

The background is a complex, abstract composition. On the left, a vertical band of textured red and orange runs down the page. The rest of the image is filled with bold, black-outlined geometric shapes in shades of red, orange, yellow, and teal. A stylized, angular figure is integrated into the design, with its head tilted back and one arm raised, pointing upwards. The overall style is reminiscent of mid-20th-century abstract art or stained glass.

Peace

I leave with you

JOHN 14:27

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.

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.

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

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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 22, 2022
Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30AM

PRELUDE *With High Delight, Let Us Unite* Jan Bender

Stand

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

10:30 AM **The Sacrament of Holy Baptism (insert)**

HYMN *Glorious Things of You Are Spoken (ELW 647)*



1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken. Zi - on, cit - y
2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e -
3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, see the cloud and
4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a



of our God! He whose word can - not be bro - ken
ter - nal love, well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters,
fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring,
mem - ber am, let the world de - ride or pit - y,



formed you for his own a - bode. On the Rock of A - ges
and all fear of want re - move. Who can faint, while such a
show - ing that the Lord is near. Thus de - riv - ing from their
I will glo - ry in your name. Fad - ing are the world's vain



found - ed, what can shake your sure re - pose? With sal -
riv - er ev - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace which,
ban - ner light by night and shade by day, safe they
plea - sures, all their boast - ed pomp and show; sol - id



va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, you may smile at all your foes.
like the Lord, the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.
feed up - on the man - na which God gives them on their way.
joys and last - ing trea - sures none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

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, from whom all good things come: Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to think those things which are right, and by your goodness help us to do them; 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 16:9-15

(back cover)

PSALMODY

Psalm 167 *spoken responsively by half verse*

¹ May God be merciful to | us and bless us,*

show us the light of his countenance, and | come to us.

² Let your ways be known | upon earth,*

your saving health a- | mong all nations.

³ Let the peoples praise | you, O God;*

let all the | peoples praise you.

⁴ Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,*

for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations | upon earth.

⁵ Let the peoples praise | you, O God;*

let all the | peoples praise you.

⁶ The earth has brought | forth her increase;*

may God, our own God, give | us his blessing.

⁷ May God give | us his blessing,*

and may all the ends of the earth stand in | awe of him.

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

(back cover)

Stand

VERSE

Sung by all



Repeat alleluia



HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:23-29

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

8:00 AM 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.

God of new life, open us to the unexpected ways your Spirit is at work. Guide bishops, pastors, deacons, lay leaders and musicians in your ways as they collaborate and plan .
God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Provide an abundant harvest for farmers, laborers, and gardeners as they begin their growing season. Join their efforts with the goodness of creation to feed all living things. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Shine your light of wisdom and peace among nations. When those in power seek to assert dominance over others, confound their ways and make them yield to your humble authority. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give safe haven to those who seek healing, liberation, or peace (*especially Katie Guyer, Eddie Turner, Gloria Kendrick, Amy Hollis, Heidi Glaudel, Orven Cook, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, James Young, Jim Flinchbaugh, Porter Stacey, and Courtney Snell*). Create places filled with hospitality where hurting people find your loving presence and wholeness. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Uphold the work of ministries and organizations in our communities who assist people experiencing homelessness, citizens returning from prison, and all marginalized people (*especially*). We pray for our Bridge of Hope family. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Assemble people for Baptism at rivers, streams, and fonts. Welcome them into the communion of saints and at the last gather us with those who have died (*especially*) into your eternal home. 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 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* Gustave Holst

Stand

OFFERTORY

“Old Hundreth”

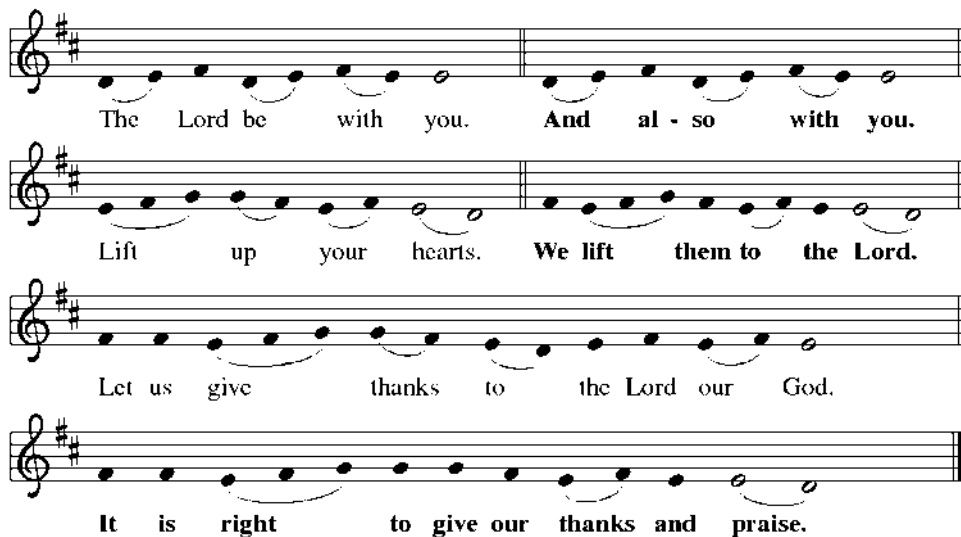
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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



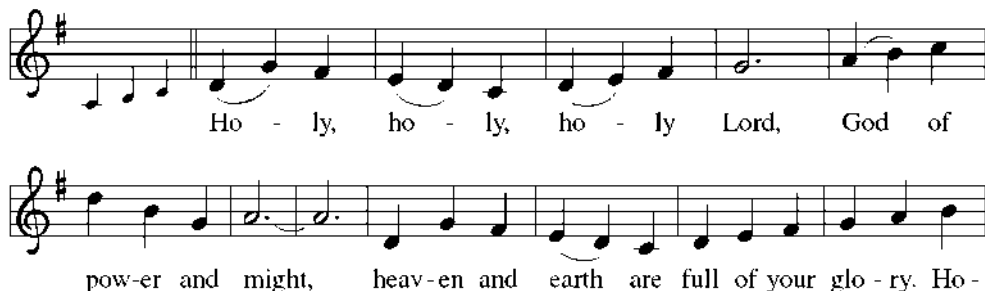
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

Continued on next page...



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

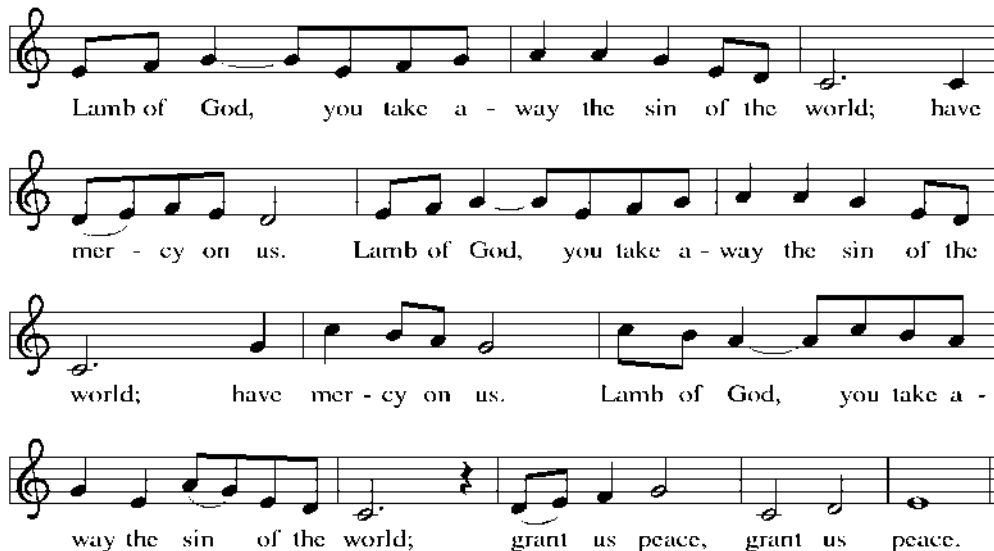
When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.

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.



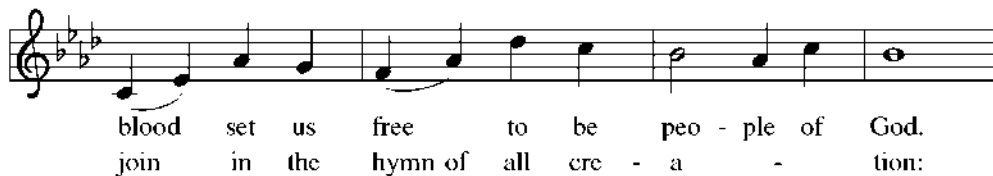
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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.*



Continued on next page...

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Refrain*

COMMUNION HYMN *The Day of Resurrection (ACS 936)*

- 1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
- 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
- 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
- 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,

the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.
all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

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

Go, My Children , With My Blessing (ELW 543) next page



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God.

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

POSTLUDE

Look, the Sight is Glorious

William Haller

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Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Early: Altar Set-up Late: Altar Clean-up
5/22	Early	Tony Culp	Ann Ulrich	Bob Reed			Bob Reed, Ron Riese	Norma & Ron Riese
	Late	Tonya Cave	Larry Becker	Allison Lehr	Janet Fitch	Pat Rudacille, Gerry Briggs	Kem Vaught, Larry Becker, Steve	Pat Rudicille & Gerry Briggs

Worship during June, July and August

Combined liturgy 9:15 AM

We begin the summer season with the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday June 5th. The liturgy will be held outside on the south lawn. Please bring a lawn chair with you. The Fellowship Committee is working in conjunction with the Worship and Arts Committee to make our celebration meaningful and memorable. With the deep appreciation expressed from participants who attended the Palm Sunday breakfast the Fellowship Committee is preparing for a breakfast opportunity prior to the service at 8:45 AM. A brass ensemble will provide music themed for the day as we gather to celebrate Holy Communion. We will hear the story of the mighty power of God as the Spirit of God rests on the early followers of Christ Jesus. Following the liturgy a time of fellowship is being planned so that we can become better acquainted with one another.

For the remainder of the summer season we will gather indoors for a combined liturgy. As worship leaders change each week it will help us learn names and strengthen relationships within our faith community. The musical settings will be primarily from the “*With One Voice*” supplement. Fellowship opportunities are being planned. If you would like to help by contributing baked goods or fruits or veggies simply notify the church office and we can add you to the schedule. The desire is to have fellowship opportunities following worship each Sunday throughout the summer.



Holy Baptism

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Molly Mae McComas. Congratulations are extended to her parents, Leah and Sean.

Sunday Coffee Hour 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. A member of the Fellowship Committee will provide oversight for each gathering.



Family Ministry - Picnics in the Park God's Beautiful Creation 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Join your friends from St. Paul's for an evening picnic and bible activities at one of York Counties local parks. Each family is asked to bring their own picnic dinner to enjoy as we gather. The evening will include an interactive bible story along with a family activity and craft. All pavilions are located close to the park playground so your children can enjoy time playing with their friends. Restrooms and parking are located within walking distance.

5:30 – Picnic

6:00 – 7:00 – Bible Story, Camp Songs, Activity and Craft

June 21st Rocky Ridge Park Grey Squirrel Pavilion God Creates the Land and Plants	August 16th Kain Park Perch Pavilion God Creates the Creatures in the Sea
July 19th John Rudy Park Blue Spruce Pavilion God Creates the Animals	



Altar Flowers

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

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



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.

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".

This Week at St. Paul's

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

Sunday, May 22

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

Monday, May 23

7:00 PM Mutual Ministry

Tuesday May 24

9:30 AM Pantry
12:30 PM Christian Ed Meeting ZOOM
6:00 PM Property Committee
7:00 PM Worship & Arts Meeting—
Good Shepherd Rm

Wednesday, May 25

10:30 AM Bible Study—Last session for the season

Sunday, May 29

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Monday, May 30 Memorial Day

Office Closed

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
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Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Children Choirs Director	Cody Messersmith	cmessersmith.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Paul had a vision. The vision occurs early in his life and ministry. The vision brings clarity to his calling. It points him in a particular direction and opens him to new adventures. He has a vision to keep people from perishing.

“Come over to Macedonia and help us” pleads the man in Paul’s vision. Generally you ask someone you know pretty well to help you. Or, out of desperation you are willing to ask anyone for help. I have never been certain if the man from Macedonia pleading knows the Apostle Paul or if the Apostle is a complete stranger to him. What I do know from the biblical text is that God, identified as the Holy Spirit and then a bit later on identified as the Spirit of Jesus, doesn’t want Paul and his entourage going into certain areas of Asia. It is as though the pleading, the beckoning, is the work of the Holy Spirit clarifying God’s desire for Paul to travel to a new land, the land we know as Europe, and the land from which many of our forbearers hail. Where Paul thought he should go to proclaim the resurrection news is thwarted, and it is thwarted by the Holy Spirit. This situation doesn’t call a halt to the mission nor is the mission scrapped. It is simply redirected.

“Come over to Macedonia and help us.” This is the vision of which Paul is the recipient. There is a man standing, pleading with Paul to enter into a new land and to provide what is clearly stated as much needed help. What Paul grasps from the vision is the clarity of conviction that God has called him and his companions to proclaim the good news in Macedonia, in a new land among new people.

Perhaps the man from Macedonia knew that he lived among a people without vision. Perhaps the man from Macedonia knew that without vision, he and all the people among whom he lived are perishing. And without delay the biblical text states, “We immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia. They set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Sam-o-thrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.” There, they did it. They responded to the vision. They traveled a new direction. They crossed unfamiliar water. They entered into a land inhabited with people they did not know. And they took the good news message of God and God’s love with them. This would be the content of the message that they would be proclaiming at every juncture, every opportunity that would arise. And along the way, they continued to gather for prayer, worship, and sought out places to proclaim the mighty acts of God.

A number of years ago the Social Ministry Committee was pursuing work in the neighborhood. We had established some reliable relationships and had participated in events that helped get us known, helped deliver some resources to neighbors in need, and through the work helped to communicate God’s love in Christ. But for some reason phone calls and emails were not returned. This was perplexing at the time for Committee members. This was a sudden change. They were uncertain why their phone calls were not returned, why their emails went unanswered, and why people with whom they had once interacted were no longer responding. Then suddenly a new door opened. Jackson Elementary school was most willing to entertain members of the committee. The Social Ministry team traveled in a new direction, entered into a new building, met with people they did not know, but were convinced that God had called them to share the story of God’s love through acts of kindness as neighbor. And while the vision may not have been as vividly pronounced as the one recorded in the book of Acts, they responded to

people pleading with us for help. Help with ingredients for breakfast for the children during the spring PSSA testing that particular year. Help with collecting books for the summer reading program so every child would have a book to read while school is in recess. Help with food for families suffering food insecurity. Help with coats and hats and gloves providing warmth and protection from winter weather. The Social Ministry Committee was being called in a new and different direction. This wasn't their original vision, but it sure seemed to be one where God was calling, opening doors. In ministry things don't always happen with such immediacy. But in this example things moved quickly.

In the first reading, the vision positions the Apostle Paul and his companions so that they are able to share the good news. It was a Sabbath day and they went to a place where they supposed people would be at prayer. There they encounter a group of women praying. Among them was a certain woman named Lydia. She was a worshiper of God. She was a dealer in purple cloth; she dealt with people of means, financial wealth, because purple cloth in Bible times was among the most expensive fabric and dye. That day when the women were at prayer, when Paul and his companions sat and talked with them, the Lord opened hearts to listen to the message of God's love in Christ Jesus. The word moved Lydia and her entire household to be baptized. She was numbered among the Lord's faithful.

This morning Molly Mae is welcomed into the Lord's family. She is numbered among the Lord's faithful. As she grows in years there will be opportunity for her to listen to the message of God's love in Christ Jesus. The word will, as it did that day for Lydia and as it does for us, open her heart to listen to the message; a message proclaimed by angels and apostles, by prophets and priests, by Sunday school teachers, catechists, and pastors. It is a message that sends us out, that opens hearts, transforms life, calling us to a new and radiant vision.

"Where there is no vision the people perish." Proverbs 29:8

¹⁷ "In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams. Acts 2:17

I believe that the Lord God is calling us to share the word of hope and salvation in a land where people don't even know that they are perishing. The land is closer than you may suspect. It means of course that we will need to open ourselves to God in new and different ways. It means that we will need to position ourselves so that we speak God's word of love bringing peace into situations that are often complex and at times tumultuous. Knowing that on Sunday there is a group, who with regularity, gathers for prayer and sustains us in the mission. Here it is that the Lord opens hearts. Here it is that we listen eagerly to what is said so that new life, amended life, baptismal life springs forth. With opened hearts, attentive ears, and lives marked with the cross of Christ a new and radiant vision of our calling is carried out.

"Come over to Macedonia and help us." People are pleading for help, pleading for a word of life, and we are called to proclaim the good news. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Psalm 67**SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5**

And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the

glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

GOSPEL: John 14:23-29

Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

or John 5:1-9 [not printed]

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26.

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