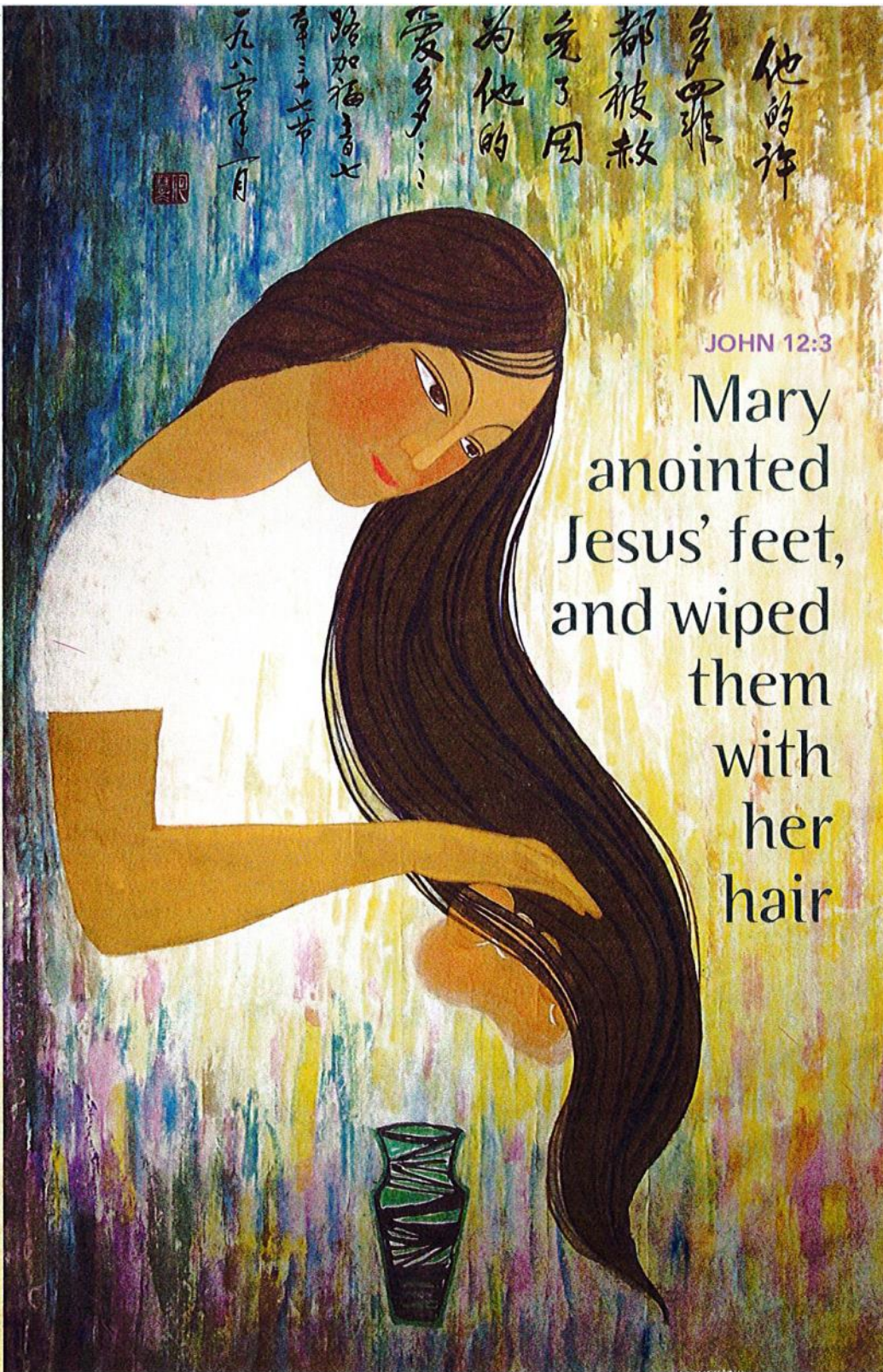
章三十七节

一九八二年一月



JOHN 12:3

Mary
anointed
Jesus' feet,
and wiped
them
with
her
hair



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

www.stpaulsyork.org

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.

We wish to thank Jeremy Zuck for serving as our organist today!

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.

April 3, 2022
Fifth Sunday in Lent
8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

10:30 AM TEMPLE TALK

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania LAMPa – Tracey DePasquale

PRELUDE

Cantilena

David Lasky

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 ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

ENTRANCE HYMN

Christ, the Life of All the Living (ELW 339)



- 1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
- 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
- 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



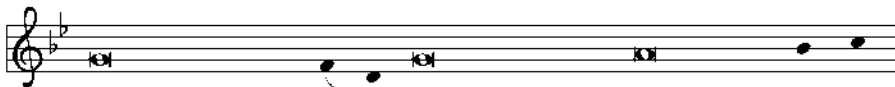
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



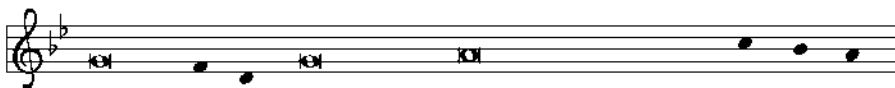
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



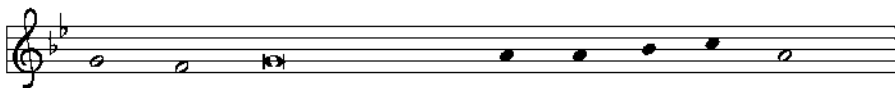
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - **men.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Almighty God, our redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope in the world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of 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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:16-21 *(back cover)*

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14 *(back cover)*

Stand

VERSE



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 12:1-8 *(back cover)*

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Stan Reep

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 and for all who are preparing for Holy Baptism. Encourage your people through the proclamation of your Word. Sustain us with your promise of forgiveness and life eternal. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the work and witness of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Pennsylvania. Strengthen their voice as they speak on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for all who are displaced by war, especially those fleeing their homes in Ukraine. Provide generously the humanitarian aid needed to sustain them during this tumultuous time. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those suffering sickness and adversity and especially those who have asked for our prayers this day; (*especially, Heidi Glaudel, 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*). Undergird them with your steadfast love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those to whom death draws near. Comfort them with the assurance of your abiding love and at the last gather us all around your throne of glory. 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. **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.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

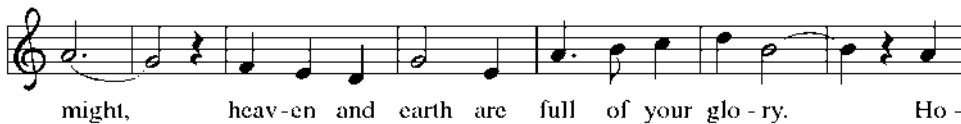
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. 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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

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

O Bread of Life from Heaven (ELW 480)

1 O bread of life from heav - en. O food to pil - grims
2 O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er
3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den
giv - en, O man - na from a - bove: feed
stream - ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come
splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh,



with the bless - ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com -
now, your love be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and
let the veil be riv - en, and our clear eye in



plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.
flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - tied.
heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

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



1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

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**

10:30 AM **Choir** *God be in My Head* **Richard Shepherd**

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 (from Organ Sonata No. 6 in D minor)* **Felix Mendelssohn**



Palm Sunday: All classes will meet outside for the blessing of the Palms and parade through our church neighborhood. A short class will follow. See the details in the April newsletter.

Easter Sunday: There will be no classes. Classes begin again on April 24 and run through May 22.

Weekly Bible Study continues Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 AM.

Come and discuss the Bible readings for the upcoming Sunday. It is a great way to grow in faith and to enrich your worship experience. Don't have time on Wednesdays? You can find next week's lessons listed on the bottom of the back page each Sunday. Save your bulletin for use



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.

Food Pantry—April

Items needed: Rice, egg noodles, powdered milk, jelly, stuffing mix and canned potatoes. 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 April 3—10

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

Sunday, April 3

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
1:00 PM Matinee Musical Club Recital
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Tuesday April 5

9:00 AM Easter egg stuffing—Christ Hall
9:30 AM Pantry
6:00 PM Create & Youth Music

Wednesday, April 6

10:30 AM Bible Study
7:00 PM Lenten Vespers
7:30 PM GA meeting—Community Rm

Thursday, April 7

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

Sunday, April 10 Palm Sunday

8:00 AM Morning Prayer
8:45 AM Outdoor Fellowship
9:15 AM Blessing of the Palms & Procession
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist-Handbell Choir
5:00 PM Bridge of Hope Mtg.
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Up-dates and Announcements 4-3-22

Altar Care—We have resumed our historic patterns in worship. With this return we are in need of persons willing to prepare and clean up the altar each week. Historically this ministry team served a month at a time. Please contact Pastor Reep for additional information

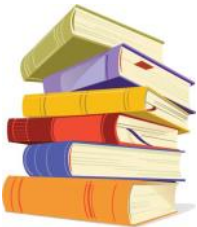
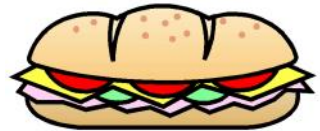
Ukraine Offering—Offerings to give aid to Ukrainian refugees, orphans, widows and humanitarian help can be given through St. Paul's website www.stpaulsyork.org by selecting the designated button or through our pew envelopes marking them "Ukraine".

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.

Benevolence Fund Applications – Envision a ministry project within the congregation or one focused in the neighborhood and world. Applications are printed on green colored paper and 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.

Preschool Sub and Sandwich Sale Fundraiser begins today!
You may order via the order form in the bulletin or stop by the Good Shepherd Room after the service to order from Preschool Committee representatives today!



Next Sunday is the kickoff for the Jackson Elementary School book drive. This year in addition to new and gently used books - appropriate for Pre-K through 8th grades - we are also collecting items for outdoor and educational activities such as sidewalk chalk, jump ropes, coloring books, crayons, bubbles, flashcards, etc. Please place your donations in the two collection boxes in the Good Shepherd Room by May 15th.

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Cantor	Acolyte	AV Team	Ushers	Early: Altar Set-up Late: Altar Clean-up
4-3	Early	Kirsten Barnes	Ann Ulrich	Jennifer Ports				Jeff Riese, John Monk	Pat Scarborough Kathleen Lemke
	Late	Tonya Cave	Larry Moore	Scott Herdson	Dave Rambo	Harrison & James Palmer	Lead: Andrew	Dave Kopp, Carol Woodbury, Sandy Dickensheets	Sandy Dickensheets Tonya Cave

LENT 2022

Vespers 7:00 PM, Wednesdays

Hosted by St. Paul's Lutheran Church
25 W. Springettsbury Ave, York

PARABLES OF JESUS

Stories from the Gospel of Luke

Live stream: YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYCfdMzkJo_Xvbdxm2IYIg

St. Paul's, York

St. Peter's, York

Christ, Manchester

DATE	PARABLE	PREACHER	TEXT	LEADER	CANTOR
March 9	Rich Fool	Rev. Stan Reep	Luke 12:13-21	Rev. Beth Schlegel	Psalm 49::1-8 Carolyn Kapoun
March 16	Great Dinner	Rev. William Snyder	Luke 14:15-23	Rev. Beth Schlegel	Psalm 100 Carolyn Kapoun, Emily Reep, Stan Reep
March 23	Lost Sheep	Rev. Tom McKee	Luke 15:4-7	Rev. Stan Reep	Psalm 23 Quartet
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 Reep

Holy Week Schedule 2022

*The schedule is provided to aide you in your worship plans.
Please note deviations from the normal weekly worship pattern*

Palm Sunday – April 10

8:00 AM Morning Prayer, church nave

Chancel Choir

8:45 AM Fellowship, outside at multiple stations

Breakfast sandwiches, fruit, pastries, coffee & tea

9:15 AM Blessing of Palms, outside Garden of Memory

Neighborhood Procession

10:30 AM Holy Communion with Passion Reading, church nave

Handbell Choir

Maundy Thursday – April 14

7:00 PM Holy Communion, church nave

Absolution, Foot washing, Striping of the Altar

Good Friday – April 15

7:00 PM Service of the Word, church nave

The Passion According to St. John, Prayers, Ceremony of the Cross

Holy Saturday – April 16

7:00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter, begins outside Garden of Memory

Lighting New Fire & Service of light

Exsultet & Readings

Affirmation of Baptism

Litany

Easter Proclamation

Holy Communion

The Resurrection of Our Lord – April 17

8:00 AM Festival Holy Communion, church nave

Organ & Brass

10:30 AM Festival Holy Communion, church nave

Organ, Brass & Chancel Choir

Images of boundless generosity surround us. Much of the time we are oblivious to them. Or we take them for granted because they have become a part of the landscape of our lives.

Take for example the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, funds for its construction and a substantial art collection to be displayed free of charge to the American people, an act of boundless generosity by Andrew Mellon. Or in closer proximity to us this morning I draw your attention toward the playground visible through the windows by glancing to your right. Shrieks of joy often radiating from the play area as children explore, discover, imagine, and play, an act of boundless generosity by the Chronister family in memory of Shirley a St. Paul's primary Sunday school teacher. Likewise a glance to your left through those south facing windows and we observe the Garden of Memory, an act of boundless generosity by Ken Wallick, Jr. And Lilac Trees planted along the sidewalk will soon burst forth with gigantic white flowering clusters, an act of boundless generosity by the Rotary Club. And tucked into the ever changing landscape you can identify one lone pink Dogwood, an act of boundless generosity by the Garden Club.

That day in Bethany, Mary the sister of Lazarus, she broke out the most expensive perfume money could buy and poured it out on the feet of Jesus; Jesus her friend, Jesus who raised her beloved brother Lazarus from the grip of death, Jesus who taught and at whose feet she once sat and listened taking in his every word. Now in an act of boundless generosity, she perfumes his feet and wipes them with her hair. The perfume, her boundless generosity, fills the whole house with the sweet aroma.

How quickly the story moves from the stench of death, from the decay of a man four days dead, Lazarus whom Jesus raised, to the aroma of the perfume filling the house, and the breath of life, permitting the entire household to enter into the sweetness of the moment.

Extravagant gifts are often met with suspicion or opposition. What did Andrew Mellon want in return for gifting the nation with a gallery of art? Or the Chronister's in gifting a playground? Or Mr. Wallick in gifting the Garden of Memory, or the Rotary Club in planting trees, or the Garden Club in honoring a past president? Judas Iscariot is the bold one in the room who is suspicious and in opposition to what is happening, raises the question. According to the text, he would have rather seen Mary place those 300 denarii used to purchase the perfume into the common purse that he kept. But obviously that wasn't such a good idea because Jesus rebukes the notion. "Leave her alone" he says, "She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial." And yet she has opened it, and poured it out, and washed Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair and the intoxicating fragrance of the pure nard wafts into every nook and cranny.

It was no secret that the Chief Priests and Pharisees were working out plans to kill Jesus and Lazarus. Inside the Bethany House such knowledge evokes a certain level of fear among those gathered at the table. Knowing that someone, or a group of someone's are seeking to do you in, you are more likely to live in the moment. While this isn't the last supper, it may well have carried such a weight. The stench of death was all too familiar. The pattern of the religious authorities attaining their goals was well entrenched. Imagine the table at the Bethany House; Lazarus the one who has shed his grave cloths and begins new life. Martha the one who

sees what needs to be done and does it, she is serving. Judas a thief; the one scheming to get more for himself telling others what they ought to have done so that he benefits. And Mary who falls on her knees and in an act of boundless generosity anoints Jesus. She pours out the costly perfume with the awkward sounding name "pure nard" washing Jesus' feet and drying them with her hair.

Images of boundless generosity surround us. Much of the time we are oblivious to them. Or we take them for granted because they have become a part of the landscape of our lives.

We are gathered inside this house of prayer. We are an odd lot. The newly baptized who have been given new life. The deacons among us, not only those whose names appear on an official roster, but all who see what needs to be done and does it. The ones who are overtaken with suspicion or opposition coming up with alternative ways to keep resources close at hand for personal benefit. The ones who live lives of boundless generosity, not calculating cost but lavishly pouring forth; time, talent, money in such ways that the sweet aroma of loving action fills every nook and cranny. Add to these Jesus, the suffering one who died for us and who was raised up by the Father, bestowing the sweetness of his life poured out in bread and wine for the forgiveness of all that we have done and have left undone. He joins us at the table knowing our fears, our suspicions, and our persistent opposition to his command to love. He is filling the house, and breathing into us life, permitting the entire household to enter into the sweetness of this moment. The pattern is so familiar that we often take it for granted because it has become a part of the landscape of our lives. And yet without such boundless generosity on the part of our loving Savior we would be doomed living life in fear, concerned only about ourselves, unaware of the need to love others.

Mary's boundless generosity had no ulterior motive. She knows what Jesus has done; befriended her and her family, engaged her in conversation about faith and eternal life, and raised her brother from death to life. She knows that he is with her now in this moment gathered around the familiar table at her Bethany Home. And in the present moment she pours out the pure nard, the perfume that she had been saving and anoints his feet.

We know of what lies ahead. We know that this one will enter triumphantly into the Holy City and will in an upper room himself stoop low to wash the feet of his disciples. He will be arrested and called upon to give witness to his ministry, questions that will lead to his sentencing and ultimate death on a cross. We know of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus who brought a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes and linen cloths to wrap the body of Jesus when he had been taken down from the cross, linen cloths that on Easter morning would be left lying in an empty tomb. We know of the resurrected one coming behind closed doors to fear filled people, speaking peace, and breathing his Spirit on them, on us.

Boundless generosity encapsulates the story and promise of God. That day in Bethany, Mary for whatever reason acted in a way that forever will be remembered. Her anointing, pouring perfume and wiping Jesus' feet with her hair, is forever a part of the landscape of our Christian lives. Such an image is not taken for granted. Such an image leads us to the feet of the one who raises the dead and promises life for all. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
 they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
¹⁹I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
²⁰The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
 for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
 to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹the people whom I formed for myself
 so that they might declare my praise.

Psalm 126**SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14**

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be

found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own; because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14—23:56 or Luke 23:1-49.

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