



Do you think
that I have come
to bring peace to
the earth?

LUKE 12:51

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 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 CDC guidelines. Green/Optional, Yellow/Recommended, Red/Required. **The instruction will be posted on the entry doors. Please be sure to bring a mask in the event of required/recommended masking. Disposable masks are available at the entrance to the church nave.***

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 10 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 before you leave the chancel edge.*
- 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.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 14, 2022
Holy Communion 9:15 AM

Musical setting 6 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

David Cherwien

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

ENTRANCE HYMN

Come Thou Almighty King (ELW 408)

Stanza 1 & 4 Unison, Stanza 2 & 3 Harmony

1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;
 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful, might - y Lord;
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be

help us to praise; Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
 our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
 in this glad hour! Thou who al - might - y art, rule now in
 hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - reign maj - es - ty may we in


to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.
 ev - 'ry heart, nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 glo - ry see, and to c - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *Refrain sung by congregation. Verses sung by Cantor*


Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace




to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right

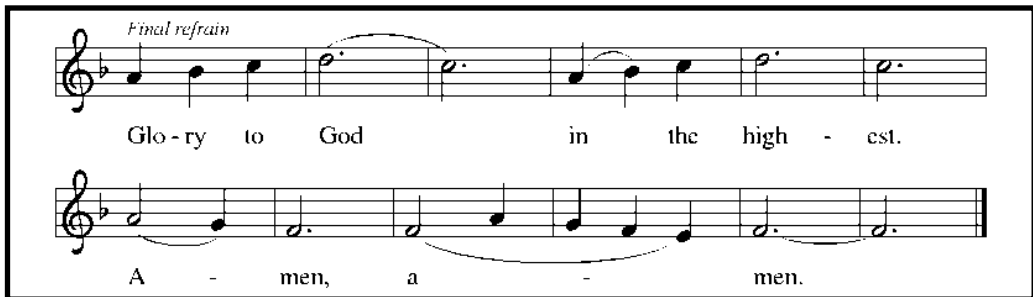


hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.



Final refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high-est.
A-men, a-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Almighty and ever-living God, you have given great and precious promises to those who believe. Grant us the perfect faith which overcomes all doubts, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 23:23-29 *(back cover)*

PSALM

Psalm 82

Spoken responsively by whole verse.

¹ God takes his stand in the coun- | cil of heaven;*

he gives judgment in the midst | of the gods:

² **"How long will you | judge unjustly,***

and show favor | to the wicked?

³ Save the weak | and the orphan;*

defend the hum- | ble and needy;

⁴ **rescue the weak | and the poor;***

deliver them from the power | of the wicked.

⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they go | about in darkness;*

all the foundations of the | earth are shaken.

⁶ **Now I say to you, | 'You are gods,***

and all of you children of | the Most High;

Continued on next page...

⁷ nevertheless, you shall | die like mortals,*
and fall like | any prince."

⁸ **Arise, O God, and | rule the earth,***
for you shall take all nations | for your own.

SECOND READING Hebrews 11:29—12:2 (*back cover*)

Stand

VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 12:49-56 (*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.

O God, we pray for all who dedicate their lives to serving your people. Renew the work of our ecumenical and interfaith partners (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for all places affected by natural disasters (*especially*). Transform the devastation of floods and fires into fertile ground for new life and growth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for all elected officials. Kindle in them a desire to administer your justice. Strengthen their resolve to defend those who are vulnerable and to stand publicly against all forms of oppression. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for an end to all discrimination. Rescue us from all systems that degrade our fellow human beings. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this community, celebrating with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep (*especially Kathryn Rose Wicker, Janet Fitch, Peggy Jacobs, Carl Jacobs, Katie Guyer, Eddie Turner, Gloria Kendrick, Amy Hollis, Heidi Glaudel, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, Courtney Snell*). In our joy and in our tears, be near us. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we remember the saints who have gone before us. May we run with perseverance the race set before us until we find our rest in you. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

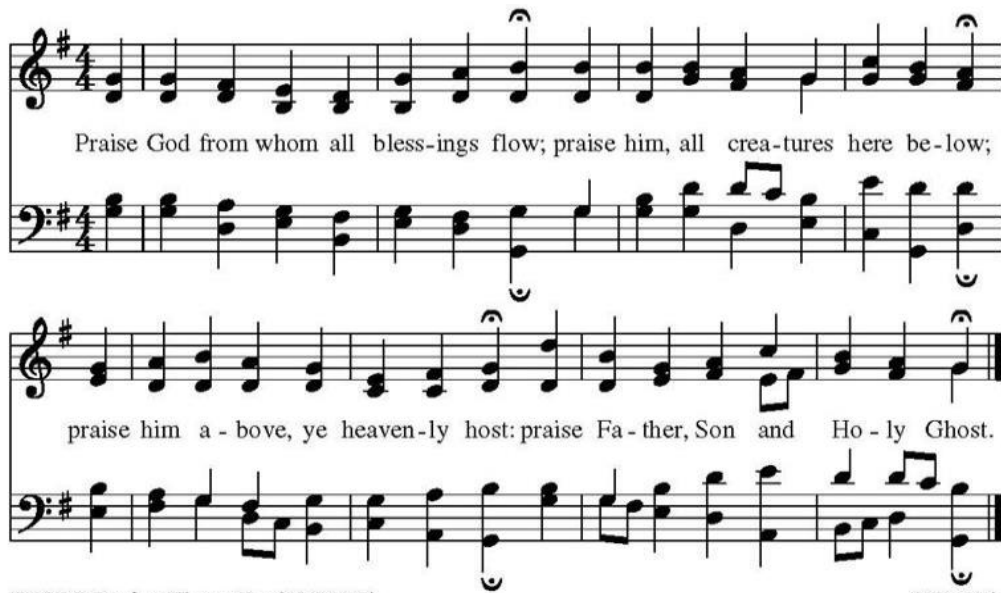
And also with you.

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

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OFFERTORY

As the pastor prepares the altar the people sing.



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

WORDS: *Doxology*, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)
MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois (ca. 1510-1561), *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

OLD 100th
L.M.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God,

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

And also with you.

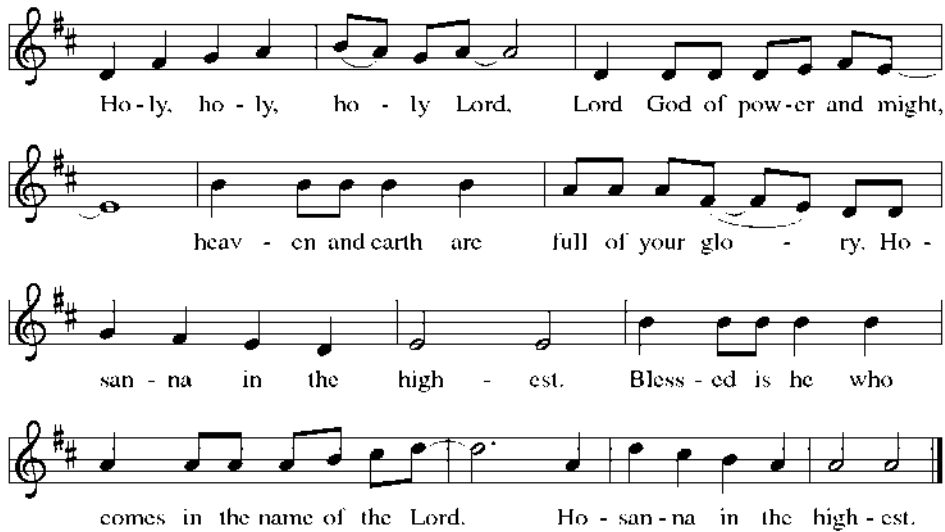
We lift them to the Lord.

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

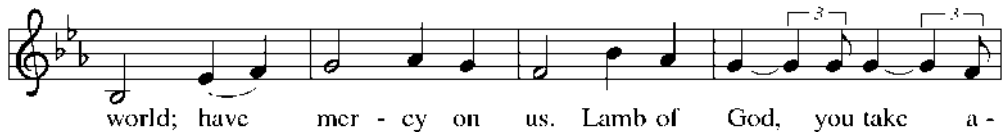
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

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*



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.

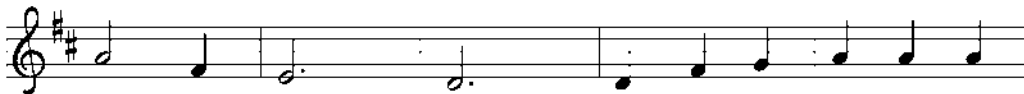
Stand

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (ELW 815)



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

BLESSING

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

HYMN *Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels (ACS 1044)*



1 Not for tongues of heav-en's an-gels, not for wis-dom to dis-
2 Love is hum-ble, love is gen-tle, love is ten-der, true, and
3 Nev-er jeal-ous, nev-er self-ish, love will not re-joice in
4 In the day this world is fad-ing, faith and hope will play their



cern, not for faith that mas-ters moun-tains, for this
kind; love is gra-cious, ev-er pa-tient, gen-er-
wrong; nev-er boast-ful nor re-sent-ful, love be-
part; but when Christ is seen in glo-ry love shall



bet-ter gift we yearn:
ous of heart and mind: may love be ours, O Lord.
lieves and suf-fers long:
reign in ev-'ry heart:

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *All Creatures, Worship God Most High* Thomas Pavlechko

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
in honor of Pastor Judy McKee on her birthday by her family and
in honor of Dj Zart's 14th birthday by Jill Striebig*



Flowers This Week



Sunday Coffee Hour—Please contribute baked goods, fruits or veggies for Fellowship following our Summer 9:15 AM services. Simply notify the church office or sign up in the Good Shepherd room. A member of the Fellowship Committee will provide oversight for each gathering.

Help Needed-Handbell Polishing Party!

In order to keep our bells in great shape for years to come, they are in need of polishing. It is not a difficult task, but with over 60 bells, many hands are needed to lighten the work! If you are willing to donate your time and elbow grease, please join us for a polishing party on Thursday, August 18 at 6:30 PM. All supplies, training, and great conversation will be provided! Please wear older clothes that can get dirty, as the polish can stain fabrics. We appreciate your help in maintaining our beautiful instruments!

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.

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 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Mon—Thurs

Sunday, August 14

- 9:15 AM Holy Eucharist
- 10:15 AM Fellowship—Good Shepherd Rm
- 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm
- 7:00 PM Nominations Committee—ZOOM

Monday, August 15

- 7:00 PM Finance Committee ZOOM

Tuesday, August 16

- 9:30 AM Pantry
- 5:30 PM Picnic in the Park Family Event
Kain Park—Perch Pavilion

Wednesday, August 17

- 7:00 PM Nominations Committee—ZOOM

Thursday, August 18

- 6L39 PM Handbell Polishing Party—Christ Hall

Sunday, August 21

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

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	orreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
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

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). 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.

The Nominating Committee is beginning its work to secure persons willing to serve on Congregation Council, Benevolence Committee, Mutual Ministry Committee, and Voting Members to the Synod Assembly. Elections take place at our Annual Meeting in November and terms begin the following calendar year. We will hold two 30-minute informational ZOOM meetings August 14 and 17 to explain what it’s like to serve in these positions. Each meeting will present the same information, so those interested need only participate in one ZOOM session and this does not commit you any further! Please connect to learn more about St. Paul’s leadership. Contact Council President, Tristan Ericson, or Kathryn Wicker directly to express interest or to sign up for the ZOOM link.

Family Ministry - Picnic in the Park, August 16th, 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Kain Park, Perch Pavilion

God Creates the Creatures in the Sea

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

Grades 7-12 Youth Group –TODAY Sunday, August 14—3:00 pm

Mini Golf and Ice Cream—Jim Mack’s Mini Golf and Ice Cream

5745 Lincoln Highway, York, PA 17406

Parents you are welcome to stay and golf. Following mini golfing Miss Kelly would like to have a short meeting with youth and parents about upcoming events that are planned for the year.

Fall Kickoff Event for all ages: Sunday September 11, 9:15-10:15 AM

St. Paul’s “God’s Work our Hands Project”.

We will be packing 1000 health kits to give to Lutheran ? Come join the fun as we serve others

Sunday morning classes for all ages begins on September 18th, 9:15-10:15 AM. See the September newsletter for details.

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Altar Clean-up
8/14	9:15 AM	Tonya Cave	Denise Rider	Connie Reed	Sandy Dickensheets	Pat Scarborough, Norma Shue	Alex Bastian , Michael Poster, Dave Kopp, Sandy Dickensheets	Sandy Dickensheets, Tonya Cave

Summer allows for travel. Travel can lead to adventure. Adventure can lead to the unfamiliar. Summer journeys may seem monotonous because you have gone that way so many times before. In those situations adventure is not the experience sought after. And at other times a summer journey may seem exciting and fresh because you have never passed that particular way before. Such journeys can lead to adventure because of a split second decision that needed to be made.

This occurred on several occasions for us this summer. Exiting the Milan Airport and deciding which ticket line to pull into to gain access to the autostrada. In a moment of uncertainty I pulled into the lane where, as luck would have it, the ticket machine was not working, the draw gate remained closed, the traffic behind me accumulated and was audibly annoyed, the person responding to the deployed Help Button could not understand my Italian, nor could I understand his. Another situation occurred on the way to the sea for a day of hiking along the Mediterranean. My brother-in-law's navigating system suggested a faster alternate route, however in the split second when he decided to take the off ramp and we didn't, we ended up in two different locations about 30 miles apart. Needless to say we didn't hike the seaside mountain path together. And then there was the moment when we boarded the ferry on Lake Como to return to our small lake side village. We mistakenly boarded the ferry that took us to Bellagio, a popular tourist site that we had no intention of visiting on a summer's Sunday afternoon and we were delayed by hours. These examples of split second decisions all worked out in the end but did not provide the desired outcome; a smooth entrance onto the highway, a family seaside mountain hike, a quick return to our apartment and a swim in the lake on a hot Sunday afternoon. We did make a split decision to pull into a seaside local mom and pop outdoor eating establishment that may have looked a bit sketchy but which proved the saying "you can't judge a book by its cover" as we had a delightful meal featuring an assortment of seaside favorites. This of course was not our original destination but proved to be a good decision.

Jesus is on a journey. He has been traveling for some time. It wasn't long ago when his own disciples wanted to rain down hellfire upon the Samaritans, and now Jesus is the one using fiery speech. Our summer adventures created a certain amount of elevated anxiety, but none of them were really of a crisis mode. In the gospel lesson what is pictured is more akin to a moment of crisis. "Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth?" Jesus asks. "No, I tell you, but division!" Now Jesus' moment of crisis does not mean emergency, but that moment of occasion or truth, that moment of decision about life. His use of fiery language is pointing toward judgement and the understanding that it is forthcoming and is real. Will we opt for his way of peace, forgiveness and wholeness or will we decide to reject him and his love, salvation, and the hope that comes with them?

To be placed in the moment or situation of decision is critical. In such moments we turn toward one person or goal or value and away from another. Jesus' judgement comes in response to rejecting his way of peace. Why did I pick that right-hand ticket booth lane? Why did my brother-in-law switch routes? Why were we in such a hurry to board the ferry? The slightest tilt in thinking will alter our course, the sights, sounds, people and places that we will encounter. We are all faced with such moments. We may not even be aware of them. It may seem that there isn't much difference what decision we make. Or that it won't make much of an impact either way. But Jesus is giving us a warning, watch out!

These moments, situations of decision come at unexpected times. Often the lull of life keeps us from clearly counting the cost, assessing the possibilities, thinking of whose life might be changed, what a huge difference could be made. We are easily lulled into thinking primarily of self and personal comfort. We go about our daily life unaware of the present time and what is at stake. Jesus calls such self-centered people, hypocrites! He points out to those listening that they can figure out the weather patterns, maneuver the stock market, engineer corporate takeovers, and determine what will be popular among their peers, but they don't know or can't recognize the present time. Jesus is present with them, and he is on his way to Jerusalem to give his life for them.

We are rightly accused. We are hypocrites. Wanting our congregation to grow and be a beacon of God's love and grace, but not willing to be part of the work force. Wanting our lives to change but not willing to adjust our patterns and habits, or put forth the energy, rather we choose personal comfort over the difference that can be made in the lives of who knows how many people: Church school classes need teachers and helpers, The Food Pantry needs workers, Youth need role models, Choirs need singers and ringers, Bibles need to be opened and read, studied and discussed, Spouses need encouraging, Parents need support, Children need tutoring, Elderly need visiting, And the unchurched need inviting. And the chain of ministry opportunities continues link after link from local need to global encounter.

Each of us has been given a great gift in Christ Jesus. The crisis of our time is precisely what we will do with such a great gift? What decision will we make? Which lane will we pull into? Which route will we follow? Will our impatience put us on the wrong boat? What journey will we take, who will we encounter along the way, how will our life be changed altered, enriched? And will our decisions lead others to encounter the risen Christ?

We all have to make decisions about things from the trivial to the critical. We all turn into one lane or another that places us next to some person, goal or value. We prematurely take an off ramp leading us toward a different destination, separating us from ones we love. Hurriedly we board a boat that appears to bring us to the desired destination only to experience an undesired delay. The hope of course is that we turn toward Christ Jesus, his mercy, grace and love. His is the narrow gate, the right path, the calm sea. His values and goals will take you on a journey, an adventure that is life giving, opening up possibilities, encountering neighbors who are different from you, but who are part of God's glorious creation. He is present with us, and he has died for us, and he gives himself for us in bread and wine.

God's desire is that we respond faithfully to Christ Jesus. It means of course that we will encounter new and different people, set goals that are different from current culture and value what modern society may very well overlook or deem antiquated. It means that we will be involved and engaged in the mission of Christ. The bad news, the crisis is real; the ticket machine is broken, part of your family is heading in the wrong direction, hurriedly jumping on board doesn't guarantee a better use of time. The good news, there is no emergency, only the moment, the occasion of truth and decision about life in response to Christ Jesus. Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Psalm 82

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29—12:2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. ³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were

killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

[Jesus said:] "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17.

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