



NATION  
WILL RISE  
AGAINST  
NATION

LUKE 21:10

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)

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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.

**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.

**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](http://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 the office to volunteer.

**The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost      November 13, 2022**

**Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM**

*Musical setting 9 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

**PRELUDE**

*Prelude and Trumpetings*

Myron J. Roberts

*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

*Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies (ELW 553)*

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,  
2 Dark and cheer - less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of righ - teous - ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;  
joy - less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,  
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day - spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



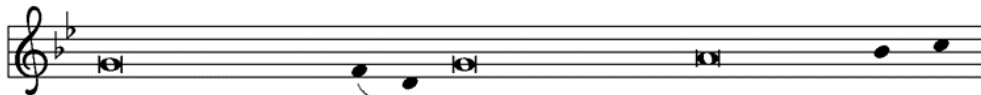
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



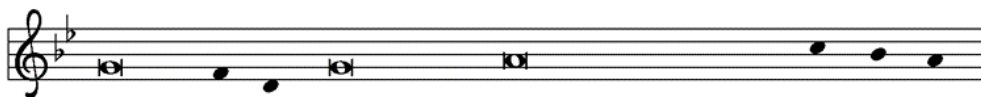
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and

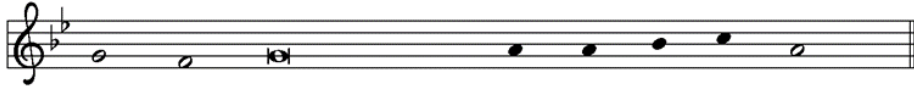




praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE *Sung by all*



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.



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

*Continued on next page...*



**PSALMODY Psalm 98** *Spoken Responsively at 8:00 AM.*  
*Sung by the Cantabile Choir at 10:30 AM.*

- <sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD | a new song,\*  
for he has done | marvelous things.
- <sup>2</sup> **With his right hand and his | holy arm\***  
**has he won for him- | self the victory.**
- <sup>3</sup> The LORD has made | known his victory,\*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight | of the nations.
- <sup>4</sup> **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the | house of Israel,\***  
**and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.**
- <sup>5</sup> Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;\*  
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.
- <sup>6</sup> **Sing to the LORD | with the harp,\***  
**with the harp and the | voice of song.**
- <sup>7</sup> With trumpets and the sound | of the horn\*  
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.
- <sup>8</sup> **Let the sea make a noise and all | that is in it,\***  
**the lands and those who | dwell therein.**
- <sup>9</sup> Let the rivers | clap their hands,\*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
when he comes to | judge the earth.
- <sup>10</sup> **In righteousness shall he | judge the world\***  
**and the peo- | ples with equity.**

**SECOND READING** Ephesians 1:11-23 *(back cover)*

*Stand*  
**VERSE**



*Repeat alleluia*

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 6:20-31 *(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

CHANCEL CHOIR

*Let Us with a Gladsome Mind*

Robert J. Powell

*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.*

Lord God, keep your church active in its mission and ministry. Make bishops, deacons, pastors, and lay leaders boldly proclaim your Word of Hope. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

As we prepare for winter, make us mindful of the ordered beauty of your creation. Teach us to treasure cycles of rest and new life. Help us care for what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Accompany all who make sacrifices for the sake of others. Safeguard first responders and active duty military personnel. Grant peace to veterans and heal their wounds of body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Sustain doctors, nurses, and hospital personnel in their tireless work. Uphold mental health professionals and those in their care. May the sun of righteousness rise on all who are sick (*especially Bill Diaczun, Kathy Ruth, Wayne Umland, Jim Yanick, Maria Laczkoskie, Mary Buler, Marcie Walker, Bonnie Schmidt, Jim Young, Anna Mae & Orven Cook, Gary Bilbie, Erin Bastian, Harry Harman, Katie Guyer, Amy Hollis, Heidi Glau-del, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, Courtney Snell*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Abide with all who grieve for loved ones who have died (*especially Irmgard Nicloaysen at the death of her daughter, Elise*). Comfort us with the promise of resurrection and new life with you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only 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.*

## OFFERTORY

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;  
praise him a - bove, ye heav-en-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**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and



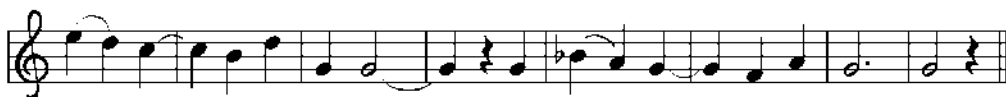
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



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



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

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**

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

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.
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.

*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** *O Day of Peace (ELW 711) next page*

## **DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE** *Fantasy on “Lobe den Herren” Praise to the Lord* Aaron David Miller

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Flowers This Week

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God  
in memory of Andrew Glessner  
and in honor of Fred Rosenmiller's 90th birthday on November 6th  
by his wife Elinor, children Wendy, Betsy, Diane and Susan  
and nephew John.*

# O Day of Peace



1 O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce de - vour the small;



guide us to jus - tice, truth, and love, de-liv-ered from our self - ish schemes.  
 as beasts and cat - tle calm-ly graze, a lit-tle child shall lead them all.



May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re - lease,  
 Then en - e - mies shall learn to love, all crea-tures find their true ac - cord;



till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.  
 the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

## *Serving the Lord with Gladness*

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Altar Clean-up	Acolyte
11/13	8:00 AM	Bob Reed	Denise Rider	Laura Livingston		Norma Shue, Tom Martin	Bob Reed, Norma Shue, Ken Hinkle	Kathleen Lemke, Pat Scarborough	
11/13	10:30 AM	Tonya Cave	Janet Fitch	Earline Jones	George Fitch	Joe & Jaclyn Kinkella	Dave Kopp, Dan Mays,* Steve Heistand, Sandy Dickensheets,	Larry & Janet Moore, Dan Mays	

## 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.

### This Week at St. Paul's

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

#### Sunday, November 13

##### Serv Fair Trade Bazaar

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
Cherub and Cantabile Choirs

6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

#### Monday, November 14

##### Serv Fair Trade Bazaar

9:05 AM Fellowship Mtg.—Christ Hall

11:00 AM Funeral—Elise Harris

7:00 PM Council Mtg.—Christ Hall

#### Tuesday, November 15

##### Newsletter Deadline

9:30 AM Pantry

10—10:30 AM Pastor & Preschool - Nave

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

7:30 PM Preschool Comm.—ZOOM

#### Wednesday, November 16

10—10:30 AM Pastor & Preschool - Nave

10:30 AM Scripture Study—Christ Hall

11:30 AM Mpuguso Mtg.

#### Thursday, November 17

6:30 PM Handbells—Christ Hall

7:30 PM Chancel Choir—Music Rm

#### Sunday, November 20

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist-Combined Service

10:30 AM Annual Meeting followed by Lunch in  
Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

### News and Updates November 13, 2022

**God's Global Barnyard** will return after a three year pause under the leadership of our 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades Sunday school class. We can all look forward to the class's Temple Talk next Sunday and the kick-off on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> at the 9:15 am Liturgy

**Church Offering Envelopes** are ready for you to pick up in the Good Shepherd Room.

**2023 Calendars** are available for a requested donation of \$20.00. They make wonderful Christmas gifts! All proceeds go towards the purchase of a canopy for the Food Pantry.

**SERRV International Sale**—The Social Ministry's annual SERRV gift sale of many global hand-made items is going on TODAY and tomorrow. SERRV is a non-profit organization that fights global poverty by supporting 8,000+ low-income artisans. All profits made by St. Paul's will be donated to Lutheran World Relief. Please note that cash and checks will be accepted, but no credit cards.

**Annual Meeting – Christ the King Sunday November 20**, Combined Liturgy **9:15 AM** Meeting and Dinner to follow





ORDER  
YOUR  
**Poinsettias**

Cost is \$12.00 per plant.  
They will be RED in  
color.

List plant(s) as shown below  
(please print clearly)

Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ in Honor of:

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Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ in Loving Memory of:

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Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ Dedicated to the Glory of God

Your Name:

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Plants may be picked up anytime *after* the  
10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 25th.

Total # of Plants \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Checks made payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

The completed order form with payment attached may be placed  
in the offering plate or returned to the church office.

**Orders due by Sunday, November 27th**

<b>STAFF</b>		
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

The Baptistry at the Cathedral in Pisa is a spectacular piece of architecture. The leaning tower seems to get all of the attention. But the Baptistry is by far my favorite part of the complex and grounds; the white Carrara marble, carvings, acoustical excellence, the enormity of space, a complete building, being set aside for the sacrament of Holy Baptism. It is almost too much for me to take in given the fact for most of my Christian life baptism occurs around something more a kin to a salad bowl than a space that totally engulfs the baptismal candidate and the faith community. Conversations about the beauty, elegance, proportion, and function of the space set aside for baptism and the glory of God have ensued each time I visit. It seems easier or more accessible to converse about the building than about the theology surrounding the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Experiences in Pisa provide me a reference for those gathered at the Jerusalem Temple.

We have plenty in common with those who were speaking that day in Jerusalem. They were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones, and how gifts dedicated to God provided elegant furnishings. It is a part of who we are. We are people who like nice things, appreciate architecture, proportion, scale, and furnishings blessed and dedicated to the glory of God. Such honesty is important to identify. It helps us know who we are, what our strengths and weaknesses are, and where we are prone for temptation.

The artistic, creative side of me can't help but take note of such things being discussed that day; beautiful marble, well-proportioned structures, stylish furnishings, gifts presented to God. But into such a conversation Jesus casts a dark reality. Jesus grabs the attention of the crowds, his followers, and bystanders, speaking boldly of a time when it will be no more. The next eleven verses of the gospel text paint a rather gloomy picture.

*"Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"* They ask.

Being led astray, hearing about wars and insurrections, nations rising against nation, earthquakes, famines in various places, plagues and great signs in the heavens, are as common to us as was the conversation about the beauty of the temple. The question *"when will this be"* seems odd, knowing that such things already are. What is it that Jesus is on about? What is it that our Lord wants us to grasp about faith and life and daily living? Where do we turn in such times and situations?

Know that your loving God has your back, don't be afraid. When things are as bad as you think that they can get, stay true to the one who will not let even one hair of your head perish. Then Jesus says *"By your endurance you will gain your souls."*

Endurance; we read a lot about the endurance of the women and men in the book of Acts. This is the book that picks up from Luke's gospel account and moves us along through the day's post-Easter in what we know now as the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles or the Acts of the Holy Spirit. The pages of the book of Acts are filled with stories about such situations and times. Situations and times that might seem to be

really dark, except that we hear of the power of God at work, we hear how God has their back, how God will not let even one hair of their head perish.

A violent wind brings the Holy Spirit. Spooky signs in the heavens lead to all who call on the name of the Lord being saved. Brought before the council in boldness they speak of the forgiveness of sins. They share their gifts to help elevate the severity of famine in the land. An earthquake shook the foundations of the prison, doors were opened and prisoner's chains released, and a Jailer asks what he must do to be saved.

Endurance is associated with other words and phrases like; strength, perseverance, constant, keeping on, don't give up. These seem to have something to do with the Lord's desire for the faithful. "*By your endurance you will gain your souls.*" Martin Luther when asked what he would do if he knew that the end of everything that he knew was coming to an end tomorrow, he said that he would plant a tree. There have been lots of folks, charlatans, through the years announcing a day when the world would end. They amass large groups of followers. They convince people to cash out their retirement savings, sell their possessions, and prepare for the last day. They manage to paint a rather dark picture of the way things are and provide an option to escape all of it through their predictions about the last day and the tumultuous times leading up to it.

In 1994 Memorial Day weekend, I asked Emily to marry me. Now I had wanted to ask her on many previous occasions but things didn't seem to line up. There was the previous Thanksgiving Holiday but travel plans took her out of town. Christmas came but my schedule with services at the church left me drained of the energy to prepare for such a proposal. Then came Valentine's Day, a perfect setting with a specially prepared dinner, a roaring fire in the fireplace, and a lightly falling snow blanketing the landscape, but then an emergency phone call regarding a parishioner having life-flight to Geisinger Medical Center came bringing an abrupt end to the perfect setting. Ash Wednesday was right out as were Holy Week and Easter as suitable times for a proposal. And that left Memorial Day. It was that weekend when we set our wedding date, September 24<sup>th</sup>! Plans were being made and in two weeks we had the reception hall, caterer, cake, band, church and clergy, flowers, maid of honor and best man all squared. During the next week an end time leader of a religious cult in California announced the end of the world on September 24! Needless to say we persevered, entered into Holy Matrimony that morning, provided brunch and dancing for 200 guests and the Penn State Nittany Lions played their afternoon game!

It is easy to get caught up predictions and wanting to know specifics. Should we cancel plans or should we follow the advice of Luther and plant a tree? Jesus is telling us that the time is now for you to follow. The time is now for you to live as neighbor. The time is now for you to give and forgive and love. Don't wait for ominous signs and frightful predictions. Don't act out of fear and foreboding. Listen to the voice of Jesus and his enduring word of hope. His word is more beautiful than the greatest of temples, cathedrals and baptisteries. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Malachi 4:1-2a**

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup>But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

**Psalm 98****SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13**

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. <sup>7</sup>For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup>and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. <sup>9</sup>This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. <sup>10</sup>For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. <sup>11</sup>For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. <sup>12</sup>Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. <sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

**GOSPEL: Luke 21:5-19**

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, <sup>6</sup>"As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

<sup>7</sup>They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" <sup>8</sup>And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

<sup>9</sup>"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; <sup>11</sup>there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

<sup>12</sup>"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. <sup>13</sup>This will give you an opportunity to testify. <sup>14</sup>So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; <sup>15</sup>for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup>You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. <sup>17</sup>You will be hated by all because of my name. <sup>18</sup>But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup>By your endurance you will gain your souls."

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43.

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