



*At his gate lay
a poor man named Lazarus*

LUKE 16:20

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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Church Office 717-843-8155

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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 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.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 25, 2022
Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Musical setting 9 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE

Oh, Sing to the Lord

Emma Lou Diemer

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

Let Justice Flow Like Streams (ELW 717)

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
an - ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems. The first system contains three lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a different vocal part (1, 2, and 3). The second system contains three lines of lyrics, also corresponding to the same three parts. The music is a simple, flowing melody with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, and rests.

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 *Sung by all*

Refrain

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 - mighty God and Fa - ther, we

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

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems. The first system is the refrain, which is a simple, flowing melody. The second system is the first line of the hymn, which is a simple, flowing melody. The third system is the second line of the hymn, which is a simple, flowing melody. The music is a simple, flowing melody with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, and rests.



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 - mighty God and Fa - ther, we



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



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



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.



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

Continued on next page...

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.
 A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

God of love, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them; keep us from those things that harm us; and guide us in the way of salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sit

FIRST READING

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

(back cover)

PSALM

Psalm 146 *Vs. 1-9*

The handbell choir rings the refrain. Then it is sung by all. The congregation sings the refrain at the appointed time. The verses are sung by the cantor.

Traditional Dutch melody
Arr. Hal H. Hopson

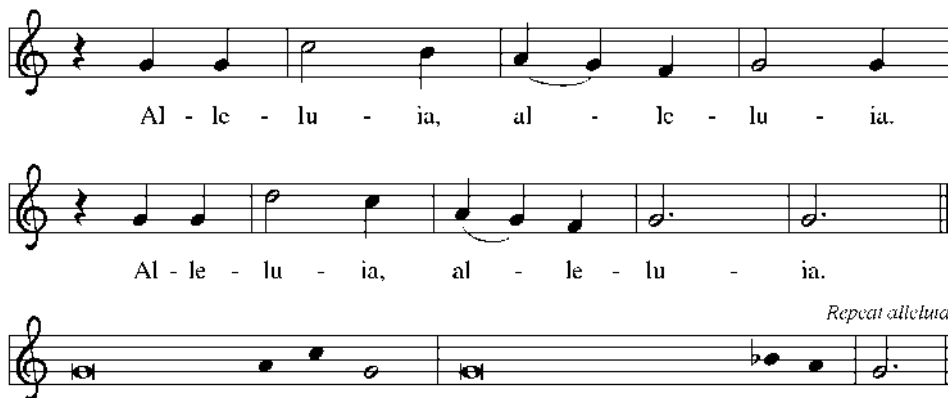
REFRAIN

There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy
 like the wide - ness of the sea.

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, | O my soul!*
- I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.
- ² Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any | child of earth,*
for there is no | help in them.
- ³ When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,*
and in that day | their thoughts perish. **REFRAIN**
- ⁴ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,*
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;
- ⁵ who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;*
- who keeps his prom- | ise forever;
- ⁶ who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,*
and food to | those who hunger. **REFRAIN**
- ⁷ The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind;*
- the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;
- ⁸ the LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares | for the stranger;*
- he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.
- ⁹ The LORD shall | reign forever,*
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah! **REFRAIN**

SECOND READING 1 Timothy 6:6-19 (*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 16:19-31 (*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

RECOGNITION OF FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

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, rich in mercy, fill the church with righteousness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Empower us by your Spirit to be rich in good works, sharing with those in need from our abundance. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Protect the earth and its creatures. Provide water, food, shelter, and favorable habitats, especially for endangered species. Preserve threatened ice caps, glaciers, parks, and beaches. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Increase justice in nations, local governments, and courtrooms. Guide lawyers and those who hold public office to act with compassion and discernment. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Give food to the hungry. Today we rejoice that you continue to work through our Food Pantry providing food for those in our neighborhood. We thank you for those who have given their selves in service during the past 40 years. God of Grace,

hear our prayer.

Set the captives free. Lift up those who are bowed down. Watch over the stranger. Tend to those who are ill (*especially Lynn Wicker, Kathryn Rose Wicker, Gary Bilbie, Janice Cromer, Erin Bastian, Harry Harman, Peggy Jacobs, Katie Guyer, Amy Hollis, Heidi Glaudel, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, Courtney Snell*). Stir us to act in the best interest of our neighbors. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Enliven our praise. Inspire musicians, artists, poets, and all who create beauty in this place. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Enfold the saints who have died in the arms of your loving care. Grant that the holy angels accompany us and bring us to eternal life with them in the light of your presence. 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

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first system of music has the lyrics: "Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;". The second system of music has the lyrics: "praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost." The music consists of simple chords and single notes, with some measures containing rests.

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

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C 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:

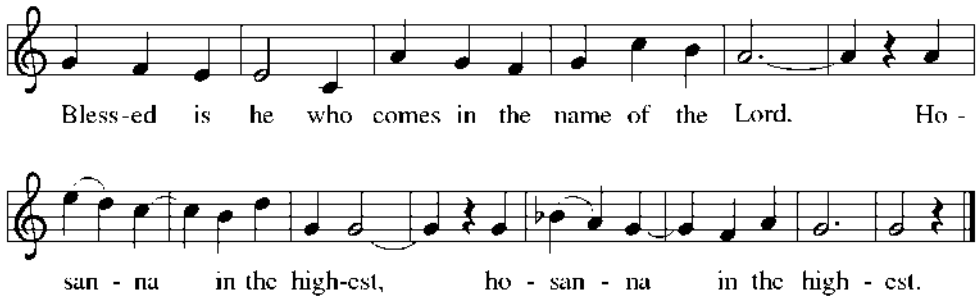
SANCTUS

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...



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

Christ Be Our Light (ELW 715)

1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see,
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Sortie Breve

Gerald Bales

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
in celebration of 40 years of supporting our community, the many
volunteers, and Sylvia's commitment and service to the food pantry
by the Little Family.*



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”.

This Week at St. Paul's

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

Sunday, September 25

40th Anniversary of Food Pantry

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages

10:00 AM SERRV Mtg—Community Service Rm 4
Lower level

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Monday, September 26

7:00 PM Mutual Ministry

Tuesday, September 27

9:30 AM Pantry

12:30 AM Christian Ed Mtg—ZOOM

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

Wednesday, September 28

10—10:30 AM Pastor & Preschool - Nave

10:30 AM Scripture Study—Christ Hall

Thursday, September 29

10—10:30 AM Pastor & Preschool - Nave

6:30 PM Handbells—Christ Hall

7:30 PM Chancel Choir—Music Rm

Sunday, October 2

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—
Sacrament of Holy Baptism

6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

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	Jennifer Ports	Ken Hinkle	Kathy Monk		Jeff & Rose Riese	Bob Reed , Ron Riese	Norma & Ron Riese
9/18	10:30 AM	George Fitch	Allen Reep	Janet Fitch	Larry Becker	Deb & Larry Becker	Kem Vaught , Larry Becker, *Steve Heistand, Dan Garber	Janet & Larry Moore

News and Updates:

Adult Discussion Session – Christ Hall—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 25 *The Gift of Tears*, Peter W. Marty *Communion Tears*, Isaac S. Villegas

Sunday school classes - for all ages 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.



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
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

This week I was graced with an invitation to return to the congregation where I served as organist and children's choir director for 7 years. Those were the years of my life where I celebrated birthdays 15 through 22. It was the congregation in which I discovered the consistency of a Lutheran Sunday liturgy, vibrant Christian witness, deep friendships, and which would ultimately be the driving force for me to enter seminary and prepare for a life in parish ministry as pastor.

The invitation, as kind and thoughtful as it was, drew my focus away from ministry tasks at hand and caused me to think about decisions that I have made. What if I would have responded differently when confronted with forks in the road of life? What if I would have remained at that post? What if I would have accepted the offer to be a candidate as pastor of that congregation years ago when they extended that invitation? Where were the missed opportunities? It only takes a couple of such questions to redirect your thought process and take you on a journey that doesn't necessarily change anything or bring any resolve, it only permits you to reassess past relationships, friendships, actions, possibilities. Most of us who have reached a particular chronological age can relate to similar situations in life. For those among us who have not yet celebrated birthdays 15 through 22, such decisions are most likely yet to confront you.

Decisions made in life are confronting a wealthy man. At this juncture in his life it is not necessarily decisions made about career choice, or professional opportunities presenting themselves. The wealthy man is confronted with the decision made in life to take no notice of Lazarus who lay at the gate at entrance of his estate. Daily the wealthy man lived and moved and had his being without ever paying any attention to the poor man Lazarus who simply wanted crumbs, a small bit of food, enough only to sustain him for the day.

This morning the story that confronts us is one of missed opportunity. Only a gate stood in the way of an act of mercy. Only a gate kept a division between the abundance of the wealthy man and the poverty of Lazarus. Only a gate kept the two men apart for the duration of their lives. The gate of course was fixed, it was immovable only because of the wealthy man's decision. Gates by their very design are to keep out or to open; they exist to allow for passage. In the story Jesus tells, this particular gate was fixed, to keep out. The wealthy man either liked it that way, or gave no thought to it at all.

It is only when the wealthy man dies and enters into his eternal habitation, hades, that he recognizes Lazarus, the poor man who daily was at his gate. Somehow they received different invitations his to hades and Lazarus' to the bosom of Abraham. Now the wealthy man contemplates his life's decisions. Now the wealthy man contemplates the relationship with his brothers and the consequences of their decisions. What if someone would alert them to; help, lend aid, provide a few crumbs to the people in need who are near them?

It is only after it is too late, the great chasm is now fixed like the gate at the wealthy man's estate, it is only now that the wealthy man wishes that things were different, that the gate would not have separated, that the gate would not have blinded, that the gate would not have stood in the way of living life differently. It is only after it is too late that the wealthy man wishes that the gate would have been open, that it would have allowed him to see beyond, that it would have facilitated an act of: kindness, mercy, compassion, love. "I wish I would have...." laments the wealthy man.

Missed opportunities, I think that everyone has had at least one missed opportunity, one what if, one situation that you can think about and reflect upon “what if.”

Missed opportunity to;

- Make a friend
- Offer comfort
- Release some wealth
- Share talent
- Nourish the destitute
- Say a kind word
- Offer prayer
- Spring for coffee
- Stand up for someone being put down
- Invite into the faith community
- Be an advocate
- Forgive

There are so many opportunities that confront us daily and there are so many that we miss. There are so many decisions about what and who we see, acknowledge, how we use our resources; time, ability, and money that it makes your head spin. The parable calls us to reposition the gate. To move the gate from a position of closed to one where we are able to see, moving us to enter in to situations, relate to those in need, those like Lazarus who simply want crumbs enough to sustain them for the day. That is the work of St. Paul’s food pantry. It has been a focus of the congregation’s ministry for 40 years. It is important work. It is the Lord’s work. It is the Lord working in and through and among us to act and respond and open gates which sustain life.

It is the Lord’s work to take notice. The Lord Jesus does indeed take notice of us. Jesus comes among us;

- inviting us to be friend,
- comforting us in our sorrow,
- giving himself for us, not with silver and gold but with his precious blood,
- feeding us with his body and blood,
- teaching us through the word,
- praying for us,
- standing with us,
- inviting us to follow,
- advocating for us,
- forgiving us daily

His gate, like his hands are open wide. His gate, like his eyes are positioned to see us. His gate, doesn’t keep out, but offers a gracious invitation in. And we are the ones whom he sees, welcomes, forgives, feeds, and sends. With Christ opportunities abound. Amen.

FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,
and for those who feel secure on Mount
Samaria.

⁴Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,
and lounge on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock,
and calves from the stall;
⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,
and like David improvise on instruments
of music;

⁶who drink wine from bowls,
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

⁷Therefore they shall now be the first to go
into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Psalm 146

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

¹⁶It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

[Jesus said:] “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Next Sunday's Readings: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10.

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