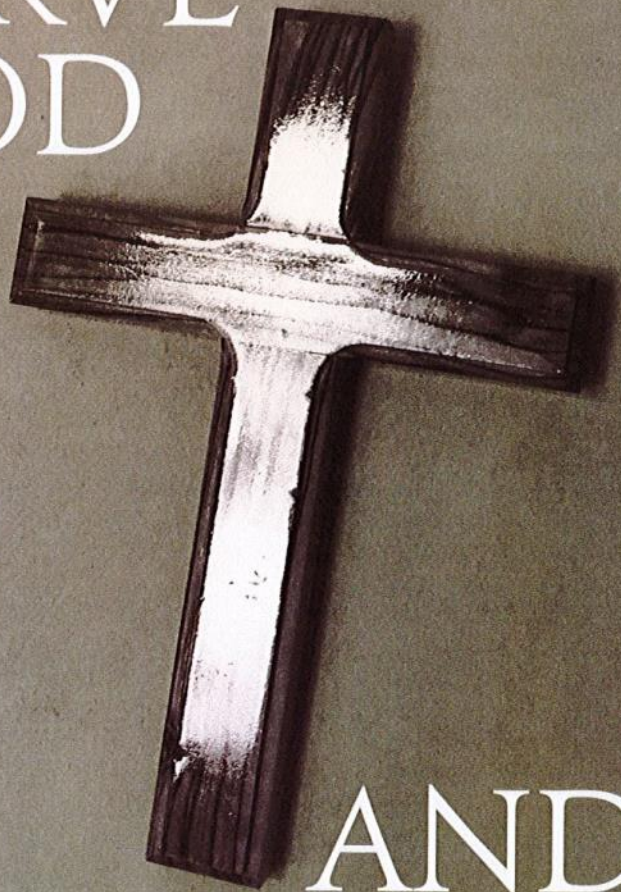


YOU
CANNOT
SERVE
GOD



AND
WEALTH

LUKE 16:13

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

www.stpaulsyork.org

www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 186 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

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

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors. The 10:30AM liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Currently, we are working to secure volunteer staff for the Nursery. Carrie Oberholtzer is coordinating a schedule. Please contact her to volunteer.

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.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 18, 2022
Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Musical setting 9 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE

My Lord, What a Morning

Joe Utterback

Stand turning towards the font.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

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.

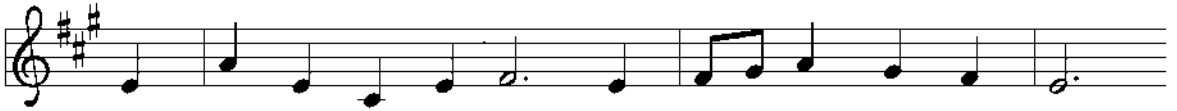
Amen

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

Rise Up, O Saints of God! (ELW 669)



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

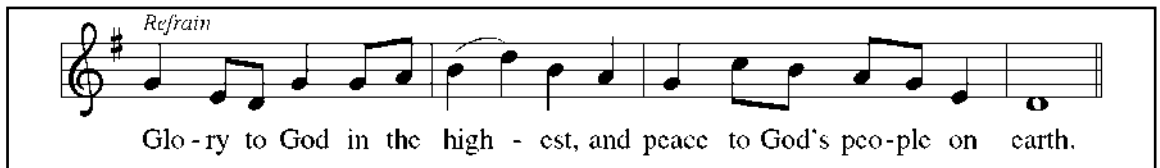


Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

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 *The congregation sings "the Refrain" and the concluding "Amen".
The verses are sung by the cantor.*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n - 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

Continued on next page...



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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lord God, you call us to work in your vineyard and leave no one standing idle. Set us to our tasks in the work of your kingdom, and help us to order our lives by your wisdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sit

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

FIRST READING

Amos 8:4-7 *(back cover)*

PSALM Psalm 113 *spoken responsively by whole verse*

- ¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD;*
praise the name | of the LORD.
- ² **Let the name of the | LORD be blessed,***
from this time forth for- | evermore.
- ³ From the rising of the sun to its | going down*
let the name of the | LORD be praised.
- ⁴ **The LORD is high a- | bove all nations,***
and his glory a- | bove the heavens.
- ⁵ Who is like the LORD our God, who sits en- | throned on high,*
but stoops to behold the heavens | and the earth?
- ⁶ **He takes up the weak out | of the dust***
and lifts up the poor | from the ashes.
- ⁷ He sets them | with the princes,*
with the princes | of his people.
- ⁸ **He makes the woman of a | childless house***
to be a joyful moth- | er of children.

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 2:1-7 *(back cover)*

Stand

VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 16:1-13 *(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

ANTHEM Chancel Choir *Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me* Lee Scott

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

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.

God our Savior, make preachers, teachers, and seminarians, boldly proclaim your good news. We pray especially for our Sunday School teachers as we begin a new Sunday School year. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Instruct your children to be responsible stewards of your creation. Show us how best to care for the earth and its resources. Guide those who work to develop sustainable practices. God of grace,

Give leaders wisdom and compassion so that all may live in peace. Inspire public servants to follow the example of courageous leaders and safeguard the dignity of each person. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Breathe justice into economic and social systems that perpetuate poverty and hunger. Sustain food ministries, clothing banks, and emergency shelters. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Provide for those in any need (*especially Lynn Wicker, Kathryn Rose Wicker, Gary Bilbie, Janice Cromer, Michael Martin, Erin Bastian, Harry Harman, Peggy Jacobs, Katie Guyer, Amy Hollis, Heidi Glaudel, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, Courtney Snell*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Instruct us in the proper and faithful use of wealth and resources so that we share generously. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of glory, you gather your saints around your throne. Keep us thankful for the witness of those who have gone before us (*especially*), and bring us with them to the heavenly feast that has no end. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people share signs of peace. The ministers prepare the altar for Holy Communion.

OFFERTORY

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;
praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

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

OLD 100th
L.M.

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

Stand
DIALOGUE



E The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.



E Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.



E Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



G It is right to give him thanks and praise.

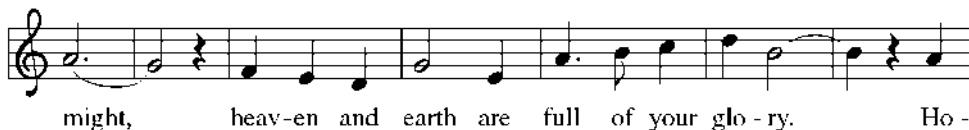
PREFACE

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, God of pow - er and



might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Continued on next page...

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est, 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 *A brief silence is kept.*

AGNUS DEI

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.

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. 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

Be Thou My Vision (ELW 793)

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Joyful Praise

Eugene Butler

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The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God

In loving memory of Richard W. Haugh by loving wife Shirley and Family
 and in celebration of our 28th wedding anniversary by Stan & Emily Reep.



Flowers This Week

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Altar Clean-up
9/18	8:00 AM	Harold Sargeant	Denise Rider	Laura Livingston		Mike & Linda Hanson	Alex Bastian , Michael Poster	Norma & Ron Riese
9/18	10:30 AM	Tom Gibson		Janet Moore	Larry Moore	Janet & Larry More	Dave Kopp , Sandy Dickensheets, *Steve Heistand	Janet & Larry Moore

This Week at St. Paul's

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

Sunday, September 18

Presentation of Bibles
 Recognition of Sunday School Teachers
 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
 2:00 PM York Music Teachers Association Recital
 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Monday, September 19

7:00 PM Finance Committee—ZOOM

Tuesday, September 20

9:30 AM Pantry
 6:00 PM CREATE—Art, Crafts and Music for Children age 3 through grade 6

Wednesday, September 21

9:30—10:30 AM Pastor & Preschool - Nave
 10:30 AM Scripture Study—Christ Hall
 11:30 AM Mpuguso Mtg—Christ Hall

Thursday, September 22

9:30—10:30 AM Pastor & Preschool - Nave
 6:30 PM Handbells—Christ Hall
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir—Music Rm

Sunday, September 25

40th Anniversary of Food Pantry
 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm



Food Pantry—September

Items needed: Beans, corn, juice, jelly, macaroni, Rice (1 or 2 lb bags), dehydrated potatoes, powdered milk, canned tuna, tomato sauce and soup. We also need paper grocery bags with handles and plastic bags.

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

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	prreep.stpaulsnyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsnyork@comcast.net
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsnyork@comcast.net
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	lmccomas.stpaulsnyork@gmail.com
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsnyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	st.paulsnyork@comcast.net
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolnyork.com

News and Updates:

Adult Discussion Session – Christ Hall Begins TODAY—This fall we begin the year with a discussion format to engage those new to Christian faith as well as those who have been involved for a life-time. Through discussion we hope that we will deepen our relationships with one another, develop a vocabulary reflective of our Christian faith, and be drawn more deeply into life in Christ Jesus.

September 18 *Attending to Others*, Peter W. Marty *Faith by Proxy*, Brian Bantum

September 25 *The Gift of Tears*, Peter W. Marty *Communion Tears*, Isaac S. Villegas

Food Pantry Workers – will be recognized in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of St. Paul's Food Pantry ministry on Sunday September 25.

Sunday school classes - for all ages begin on TODAY at 9:15 AM. Primary, Confirmation and High School students meet on the upper level. An adult class will be held in Christ Hall on the main level. Pre-school and Kindergarten through Grade 2 children will be learning about many important Old Testament people including Adam & Eve, Joseph, Moses and others. Grades 3-6 will study one of the lessons being heard in worship. This will help them tie the stories from the Bible with worship and everyday life.

CREATE Tuesday evenings, 6:00 – 7:15 PM

We read in Genesis how God created all of the creatures, birds of the air, fish of the sea, and all of the things that creep and crawl and walk and hop and gallop on land! We will explore Bible stories referencing animals and see how many of them connect to stories we know from salvation history. Miss Kelly has prepared crafts that will lead to the creation of a beautiful Jesse Tree for the children to use for devotion during the season of Advent. **Miss Kelly will meet with students' grade 2 through 6 beginning at 6:00 pm and with children age 3 through grades 1 at 6:30 pm.** Pastor Reep has prepared a few animal songs for the children to sing during the music portion of the Tuesday evening CREATE. In late fall we will begin to work on the Christmas play which is scheduled for inclusion during the 10:30 am liturgy on December 18.

Harvest Dinner and Auction October 8th— Tickets are \$100 and are available for purchase through the Church office. All proceeds benefit the Food Pantry at St. Paul's. We are offering two tracks in hope of widening participation; craft beers paired with the menu as well as select wines. This should make for elevated conversation around the table, who likes what and why! Twelve original paintings by Pastor Reep that are featured in the 2022 calendar showcasing southern York county farms, and scenes from New England and Colonial Williamsburg will be auctioned live providing a huge amount of entertainment for the evening. And there are silent auction items donated to provide an additional source of funding for the food pantry. The American Heritage themed menu prepared by Chef Mummert features something that just about everyone will enjoy.



Serrv International Ministry Meeting

On Sunday, Sept. 25, at 9:45 a.m. a brief informational meeting will be held in Community Room #4, the lower level. Please come if you are interested in participating in this Serrv project which helps support more than 8,000 fair trade artisans and farmers worldwide. You may contact Nancy Bennett with questions or to express interest in case you cannot attend the meeting.

Sunday School Teachers of Children 2022-2023

Infant – Preschool

Jessica Ericson
Carrie Oberholtz
Patty Snyder

Grades 3-6

Dan Garber
Scott Herdson
Sheridan Palmer

Substitutes

Amy Lipp
Leah McComas

Kindergarten-Grade 2

Kathryn Garber
Angela Lauer
Stephanie Harrington

Confirmation

Pastor Reep

Post Confirmation

Kelly Moore-Spencer

Preschool Teachers 2022-2023

Joann Passariello, Lauralee Trump, Deb Becker (Director), Allison Lehr (Assistant Director), Mayra Smoker, Nancy Rost, Lori Stambaugh

My brother Walt jokingly would say “if I had a son I would name him Amos Tucker. That was the kind of name where people would know right up front that you couldn’t, or shouldn’t mess with him. A name that is tough as nails.” (He has three daughters.)

Amos, the prophet, was one of those guys that you didn’t want to mess with! He pruned trees. He was an outsider who brought the word of the Lord to people who were quite content with the way things were. He spoke God’s Word and the people were offended by it. He pointed out their unfaithfulness, their taking advantage of the poor, their desire for the Sabbath to be over so that they could get on with whatever it was they thought was more important. Needless to say Amos most likely didn’t have many friends. The people who were most offended were the rich, the rich who thought because of their wealth, they had the final say on everything. Amos reminded them ***“The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.”***

Like Amos, an outsider who comes along and points out all of your faults, Jesus comes along and points out the faults of all who think that money alone will save them. That wealth itself will secure future. Jesus however focuses on the shrewdness; the prudence. The gospel writer Luke follows the pattern of Amos and Jesus, in that he is consistent in reminding the rich of the pitfalls of wealth. The rich are sent away empty – sings Mary. Woe to you who are rich – preaches Jesus. Then in a series of parables Jesus tells stories about; thorns that choke, and building bigger barns, and selling possessions, and giving alms, and being disciples. I rather doubt that we want to find ourselves; empty, inconsolable, choked, immature, greedy, robbed, or put on the outs with Jesus. These are difficult texts!

It is not the demonic effects of wealth, nor the right use of property, but the keen, sound judgment of the unrighteous manager that is praised this morning! He is smart because he knows what is coming, or could be coming, and adapts to it. The parable understands the present as the possibility of adapting to the future. (If there is one thing that we discovered through the most recent pandemic; those who adapted quickly were more likely to have a future.) This character, this scoundrel, this swindler, this unrighteous manager, is held up as a model for the children of light. He is being raised up as a model for our edification. The dishonest manager becomes a model for Christian disciples, for you and me. Not because of his dishonesty, but because of his prudence.

My brother Walt thought that naming a son Amos Tucker, was prudent so that as he grew up people wouldn’t mess with him, give him a hard time, the name was synonymous with “tough as nails.” Prudence. Lisa and Dave opened a 529 account for their infant daughter; they knew that she would need money for education in the future. Prudence. George and Donna loved their home of 38 years but decided while they were still in good health to down size to a one story ranch home, one that would accommodate them as they aged and their mobility waned. Prudence. Earl realized that his employer was planning to close up shop and move. He decided to pay off some debt and increase his home equity line of credit while he still had employment. Prudence. Rachael’s new full time job was reflected in her first pay check. The difference between part time pay and full time pay was astonishing. She decided to keep her expenses low and try living on three fourths of her new found wealth. Prudence.

These are some modern examples of individuals who have exhibited prudence. In each of their present situations they understood the need to adapt to the future; college or trade school, an accessible home, aware of changing work situation, living within or below one's means. Each of these examples has something to do with future and money. Money is a part of life. The parable today is about money too. It is not highlighting the demonic effects of wealth, or the right use of property, but keen sound judgement. So I say it again, Jesus praises the unrighteous manager or the dishonest manager for his keen sound judgment given the knowledge of what lay ahead, what was in the future. The parable understands the present as the possibility of adapting to the future. The dishonest manager is commended not because of his dishonesty, but because of his prudence.

What of our prudence? What of our present situation and our future need?

Doing nothing and praying that things will remain the same is not an option for us. We are through Holy Baptism, children of light – “Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” “This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.” Christian Disciples are, according to the parable of Jesus, to be on the lookout for how best to live into the future, adaptability, how best to journey from present to future, prudently providing for what is and what shall be.

This week we hosted the York Conference Rostered Leaders; pastors and deacons, on Tuesday morning. It was the first time for many of the group of 15 to enter into our church building post renovation and post pandemic. They were highly complementary of the work carried out in this place; changes, improvements, and modernization of the physical plant; everything from the capacious chancel that accommodated us all for morning prayer to the well-positioned meeting room in Christ Hall with kitchen and restrooms both close by. Their comments made me reflect on the cumulative work of our leadership and process; the appointment of a Focus Team to provide oversight, the work of committees identifying practical needs, Council and finance securing financing, generating pledges and financial commitments, and special ministry groups like the food pantry wrestling with what would make for the most hospitable environments. They labored together for over two years before construction would even begin. They were prudent in their planning on how to retool our aging building and systems so as to live into the future. It was as I look back on it all an exercise in adaptability for ministry and mission.

The question addressing each of us this morning is, that when all is said and done, will we be commended for the way we have lived our lives as baptized sons and daughters as children of light? Or will we find ourselves; sent away empty, choked by riches, worn and moth eaten, clutching treasures that do not give life? That of course is the story that history books will tell about us; collectively as a congregation and individually as members of the body of Christ at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, York, Pennsylvania. But what God promises to remember about us is his Son Christ Jesus, dying and rising, gathering together, sewing seeds, renewing and forgiving so that we have a present and a future secured through his grace and love. Amos prophesied, Mary sang, Jesus preached, the prudent one was commended. Amen.

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
 and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over
 so that we may sell grain;
 and the sabbath,
 so that we may offer wheat for sale?
 We will make the ephah small and the shekel
 great,
 and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶buying the poor for silver
 and the needy for a pair of sandals,
 and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
 Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Psalm 113

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications,
 prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be
 made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are
 in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet
 and peaceable life in all godliness and digni-
 ty. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight
 of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to
 be saved and to come to the knowledge of the
 truth. ⁵For

there is one God;
 there is also one mediator between God
 and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this
 I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am
 telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of
 the Gentiles in faith and truth.

GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a
 rich man who had a manager, and charges were
 brought to him that this man was squandering
 his property. ²So he summoned him and said
 to him, 'What is this that I hear about you?
 Give me an accounting of your management,
 because you cannot be my manager any longer.'
³Then the manager said to himself, 'What will
 I do, now that my master is taking the position
 away from me? I am not strong enough to dig,
 and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what
 to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager,
 people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵So,
 summoning his master's debtors one by one, he
 asked the first, 'How much do you owe my mas-
 ter?' ⁶He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive
 oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down
 quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷Then he asked an-
 other, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied,
 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to
 him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸And
 his master commended the dishonest manager
 because he had acted shrewdly; for the chil-
 dren of this age are more shrewd in dealing
 with their own generation than are the chil-
 dren of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for
 yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that
 when it is gone, they may welcome you into the
 eternal homes.

¹⁰"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faith-
 ful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in
 a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then
 you have not been faithful with the dishonest
 wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?
¹²And if you have not been faithful with what
 belongs to another, who will give you what is
 your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters;
 for a slave will either hate the one and love the
 other, or be devoted to the one and despise the
 other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Next Sunday's Readings: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31.

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