



My sheep hear my voice

JOHN 10:27

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

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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.

***Today we welcome the York College Chamber Singers , Directed by
Dr. Grace Muzzo.***

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.

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.

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

TEMPLE TALK

Harvest Dinner

Ann Anstadt/Patty Snyder

PRELUDE

The King of Love, My Shepherd Is *Kenneth Fletcher*

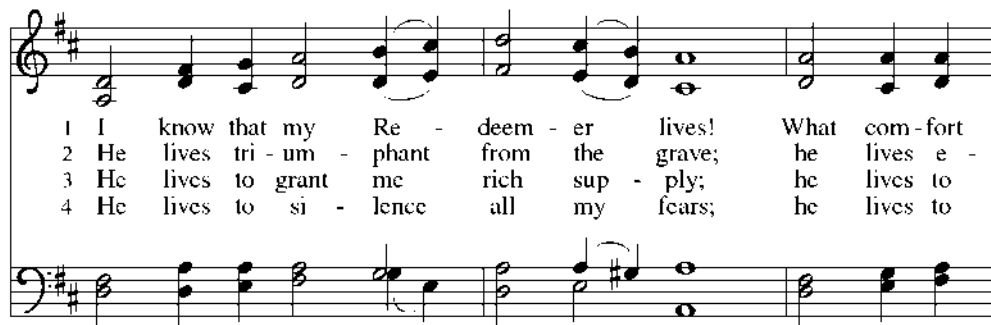
Stand

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN

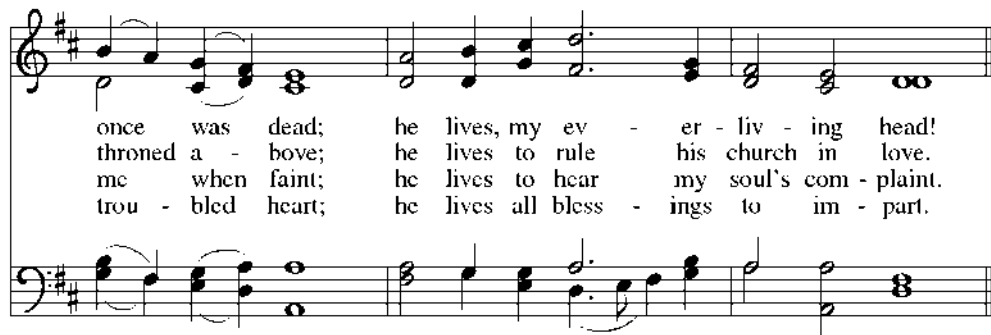
I Know That My Redeemer Lives stanzas 1-4 (ELW 619)



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to
4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

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. . . . God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with knowledge and understanding; 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 9:36-43

(back cover)

PSALMODY

The Lord's My Shepherd (ELW 778)



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres-ence of my foes;
5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me.



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall be.

SECOND READING**Revelation 7:9-17** (back cover)*Stand***VERSE***Sung by all*

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

HOLY GOSPEL**John 10:22-30**

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.**

Continued on next page...

**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.

Gentle Shepherd, enable us to respond to the voice of Jesus. Give us unfailing trust, unafraid to join in Jesus' work of renewing all things. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Prepare a safe place for those whose environments are dangerous or unhealthy, especially those making difficult journeys. Prosper your creation for the sake of every living thing.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day. Accompany those yearning to be mothers. Help us to heal from broken family relationships and open us to receive your nurturing love. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Seek out those who weep while they await healing or consolation (*especially Katie Guyer, Eddie Turner, Gloria Kendrick, Amy Hollis, Heidi Glaudel, Orven Cook, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, James Young, Peggy Novotny, Deirdre McManama, Drew Herdson, Porter Stacey, and Courtney Snell*). Set people in their path who can provide the care they need, and wipe away every tear from their eyes. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Enfold us in the great multitude of saints from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. Wash us in your saving grace every day, guiding us to your waters of life. 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 York College Chamber Singers

Music Director, Dr. Grace Muzzo

Jesu Dulcis Memoria

Tomas Luis De Victoria

*"Sweet is the remembrance of Jesus, giving true joy to the heart
But his presence is sweeter than honey, sweeter than everything."*

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.

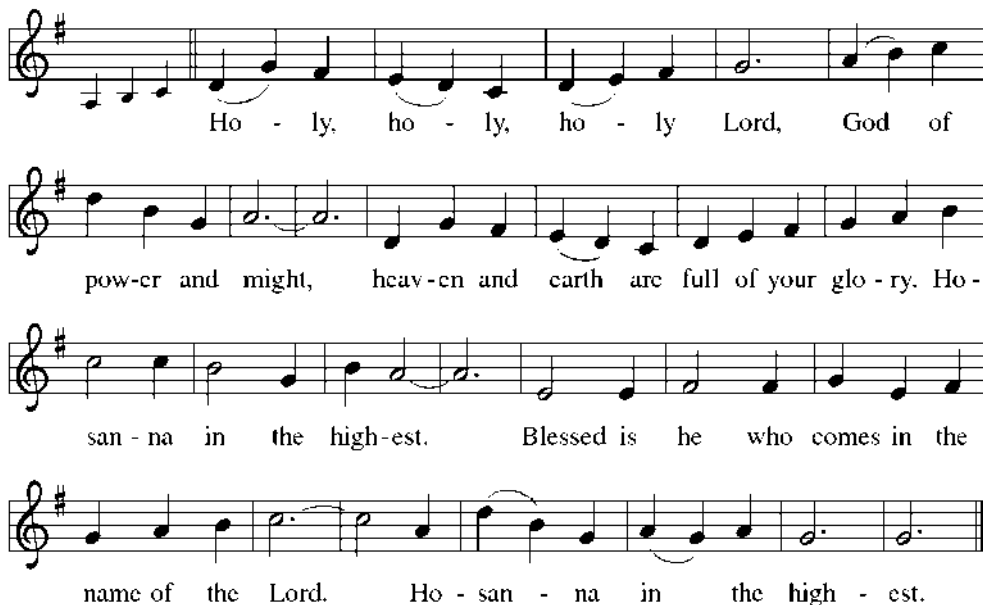
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

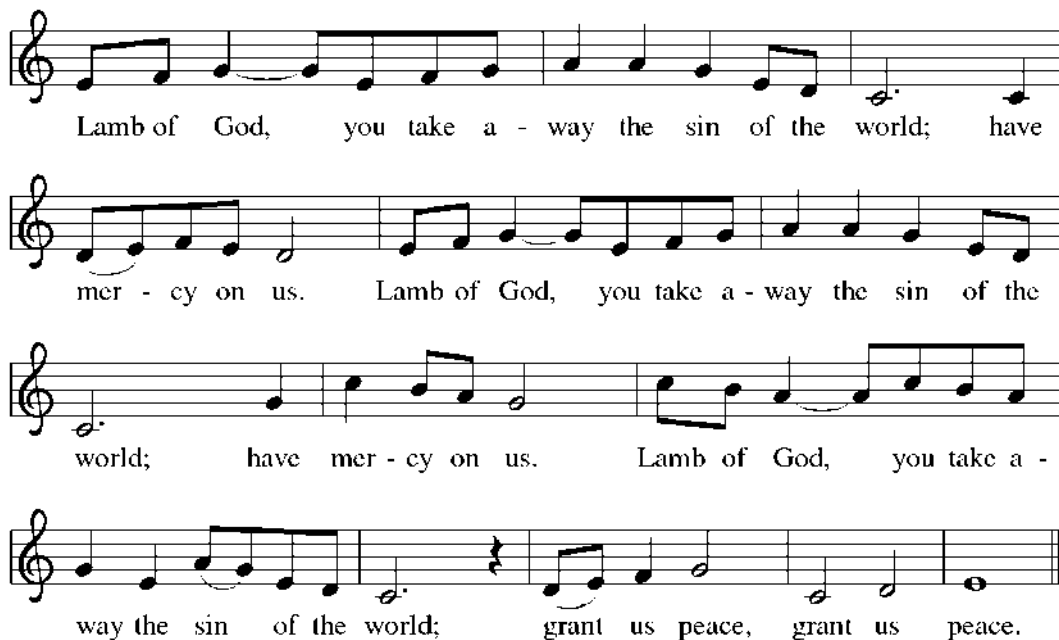
FRACTION RITE

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.

Continued on next page...



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



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

10:30 A.M. **COMMUNION MOTET**
O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

York College Chamber Singers
Elaine Hagenberg

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

In Thee is Gladness (ELW 867)



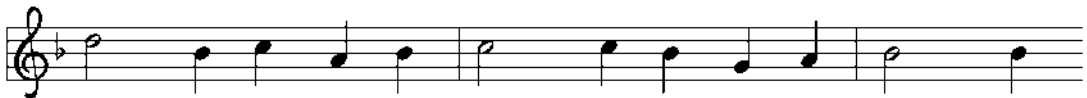
1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my
2 Je-sus is ours! . . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for

Continued on next page...



pin - ing to see thy shin - ing, dy - ing or liv - ing,
glad - ness, tri - umph o'er sad - ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav - ing; naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

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

All Creatures of Our God and King

Flor Peeters

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Deadline for the June/July Newsletter is May 15th.

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
and to honor all Mothers on this Mother's Day
by Mike & Becky Bingham*



Altar Flowers



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.

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

Adult Class meets in Christ Hall with Pastor Reep.

May 8 The Lord's Prayer

May 15 Social Ministry presents on opportunities to serve.

May 22 Creed

NEXT SUNDAY Communion Instruction will be offered to children and their families on Sunday, May 15 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
5/8	Early	Bob Reed	Kirsten Barnes	Laura Livingston			Jeff Riese, John Monk	Norma & Ron Riese
	Late	Aaron Jacobs	Larry Moore	Patty Snyder	Tonya Cave	Ann Anstadt, Sandy Dickensheets	Kem Vaught, Larry Becker, Steve Heistand, Dan Garber	Pat Rudicille & Gerry Briggs

Harvest Dinner Tickets go on sale today. 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. Representatives have tickets for sale in the Good Shepherd Room.

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.

Activities & Book Drive—One week to go! Next Sunday is the last day to bring in books and summer activity items for Jackson Elementary School. Keep the kids reading and active this summer by placing your donations in the collection boxes in the Good Shepherd Room.

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 **May 8-15**

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

Sunday, May 8 Mother's Day

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—York College
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Monday, May 9

7:00 PM Council Meeting—Good Shepherd Rm

Tuesday May 10

9:30 AM Pantry
7:00 PM Preschool Meeting—ZOOM

Wednesday, May 11

10:30 AM Bible Study
7:00 PM Mpuguso Meeting

Thursday, May 12

9:00 AM Fellowship Committee Mtg

Sunday, May 15 Newsletter Deadline

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

STAFF		
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"The word has gone out and it will not return empty" proclaimed the Prophet Isaiah. The Psalmist poetically penned *"Their word has gone out through all the earth and their works to the end of the world."* Paul corresponding to Rome *"Their voice has gone out into all the earth."* Jesus in the gospel of John *"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me."*

In the early days of the church there were lots of great challenges. But one thing certainly aided in the spread of the good news of Christ Jesus and it had to do with the word that was communicated about life in the community of faith; what was going on, healing, the power of prayer, the stories of hope, and the conviction that "people of the way" were really on the way, they were following. Not plateauing, not stagnating, not slipping back into former ways of sin, death, and evil, but on the way to new life in Christ; new relationships, new possibilities, new ways to view the world and relate to their neighbors.

Every year the word would go out about the Brown's annual Christmas party. It was usually held between December 26 and January 6. "Spread the word," Marge said. **And they did.** Once Marge and Ed set the date and time for the party, they simply went in to town, at the super market, the library, the barber shop, the wine and spirits store, and a few stops around the university; telling people to "spread the word." And the word went out! All they had left to do was make the preparations to receive all those who heard and who would respond to the word that went out! Ed did the exterior decorating stringing strand after strand of lights and most of the other preparations were left to Marge. To this day those were some of the most memorable of parties.

There weren't any RSVP cards and this was long before the convenience of text messages; so you never knew for certain who would be in attendance. There were some regulars you could always count on. And there were others who simply heard the word, and came to the party. Over the years the list of attendees varied: educators, paleontologists, a retired Dean of Julliard, librarian, plumber, nurses, horticulturist, pathologist, bookstore proprietor, restaurateur, musicians, students, local judge, and loads of clergy, Ed was a retired Lutheran pastor. The party was always a huge success measured by people gathering for a good time, sharing in Christmas cheer, reflecting on the past and hoping for the future. Of course the entire thing hinged on that word, the word that went out. Spread the word they would say!

In the Acts text we hear about the word going out. The word has to do with a woman of great faith, Tabitha or in Greek, Dorcas. And the word was about her good works. Now that is an example for us. Spread a good word about another's works. Today we are more likely of spreading a word that makes us look good rather than a word that builds someone else up. And we have plenty of examples of people spreading words that are simply hateful, deceitful, outright lies. We can't assume that our contemporaries know anything at all about the Ten Commandments, especially the one about *bearing false witness*, which makes all of this more challenging. But in those early days in the life of the church when people were craving new rela-

tionships, longing for new possibilities, desiring new ways to view the world and relate to their neighbors, the word spread regarding her good works. She produced beautiful garments. Her acts of charity and love were noted. The faith community would not let her die. Her witness to the resurrected Lord had an effect on the persons with whom she came into contact.

Not much is really known about Dorcas. Her name throughout the centuries has become synonymous with Christian women's societies. Luke thought her to be important enough to include when he was writing what we know as the book of Acts. And while we may puzzle over Peter's ability to raise her from death to life, a truly amazing thing is that this story has endured time. Her witness to Christ Jesus gave her life meaning and purpose. It made a difference in her community. The residents remembered her, valued her and her devotion to good works and acts of charity.

The Greek name Dorcas literally means gazelle. Gazelles are creatures we know from the continent of Africa; nimble, swift, beautiful, graceful running and galloping at high speeds. They have elegant markings on their hide, long vertical horns and faces sporting large dark eyes. I think that Dorcas worked at such a fast pace that she indeed lived up to her name. She busied herself, not trivially with things that benefited her, but with things that bore witness to the Easter Event: to resurrection, new life, forgiveness of sins, and future hope. She didn't set out to change the world, **just her neighborhood** by caring for widows, making clothing, doing good in the sense of what we know as the Golden Rule.

Throughout our 186 year history there have been men and women who typify the Christian witness, who in some way or another are remembered, not because they set out to be, but because in their living they bore witness to the Easter Event. Many such names are mentioned in conversation, listed in captions under assorted photographs, a few sentences jotted down in anniversary booklets, or perhaps inscribed on a utilitarian item used to carry out Gospel ministry; a flagon holding communion wine, the chancel cross, the bell 100 feet up in the steeple. These things help to inform us as faithful followers of Christ Jesus and of the power of the Easter event.

Today, we are not here only to recall the faithful acts of time past: of faithful women like Dorcas, and of faithful parishioners in the chronicles of St. Paul's. We are here to celebrate the faithfulness of our current community in this generation. We are here because we crave new relationship, long for new possibilities, desire new ways to view the world and relate to neighbors. Through our host, Christ Jesus, we are invited into new life, forgiven, strengthened, renewed.

"Spread the word," she said. And they did. The word went out. Peter heard their request and came to their aid. And the word spread, not only about the resuscitation of life for Dorcas, but for the resuscitation of life for all people given the gift of the Holy Spirit, the breath of God being breathed into, enveloping and empowering people, as the Bible records it, "*of every tribe and nation.*" And the word went out. The word of God, opening new avenues for mission and witness, creating opportunities from which good works flow, extending charity, providing for those in need, offering life lived in the joy of Easter. "Spread the Word," she said. **And they did.** Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Psalms 23**SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17**

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!"

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne
will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and
thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will
be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the
water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from
their eyes."

GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35.

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