

JOHN 13:34

*Love  
one another*

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://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.

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

**The Nursery** is accessed through the front right double doors. The 10:30 AM liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. The audio portions of the service are provided at 8:00 AM.



*Today's Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God.*

## Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

### Entering and Leaving the Church:

*Wearing a mask while in worship is optional, recommended or required based on the local percentage of infection. 5% or lower/Optional, Between 5% &10%/Recommended, 10% or higher/Required.*

### Offerings:

*Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service. You may also donate via our website at [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://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 before you leave the chancel edge.*
- 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.

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Sunday, May 15, 2022**  
**Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30AM**

**PRELUDE**                      *Where Charity and Love Are, God is There*      Gerald Near

**Stand**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!                      **He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!**

**HYMN**                      *Christ is Alive (ELW 389)*



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - 'ry age. till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. . . O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; 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**

**Acts 11:1-18**

*(back cover)*

**PSALMODY**

**Psalm 148** *spoken responsively by whole verse*

- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;\*  
praise him | in the heights.
- <sup>2</sup> **Praise him, all you an- | gels of his;\***  
**praise him, | all his host.**
- <sup>3</sup> Praise him, | sun and moon;\*  
praise him, all you | shining stars.
- <sup>4</sup> **Praise him, heav- | en of heavens,\***  
**and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**
- <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name | of the LORD;\*  
for he commanded, and they | were created.
- <sup>6</sup> **He made them stand fast forev- | er and ever;\***  
**he gave them a law which shall not | pass away.**
- <sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD | from the earth,\*  
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
- <sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, | snow and fog,\***  
**tempestuous wind, do- | ing his will;**
- <sup>9</sup> mountains | and all hills,\*  
fruit trees | and all cedars;
- <sup>10</sup> **wild beasts | and all cattle,\***  
**creeping things and | winged birds;**
- <sup>11</sup> kings of the earth | and all peoples,\*  
princes and all rulers | of the world;
- <sup>12</sup> **young | men and maidens,\***  
**old and | young together.**
- <sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name | of the LORD,\*  
for his name only is exalted, his splendor is over | earth and heaven.
- <sup>14</sup> **He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his | loyal servants,\***  
**the children of Israel, a people who are near him. | Hallelujah!**

**SECOND READING**

**Revelation 21:1-6**

*(back cover)*

*Stand*

**VERSE**

*Sung by all*





*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

**John 13:31-35**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

*At the conclusion of the Gospel.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## **SERMON**

Pastor 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.*

Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit rather than our own prejudices or desires. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We praise you for the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us (*local natural areas may be named*). Move us toward more deliberate care of the world you have made. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Humble the rulers of nations. Turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Be present with those who are in pain or distress (*especially Katie Guyer, Eddie Turner, Gloria Kendrick, Amy Hollis, Heidi Glaudel, Orven Cook, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, James Young, Deirdre McManama, Drew Herdson, Porter Stacey, and Courtney Snell*). As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In Christ you give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints. At the last raise us up to share in the victory of Christ that is eternal. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

*Sit*

**10:30 AM**

Chancel Choir

*With a Voice of Singing*

Martin Shaw

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY “Old Hundreth”**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Merciful Father,  
we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves,  
our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the  
sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**DIALOGUE**

*Sung by Pastor and congregation*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

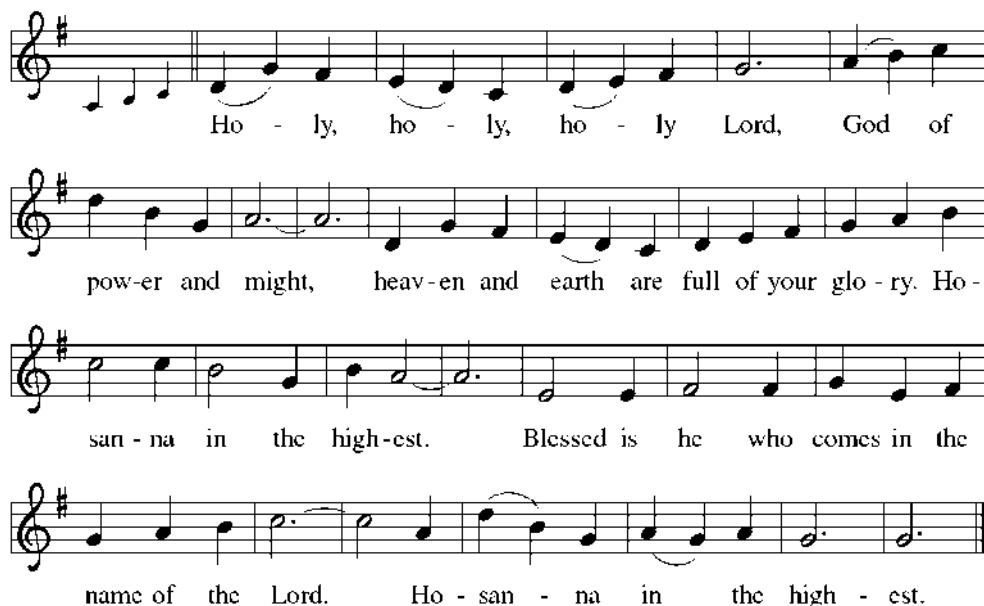
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**PREFACE** *The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

*Sung by all.*



## THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;  
you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.  
We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.  
We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.  
We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen,  
the people of your promise:  
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,  
the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile,  
and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.  
In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,  
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.



For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son:  
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life:

his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb,

his ascension to the seat of power,

and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in  
beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,

that we and all who share in this bread and cup

may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,

and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

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

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

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

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen**

## **FRACTION RITE**

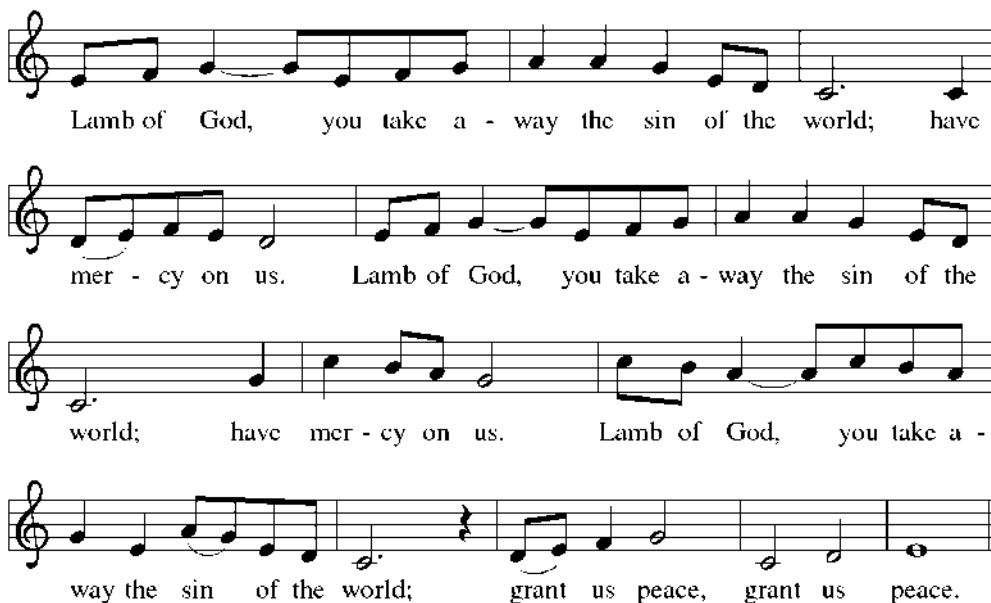
When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.

When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,  
as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

## AGNUS DEI

*Sung by all.*



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.

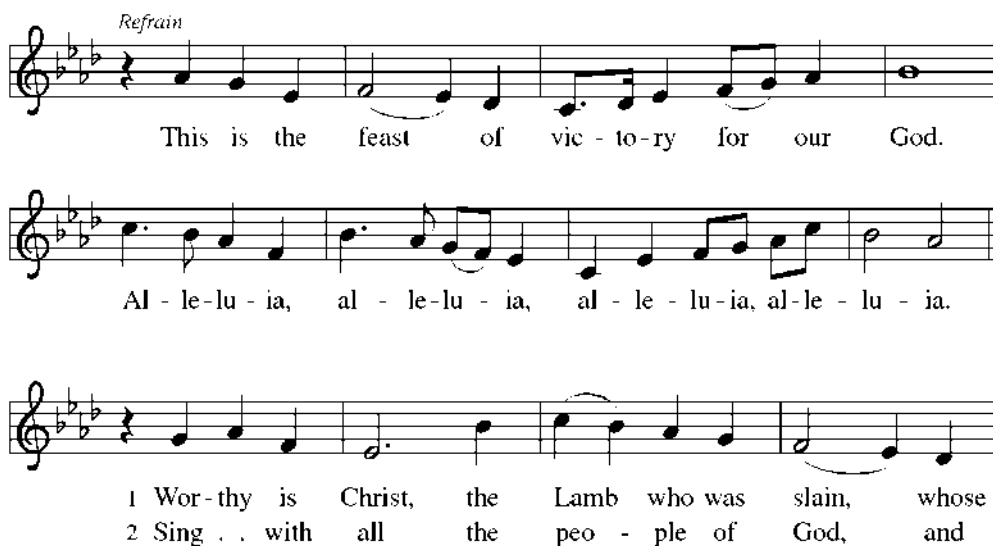
*Sit The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.*

## COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

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

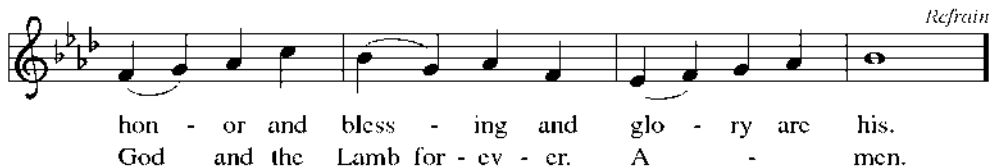
## COMMUNION CANTICLE

*Sung by all.*

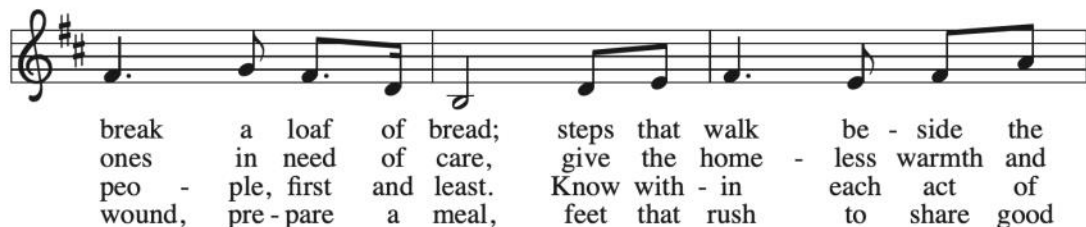
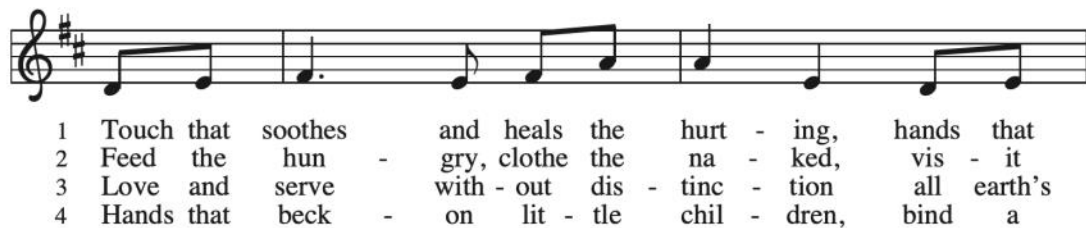


*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

*Continued on next page...*



## COMMUNION HYMN *Touch That Soothes and Heals (ACS 939)*



*Continued on next page...*



wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:  
shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.  
kind - ness, hope and whole - ness are in - creased.  
tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.



“See my hands and feet,” said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the



grave. “Be my hands and feet,” said Je - sus, “live as



ones I died to save.”

### *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. All powerful and ever-living God, in the Eucharist we celebrate the Mystery of Faith. By this Easter Sacrament, renew in us the gift of faith in the New Life it promises. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever.

**Amen**

### **BLESSING**

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

**Amen**

# HYMN

## *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (ELW 836)*



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays.
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea.  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

# DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The worshipers remain standing until the ministers and choir have exited the chancel.*

# POSTLUDE

*At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing*

David Schack



*The York County Senior Honors Choir will be in concert here on May 22 at 6:30 PM. A selection of inspirational, poetic, spiritual, uplifting, traditional and pop music will be performed.*



**Sunday Coffee Hours Donations Requested.** If you would willing to help by contributing baked goods, fruits or veggies for Fellowship following any of our Summer 9:15 AM services simply notify the church office or sign up in the Good Shepherd room and we can add you to the schedule. The desire is to have fellowship opportunities following worship each Sunday throughout the summer.

**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](http://www.stpaulsyork.org) by selecting the designated button or through our pew envelopes marking them “Ukraine”.

**Deadline for the June/July Newsletter is TODAY.**

**Christian Education**—Classes run through May 22 for children & adults.

Adult Class meets in Christ Hall with Pastor Reep.

May 15 Social Ministry presents on opportunities to serve.

May 22 Creed

**TODAY Communion Instruction** will be offered to children and their families after the 10:30 Liturgy. Lunch will be provided. Instruction will follow. Please notify Miss Kelly, Pastor Reep or the church office if you plan to participate.



### *Serving the Lord with Gladness*

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Early: Altar Set-up Late: Altar Clean-up
5/15	Early	Kirsten Barnes	Ken Hinkle	Ann Ulrich			Alex Bastian, Michael Poster	Norma & Ron Riese
	Late	George Fitch	Janet Fitch	Deb Becker	Patty Snyder	Kem & Cindy Vaught	Dave Kopp, Carol Woodbury, Sandy Dickensheets	Pat Rudicille & Gerry Briggs



**Harvest Dinner Tickets** are on sale and may be purchased through contacting the Church Office. The dinner will be held on October 8, 2022. Proceeds benefit the Food Pantry. This year will feature select regional wines and local microbrews paired with the menu, American Heritage.

**Altar Flowers** once again grace our worship space. Please check out the Springettsbury Hallway bulletin board for the sign-up sheet and available dates for the year. Many Sundays are still available! Cost is \$30 per vase.

**Planting Project**—Help us with our planting project on Tuesday, May 24 at 5:00 PM. The Property Committee will be planting 2,100 Pachysandra plants between the playground fence and the sidewalk along the North side of the building. Bring garden shovels, work gloves, and kneeling cushions or knee pads. We need at least 21 people to make this go smoothly. Notify Kem Vaught, Jeff Riese, Steve Heistand, Larry Becker or Tom Ruth.

**Correction from Temple Talk on May 8:** St. Paul's Food Pantry did not serve an average of 950 people per week during 2022. The figure was an average of people served per month. Our Food Pantry continues to serve our neighbors in York. The average number of people served per month between January-April in 2022 has doubled from the same period in 2019. The average number of people served per month in 2019 was 466. In 2022 that number increased to an average of 950 people per month. Thank you for your continued support.

**This Week at St. Paul's** **May 15-22**

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

**Sunday, May 15 Newsletter Deadline**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
11:45 AM Holy Communion Class—Christ Hall  
1:00 PM Matinee Musical Club Recital  
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

**Monday, May 16**

7:00 PM Finance Committee ZOOM

**Tuesday May 17**

9:30 AM Pantry  
5:30 PM Picnic in the Park—Kain Park Perch Pavillion  
6:00 PM Story, Activity, Craft

**Wednesday, May 18**

10:30 AM Bible Study

**Sunday, May 22**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
6:30 PM York County Senior Honors Choir  
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

STAFF		
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Two mornings a week before breakfast a small group of students gathered in an upper room in Valentine Hall for *Greek readings*. Greek New Testaments in hand, Dr. Nieting would announce a text from a Gospel or an epistle reading. He would cite the chapter and the beginning verse. Then it was something like “ready, set, read!” Around the table we would go. Seminarians took turns reading from the Greek text and translating as they went along. When the text was familiar we could translate with relative ease. And when the selected text was something more obscure, or one which contained a great deal of nuance, then we would often stumble, fumble around for words, or in some cases simply make things up! Dr. Nieting must have had the patience of our Lord. On more than one occasion he would shake his head from side to side and say “Stanley now that is not quite what the text says. Go ahead, begin again.” And with a positive head shake indicating “yes you can do this” I would start over.

Some mornings my classmates would choose to skip Greek readings and sleep in. That meant that there were fewer of us present around the table. That meant that each of us had more reading, more translating, and were more likely to be called out for not translating with the precision that Dr. Nieting desired. With so few in attendance it was often a downright painful experience. It was difficult in that particular moment to muster much love toward those classmates who skipped the early morning class. Their absence created a scenario that at the time seemed excruciatingly burdensome for those present around the table. My anxiety in such situations was notable. At times I confess that I felt a bit hung out to dry. Greek reading was not something in which I excelled. In all honesty, I thought I wouldn’t use Greek reading much after seminary. And yet I am surprised by how much of it comes to me. How much it aids in preparation for the Wednesday scripture study. New Testament Greek is a particular language. I have come to appreciate how it unites us, sets us apart, and brings greater clarity into the world of faith in which we live and move and have our being.

Most of us don’t give much thought to the language of the New Testament. Most of us don’t spend much time pondering a biblical text for hours, or days, or even for a week. Nor do we spend a lot of time reflecting on the language of the Church, the language of liturgy or for that matter the language of Christianity. Gospel language may be as foreign to us as were those texts being rendered during Greek readings before breakfast or coffee. We may be surprised when we hear ourselves speaking using the language that our Lord so intimately gave to his followers “love one another.” That is the language that sets us apart as Church and that reflects Christianity to the society at large. This is the language that springs forth from the Gospel’s good news. It is what I believe Jesus wants us as a faith community to be saying and doing, showing forth. He lived his life to heighten his message of “love for one another” so that we in fact would redirect our lives. And just like Dr. Nieting shaking his head encouraging us during that seminary class years ago in an upper room, this morning we are encouraged by our Lord calling on us to love one another. We are presented with a biblical text specifically focused on his language of love.

In the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of St. John we hear how Jesus gathered his disciples together in an upper room to share in a meal. But before any one was served, Jesus himself stooped down and washed his follower’s feet. This is the part of the story that we hear read on Thursday of Holy Week. It precedes the text read this morning. Jesus gave his disciples an example when he stooped down and washed their feet. Through the witness of the apostles Jesus gives to us a sign,

a concrete tangible act of what love is about. Love for Jesus is comprised of service to and for others. Love is not an emotion, a good feeling, a happy thought. Love has service connected to it. Later in the gospel of John we will hear that following Jesus involves sacrifice. “*You will lose your life in order to find it*” he says. Loving acts will always have service and sacrifice associated with them. These will not be random; they will be acts of service and sacrifice that point to the love of God for the world made known in Christ Jesus.

This language of love is disciple language. It is rooted in the steadfast love of God. Service and sacrifice recall what Jesus did during his earthly life; he served those who followed and he gave of himself, actually he gave up his very life for the love of the world; for you and for me (John 3:16). The glorifying language in the text this morning from St. John has to do with Jesus’ suffering, death, resurrection and ascension. For Jesus to be glorified means that he will endure the pain and anguish of the cross, he will cry out that “*it is finished*,” his dead body will be taken down from the cross placed in a tomb and he will on the third day be raised up and will take his place again with the Father. That is “glorifying” in the gospel of John. A new commandment gives shape to life for Jesus’ followers, “Love one another.” It doesn’t mean that everything will always be rosy. Glory through the writing of John is perhaps more closely associated with what Mark and Luke describe as taking up cross and following.

This year on Maundy Thursday we didn’t observe the liturgical action of foot washing. Partly to do with the lingering effects of the pandemic and partly to highlight loving one another through four specific areas of service that we are a part of in our faith community. I placed four chairs in the chancel (some of you may remember). A basin placed on the floor. Poster board signs rested on each chair identifying:

Bridge of Hope; supporting a family moving from homelessness to sustained life in a neighborhood.

Food Pantry; supporting neighbors struggling with food insecurity.

Jackson School; supporting students with coats, hats, gloves, books, art supplies, games

Mpuguso Lutheran Church; partnering in proclaiming the gospel, of Christ Jesus and his love.

Jesus is preparing the disciples for his departure from them; he is showing them that love is essential for life with him. He had been modeling love for others all along the journey. Now as they are about to embark on the events leading to his suffering, death, resurrection and ascension he washed their feet and set it as an example for them. But not just for them, for us too. The intent, I believe was to connect the command to “love one another” with the act of giving of ourselves. Love for one another opens us to a vision of living that pushes up against the cultural norm of living for self that so easily envelopes us. Our engagement with Bridge of Hope, Food Pantry, Jackson School, Mpuguso Lutheran Church are just a few of the acts of love which make the presence of Jesus known in the world. When my classmates opted out of Greek readings the morning seemed a bit scarier. It was frightening feeling that the bulk of the work fell on the few who got out of bed and made it to class without even a first cup of coffee. It was far easier to resent those who stayed away, than to love them. In our lives of faith there are days where loving is challenging. And yet we are called together in Christ Jesus to be a community known by our love. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18**

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup>But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" <sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

**Psalm 148****SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6**

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

"See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
<sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no  
more,

for the first things have passed away."  
<sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

**GOSPEL: John 13:31-35**

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9.

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