

PRAY ALWAYS

LUKE 18:1



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.

Postlude It is our tradition to remain seated for the postlude. If you need to leave we ask that you do so reverently. This tradition developed as a result of our livestream. We want anyone viewing to be able to listen to the postlude without unnecessary distraction. Thank you.

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.

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.*

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

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

*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.***

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.

Sunday, October 16, 2022
Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Musical setting 9 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship

TEMPLE TALK *“A Month of Reformation”* *Christopher Waddail*

PRELUDE *Jesus Christ Our Blessed Savior* J. S. Bach

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.

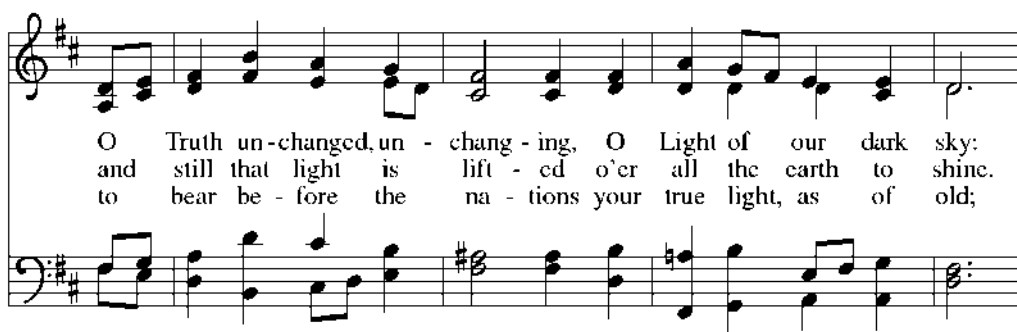
Amen

ENTRANCE HYMN

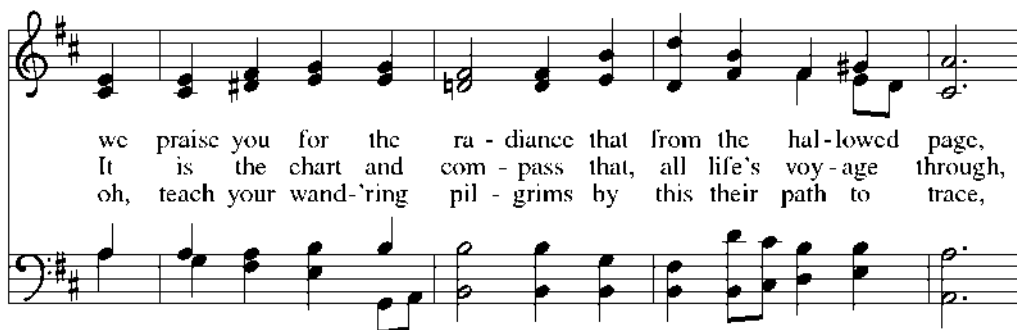
O Word of God Incarnate (ELW 514)



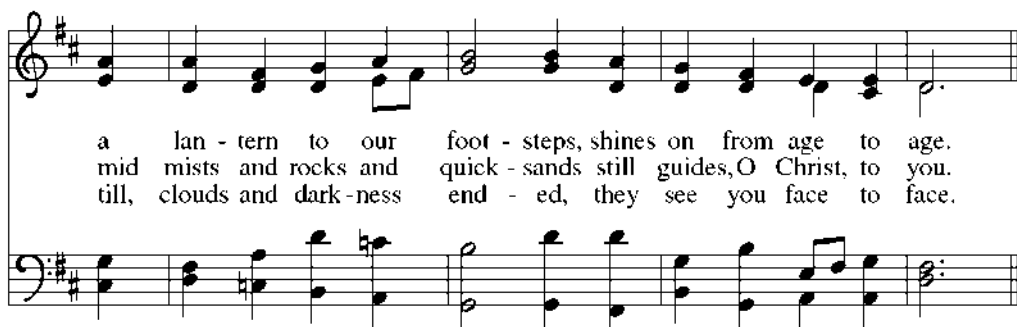
1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
 3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky;
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diancy that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
 oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations. Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sit

CHERUB CHOIR

*My Hope Comes from the Lord
There's New Life in Jesus*

Psalm 121
Anonymous

FIRST READING

Genesis 32:22-31 *(back cover)*

PSALM

Psalm 121 *Is spoken responsively by whole verse at 8:00 AM
and is sung by the Choir to a setting by Thomas Keesecker at 10:30 AM*

- ¹ I lift up my eyes | to the hills;*
from where is my | help to come?
- ² **My help comes | from the LORD,*
the maker of heav- | en and earth.**
- ³ He will not let your | foot be moved*
and he who watches over you will not | fall asleep.
- ⁴ **Behold, he who keeps watch | over Israel*
shall neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**
- ⁵ the LORD himself watches | over you;*
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand,
- ⁶ **so that the sun shall not strike | you by day,*
nor the | moon by night.**
- ⁷ The LORD shall preserve you | from all evil;*
it is he who shall | keep you safe.
- ⁸ **The LORD shall watch over your going out and your | coming in,*
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 3:14– 4:5 *(back cover)*

Stand
VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL Luke 18:1-8 (*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.

For all the baptized, that they become skilled in compassion and grace and equipped to share the good news with all. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For air and sky, clouds and sun, that they provide rain to parched land and relief to flooded ground. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For judges, juries, and all who work in the judicial system, that they desire wisdom, seek truth, rule with fairness, and have the courage to do what is right. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For all who are lonely, especially those who have newly arrived in an unfamiliar city or country, political prisoners without recourse to justice, hospital patients without visitors, and any who are ill or grief-stricken (*especially Kim Krebs, Bob Gerhart, Marcie Walker, Bonnie Schmidt, Jim Young, Alan & Valerie McIntosh, Anna Mae & Orven Cook, Gary Bilbie, Erin Bastian, Harry Harman, Katie Guyer, Amy Hollis, Heidi Glaudel, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, Courtney Snell*). Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For those in our congregation and community engaged in advocacy), that with the persistence of the widow, they lift their voices in seeking justice on behalf of others. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For those who have taught us faith and now rest in your heavenly peace (*especially*), that we remember and give thanks for these saints who shared the gospel through word and deed. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; 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 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

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

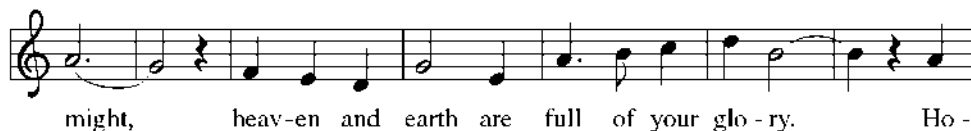
DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

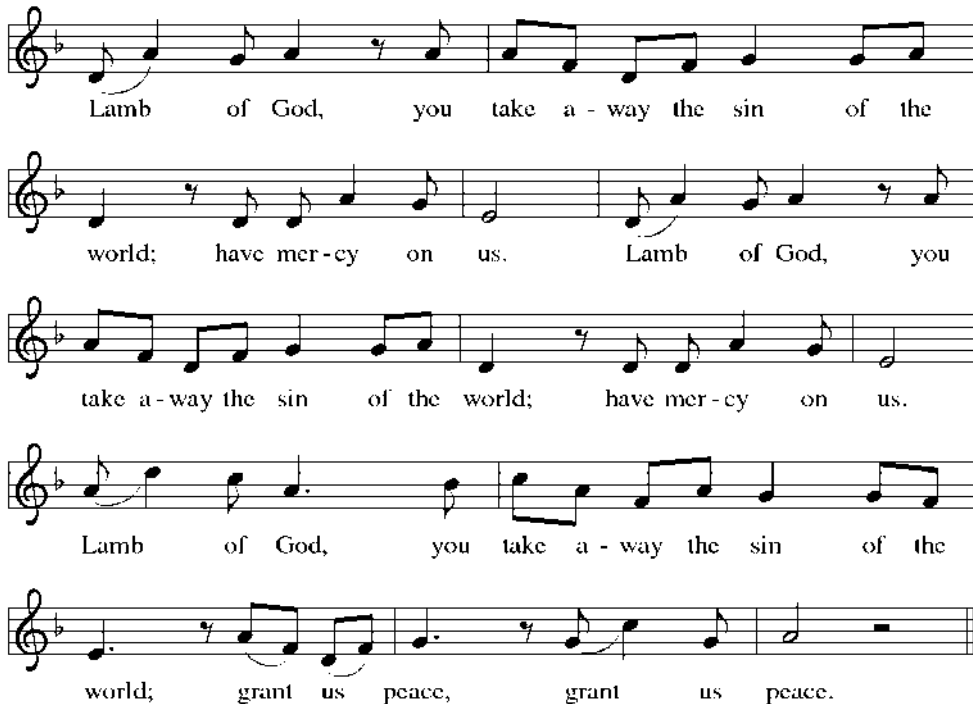
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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 *The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe (ACS 1068) Next Page*

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

Robert Hebble

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*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
In Memory of my son on his birthday, Alan Ely Spencer and my husband,
Don G. Spencer, my sisters Evelyn Loyd and Lois McDowell by Norma Ely
Spencer & family
And In memory of Elaine Mummert in remembrance of her birthday on
October 25th by her husband, Jim.*



Flowers This Week

The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe



1 The earth a - dorned in ver - dant robe sends prais - es
2 From out the wood, the birds now sing and each its
3 O God, a - mid these joys of life, cre - a - tion's



up - ward surg - ing, while soft winds breathe on fra - grant
song now rais - es, to join with all the u - ni -
glo - ry beam - ing, grant us the grace to keep your



flow'rs from win - ter now e - merg - ing. The sun - shine
verse in voic - ing thank - ful prais - es. With hope and
word and live in love re - deem - ing. All flesh is



bright gives warmth and light to bud - ding blos - soms ten -
joy their songs em - ploy a rap - turous ex - ul - ta -
grass, the flow - ers fade, and time is fleet - ing ev -



der, pro - claim - ing sum - mer splen - dor.
tion in praise of God's cre - a - tion.
er; God's word re - mains for - ev - er.

Text: Carl David af Wirsén, 1842–1912; tr. Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936, and Kenneth Jennings, 1925–2015

Music: SOMMARPSALM, Waldemar Åhlén, 1894–1982

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Food Pantry—Fall

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, October 16

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:00 AM Fellowship Coffee Hour –Good Shepherd Rm
 9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Cherub Choir
 11:30 AM Fellowship—Good Shepherd Rm.
 2:00 PM Musical Matinee Club Recital
 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Monday, October 17

7:00 PM Finance Committee - ZOOM

Tuesday, October 18

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

Wednesday, October 19

10—10:30 AM Pastor & Preschool - Nave

10:30 AM Scripture Study—Christ Hall

11:30 AM Mpuguso Mtg—Christ Hall

Thursday, October 20

10—10:30 AM Pastor & Preschool - Nave

6:30 PM Handbells—Christ Hall

7:30 PM Chancel Choir—Music Rm

Sunday, October 23

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Handbell Choir

11:45 AM Pumpkin Carving Jr. & Sr. High Youth

11:45 AM Holy Communion Class—Christ Hall

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
10/16	8:00 AM	Harold Sargeant	Denise Rider	Connie Reed		Jeff & Rose Riese	Bob Reed, Norma Shue	Kathleen Lemke, Pat Scarborough
10/16	10:30 AM	Daniel May	Larry Becker	Deb Becker	Deb Becker	Tristan & Jessica Ericson, Kem & Cindy Vaught	Dave Kopp, Dan Mays, Sandy Dickensheets, *Steve Heistand	Sandy Dickensheets, Tonya Cave

News and Updates October 16, 2022

Join us today following the 8:00 AM liturgy for fellowship in the Good Shepherd Room. Coffee, tea, and a variety of baked goods are available.

Join us today following the 10:30 AM liturgy for fellowship in the Good Shepherd Room. Coffee, tea and light refreshments are available.

Our stewardship emphasis, *A Month of Reformation*, continues with a temple talk by Christopher Waddail. Please be sure to take a step up chart with you. Prayerfully consider taking a step up in your financial giving in support of ministry and mission.

Pastor William Snyder leads today's session "On Being a Christian" at 9:15 AM in Christ Hall.

Hospitality greeters are needed. Please contact the church office if you are willing to serve at up-coming events.

Pumpkin Carving is scheduled for Junior and Senior High next Sunday October 23 following the 10:30 AM liturgy. Please reserve your pumpkin and lunch reservation by contacting Miss Kelly.

First Communion Instruction for parents and children will be held next Sunday October 23 following the 10:30 AM liturgy. Lunch will be provided for participants. Please notify Pastor Reep or Miss Kelly if you plan to attend.

Our new webpage is mobile and live. Please sign on to: www.stpaulsyork.org and check it out

Reformation Sunday, October 30, will bring to a close our stewardship emphasis. On that day we will receive our Time & Ability forms and our commitment cards..

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
Children's Choir Director	Julianna Jones	Jjones.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com



Sunday, November 6, 2022 Noon

Join us for lunch with an African themed menu.

We will be receiving donations to support Phase #4 (the roof) for our sister congregation, Mpuguso Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

Please sign up so that we can plan accordingly.

Donations will be received during the month of November.



Proper 24 C, 2022 Genesis 32:22-31, 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5, St. Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a story about prayer. He tells the story to his disciples stressing the need to pray and the importance of not losing heart. The parable this morning is about a woman who persists attempting to get the judge's attention so that her case may be heard and so that justice can be carried out and life can continue on. The judge doesn't fear God or humankind, so he goes about his day thinking only of himself. The woman, a widow, is persistent. She keeps beating a path to the judge's door. She keeps knocking and doesn't give up hope. Eventually the widow gets the judge's attention and he not wanting to be worn down grants her justice.

Whether the need is personal, like that of the widow in the parable, or a national or international situation or disaster involving hundreds of thousands of people, all too often attempts to bring justice are frustrated by the gigantic institutions of power in our society. Politics, justice systems, offices of public welfare, and the church, can and do become immobilized by corruption and bureaucracy. My observation is that people get worn down fighting the system. They don't want to fight. They only want what is; honest, just, true.

Early in ministry a new volume of daily prayer books was published. A group of my closest seminary friends and I purchased the four volume set. We pledged that we would use them as a way to stay connected. The books contain a series of readings for each day, prayers, and writings by theologians ancient and modern. The set came neatly bundled and provided enough material to carry a reader through two calendar years. The great thing was that they provided points for conversation, theological insights from scholars, and prayers in a variety of styles covering a wide swath of concern.

Occasionally one particular classmate would come for a visit; he would pick up my copy of the prayer book and check to see if the ribbon markers were on the correct day's readings, or if I had fallen behind. I jokingly called him the "prayer police!" Sometimes I would fall behind. But mostly I tried to keep up because I knew that my friends were reading the same lessons, hearing the words of renowned scholars, and offering prayers. Even though I was alone and hundreds of geographical miles away, daily prayer provided a sense of community knowing that we were all praying together, being challenged and encouraged by the same words of scripture and theological reflection.

Prayer, constant prayer, the kind of persistent prayer that Jesus talks to his disciples about shapes the person who prays. Repeated, habitual prayer gradually tests and sifts what you believe is really important and what is of real lasting value. If something doesn't matter all that much, the momentum for prayer diminishes, but if something really does matter, really is important, worries you and moves you, then you will be like the widow beating the path to the judge's door. You will find yourself hounding God to listen and respond.

What is interesting to me is that even after making the cycle through the four volumes multiple times, I always seem to discover something new. Or something that I thought that I knew so well comes to me in a way that is fresh or creates a new challenge. Daily prayer offers us the opportunity to imagine things differently. We can hold before God the injustice and wrong that we witness on a daily basis, refusing to accept the world's response "that's just the way things are." Prayer matters.

Prayer as Jesus taught it isn't a private matter. It's not personal therapy or a crutch for the weak. Prayer is about refusing to believe that the way things are has to be the way they will always be. Prayer is about imagining how the world could be, and gaining the wisdom and energy to bring it about. For the widow it means chipping away at the dozens of petty issues that diminish the lives of ordinary people. Prayer makes us refuse to accept a system that deals out injustice and gives us the determination to see it change. Prayer makes us aware of the needs of others and gives shape to the reality that God intends for his people. In Christ Jesus we are made new. We are forgiven, accepted, loved and embraced by a judge who isn't self-absorbed, like the one in the parable, but who is self-giving. That is what is revealed to us through Calvary's Cross; Jesus gives himself for you and me, and for a world absorbed with concern for self. Jesus wants his followers to be persistent in prayer. Carry on. Keep knocking. Keep on praying. Stick with it. Don't give in or give up. Don't lose sight of God's reign and God's way where things are different. Don't lose heart.

At St. Paul's there are lots of things that need our attention in prayer. We have our personal concerns, hopes and dreams, but we have our corporate ones too. What are the things that truly concern us? Not the petty issues that drain our energy and zap our creativity, but the significant things, things that are really important, things that worry us and move us. I won't attempt to list them all but a great many of them should come to mind:

Our missionaries in Tanzania,
soldiers in conflict,
the food pantry clients,
families who don't recognize the importance of Christ Jesus in their lives,
young and old who are busying themselves like the judge in the parable,
world hunger,
decent affordable housing,
education,
and particularly our preschool.

There are lots of things that matter and that need our attention in prayer.

Our ministry is shaped by our individual and corporate prayer. This morning we are encouraged to persevere. If we have fallen behind in prayer the good news is that there isn't any prayer police coming after us blowing a whistle, only the voice of our loving savior who admonishes us to pray always and to not loose heart. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 32:22-31

The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Psalm 121

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God

may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1}In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" ⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 or Sirach 35:12-17; Psalm 84:1-7; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14.

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