

A classical marble relief sculpture. On the left, a man's head is replaced by a dog's head, with a human face and a beard. He is wearing a draped garment. On the right, a man with a turban-like head covering is shown in profile, holding a young child. The child is also draped in a garment. The background features a tree with clusters of grapes. The entire scene is carved into a light-colored stone.

LUKE 10:29

Who is
my neighbor?

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

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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 9:15 AM liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery.

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. **The instruction will be posted on the entry doors. Please be sure to bring a mask in the event of required/recommended masking.***

Offerings:

Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

Communion Procedure:

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle (about 8 adults per side).*
- 2. Communion glasses are placed on credence tables at the front pews (left and right side).*
- 3. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 4. Take your place along the chancel step. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.*
- 5. Extend your hands to receive the communion host.*
- 6. Consume the communion host 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.*

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, July 10, 2022
Holy Communion 9:15 AM

PRELUDE

Choral

Joseph Jongen

Stand turning towards the font.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

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

Amen

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

KYRIE



Al Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **☩** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:




Al Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **☩** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



Al Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **☩** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:


HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, . . . with - out end. A - men.



and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, . . . with - out end. A - men.



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.



As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lord God, use our lives to touch the world with your love. Stir us, by your Spirit, to be neighbor to those in need, serving them with willing hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

(back cover)

PSALM

Psalm 25:1-9 *Spoken responsively by whole verse.*

- ¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my | trust in you;*
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.
- ² **Let none who look to you be | put to shame;***
let the treacherous be disappointed | in their schemes.
- ³ Show me your | ways, O LORD,*
and teach | me your paths.
- ⁴ **Lead me in your | truth and teach me,***
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- ⁵ Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,*
for they are from | everlasting.
- ⁶ **Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;***
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.
- ⁷ Gracious and upright | is the LORD;*
therefore he teaches sinners | in his way.
- ⁸ **He guides the humble in | doing right***
and teaches his way | to the lowly.
- ⁹ All the paths of the LORD are | love and faithfulness*
to those who keep his covenant and his | testimonies.

SECOND LESSON

Colossians 1:1-14

(back cover)

Stand

VERSE



HOLY GOSPELLuke 10: 25-37 *(back cover)*The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke **Glory to you, O Lord.***At the conclusion of the Gospel.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.*Sit***SERMON**

Pastor Stan Reep

*Stand***APOSTLE'S CREED****I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.****I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.****He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.****He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.****He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again.****He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.****He will come again to judge the living and the dead.****I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,****the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,****the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.

Good and gracious God, you have placed your word of love in the hearts of your people. Fill us with compassion so that we bear the fruit of your healing mercy to a broken world. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You created the earth with seeds sprouting up to new life. We pray for the flourishing of fruit trees and orchards, vines and bushes. Prosper the work of those who plant, tend, harvest, and gather. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Show us your ways and teach us your paths of justice and love. Raise up community and national leaders to challenge and dismantle societal structures that perpetuate ethnic, racial, and religious profiling and discrimination. God of grace,

hear our prayer.Come near to all in need. Orchestrate kindness in the face of cruelty, hope where there is despair, love in the face of neglect, comfort where this death, and healing in illness (*especially Carl Jacobs, Katie Guyer, Eddie Turner, Gloria Kendrick, Amy Hollis, Heidi Glaudel, John Uffelmann, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, James Young, Courtney Snell, and the family and loved ones of Charlotte Mueller and Cathy McDowell*). God of grace,**hear our prayer.**

Turn this community toward neighbors in need. Bring aid and support to those who are poor, beaten down, abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided (*local outreach ministries may be named*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for saints who revealed your love and mercy in this life. Inspired by their witness, strengthen us to live in hope. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

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.

OFFERTORY

As the pastor prepares the altar the people sing.



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
that by this Holy Communion we may know
the unity we share with all your people
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor 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 *The bread is broken. A brief silence is kept.*

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 HYMN *God Bless the Hands (ACS 1022)*



1 God, bless the hands stretched out in love through floods be - low and
2 Bring com - fort to the hearts that mourn, left bro - ken, emp - tied
3 O God, our strength and ref - uge sure, our hope while storms of



storms a - bove; they search and res - cue, com - fort, calm, give
by the storm. Give hope to those in deep - est grief; em -
life en - dure: teach us to live in har - mo - ny with



shel - ter, of - fer heal - ing balm. Oh, guard them by your
pow - er us to bring re - lief. To you, O God, we
earth and riv - er, sky and sea, pre - serv - ing wa - ters,



stead - fast hand; reach out in love to help us stand.
raise our hands. Save us, we pray, from sink - ing sands.
air, and lands as ho - ly work for hu - man hands.

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. Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. **Amen**

BLESSING

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

HYMN

Word of God, Come Down on Earth (WOV 715)



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

William Mathias



Flowers This Week

The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God in celebration of our wedding anniversary by Bill & Nancy Banta and in memory of John and Paige Smith by Sara Atkinson.

Prayerful consideration needed for Congregation Treasurer. Interim Treasurer, Peter O’Conor is bringing those duties to a close with completion of the 2021 audit (August 31). The duties associated with the treasurer’s position have been greatly clarified during the past several years. If you are willing to consider this ministry opportunity or would like more information, please speak to President Tristan Ericson or Pastor Reep.

Food Pantry—July



Items needed: Rice (1 or 2 lb bags), dehydrated potatoes, powdered milk, tomato sauce and soup. We also need paper grocery bags with handles.

Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh, Patty Snyder, or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Altar Clean-up
7/10	9:15 AM	Bob Reed	Riley Jones	Lois Ann Schroeder	George Fitch	Katherine Lemke, Gail Kerchner	Jeff Riese , John Monk, Dave Kopp, Sandy Dickensheets	Ron & Norma Reise

Our next Outdoor Service will be held Sunday, July 31, Vespers at 7:00 PM. The service is preceded with a covered dish supper at 6:00 PM. Please bring something to share and join us for prayer!

Harvest Dinner Tickets are on sale. 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. Contact the office for tickets.

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.

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”.



Sunday Coffee Hour Donations Requested. If you would be 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.

This Week at St. Paul’s

Church office open 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Mon—Thurs

Sunday, July 10

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist
 10:15 AM Fellowship—Good Shepherd Rm
 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Monday, July 11

7:00 PM Council Meeting—Christ Hall

Tuesday, July 12

9:30 AM Pantry

Friday, July 15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Sunday, July 17

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist
 10:15 AM Fellowship—Good Shepherd Rm
 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
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

Summer Worship

Combined Service time at 9:15 AM with Fellowship to Follow

We will gather on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM for the Holy Communion liturgy. The schedule of servers for each Sunday is comprised from those who historically serve at either the early or late service. By mixing together those who normally serve at 8:00 or 10:30 AM this will provide another opportunity for us to put names and faces together as we identify those assuming leadership roles in the liturgy. Following each service there will be a time for fellowship held in the Good Shepherd Room. A member of the Fellowship Committee is scheduled to provide oversight with the set-up, serving and clean up each week. Please do volunteer to provide fruit or veggies or a baked good for one of these fellowship times. A sign-up sheet is located on the server in the Good Shepherd Room if you are able and willing to provide an item or two. Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for taking the lead on making these important times possible. And thank you in advance for providing the food for these summer Sunday gatherings.

Preschool Webpage—We are excited to let everyone know that St. Paul's Preschool has a new webpage (stpaulspreschoolyork.com). Please take a few minutes to check it out and share it with people you know who may have children 2, 3, or 4 years of age. Applications for 2022-2023 enrollment are being accepted now.

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 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 and Craft

July 19th John Rudy Park Blue Spruce Pavilion God Creates the Animals	August 16th Kain Park Perch Pavilion God Creates the Creatures in the Sea
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Sunday July 10, 2022 - Proper 10 C

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

It's good to be back. I appreciated all of the calls, texts, and emails welcoming me back into the Christian fellowship of St. Paul's. It was good to have time away, time to read and paint and reflect and spend time with my family. However it is rather ironic that on the first Sunday that I return the first reading from Deuteronomy is a portion of Moses' rather lengthy good bye speech. I say hello and he says goodbye! He is not going to be crossing over the Jordan River into the land of Canaan. He is reflecting on their 40 year plus time together and summarizing the important things that his faith community needs to know and remember as they make their way into a new and extremely diverse community. Moses is not providing them with numerical lists of things to post but rather sharing stories about communal life together. The big take away this morning is about the command of the Lord. It's not too hard he says. It's not too far away. You don't have to climb up to heaven or cross to the other side of the sea. ***"The word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe."***

Moses is about advancing the mission. He has provided leadership for over 40 years. He wants God's people to move into a diverse new land remembering whose they are and that they are to be "a blessing" to others. Being "a blessing" flows out of their turning to the Lord God with all of their heart and soul. This language gets picked up in the gospel reading.

In the gospel narrative we encounter Jesus advancing mission on his way to Jerusalem. We are from Luke's point of view reaching a high point in the narrative. He has passed by the region of Samaria. The people there were not receptive to him. Unwelcoming to the extent that James and John want to bring down fire upon them, but Jesus scolded them! And along the way Jesus is now talking with his followers, the ones he sent out to heal and cast out demons, the ones who were amazed at what they were able to do in his name.

While Jesus is talking to them about faithfulness to God, he is interrupted. And he is interrupted by a lawyer. Who would think that a lawyer would interrupt a private conversation in order to get his own question answered? This is behavior more suitable to toddlers and elementary school children. This raises serious questions about who is hanging around with Jesus and his disciples. But the interruption doesn't seem to change the conversation. In some ways it advances the story. The 70 were rejoicing in their mission. They were over joyed with their witness. They were sharing what they had learned and experienced. The lawyer seemed to know about faithfulness too.

In my line of work you might be surprised to learn that there are many interruptions. This week sermon writing day was interrupted with a request for a Pennsylvania ID, followed by a request for information regarding the Garden of Memory, arrangements for home communion calls, the most recent proof of the Sunday worship folder, a reminder that the 2nd quarter statements and letter needs to be prepared, the launching of the newly designed and updated pre-school website, and a few welcome back greetings interspersed for good measure. Each one was important in its own way. They each had something to do with life. They just seemed to be somewhat more subtle than the interruption that Jesus experienced that day on his way to Jerusalem.

The interruption; "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" What is written in the law asked Jesus. "What do you read there," he inquires; and the legal expert then summarizes the law

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” The very thing that Moses wanted members of his faith community to remember! And this one who interrupts, the lawyer, is greeted with “you have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

“Do this” says Jesus and you will live. “Do this,” the foreshadowing of the very words that he speaks when gathered with his followers that night in the upper room when he blesses bread and wine. And the very words he speaks to us this morning; “do this.”

The interruption allows for a story to be told. A message about love for neighbor that moves earlier words of Jesus, “love your enemies,” from the sermon on the plain, moves them into a heightened reality. While the lawyer wants Jesus to clarify who is his neighbor, (who are the ones he has to love and who are the ones he can skip over) Jesus tells a story that leaves the listener with clarity, NEIGHBOR LOVE knows no boundaries. There are no legal loop holes.

Luke doesn’t document what the lawyer does. But what we know is that encounters with Jesus have a way of destabilizing our world views, and the ways in which we operate. We are left, like the lawyer in the story, challenged to embrace a new world, a new realm of God made known through Jesus’ ministry; a ministry of mercy. And we carry out this ministry in a diverse community and world.

“The one who showed him mercy” that was the answer reported that day. The question posed by Jesus, “Which of these three; the priest, the Levite, the Samaritan, do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” The one who showed him mercy, the one doing mercy, the one who did mercy to him. Jesus says “Go and do likewise.”

The Congregation council historically includes on its summer retreat agenda some really important aspects of our life together in Christ. Things you might say that are vital to our life together as a faith community. The discussion on these items, as I reflected on it, often centers on the command of Christ to “do this” to do mercy and in the “doing of it” the doing of mercy gathering others to join in the mission, helping us to live more fully into the life given to us. We are encouraged by President Tristan to share some of the amazing things that we have been permitted to do in the name of the Resurrected One (similar to the return of the 70). Such active mercy, the “do this” that Jesus commands, advances the mission of our faith community.

Today our lives are interrupted by Christ’s command to “do this.” We don’t talk much about doing mercy. But we know that the merciful are blessed by God. Moses wanted his faith community to remember to be a blessing, do things that bless, remember the word is near. That alone should move us along a different trajectory from the diverse community and world around us. We are not always attentive to God’s word. We state that in the brief words of our weekly confession. We aren’t always listening like our life depends on it. Christ is calling to us to do mercy, to love neighbor, to experience the life he created for us through his own suffering, death and resurrection because the time is right for NEIGHBOR LOVE! Do this. Do mercy. Amen.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:9-14

The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, ¹⁰when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" ¹³Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" ¹⁴No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

Psalms 25:1-10

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

²To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may

be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42.

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