

Jesus,  
**REMEMBER**  
me  
when you come  
into your kingdom

LUKE 23:42



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

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

Email: [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://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.

**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.

## Christ the King November 20, 2022

**Holy Communion 9:15 AM**

*Musical setting 9 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

**PRELUDE** *Variations on "Crown Him with Many Crowns"* Charles Callahan

*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

### *You Servants of God (ELW 825)*

*Stanza 1 & 4 Unison, Stanzas 2 & 3 Harmony*



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -  
 2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is  
 3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -  
 4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and

broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of  
 nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his  
 loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the  
 pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with

Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!  
 tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!  
 an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.  
 an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

## 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.



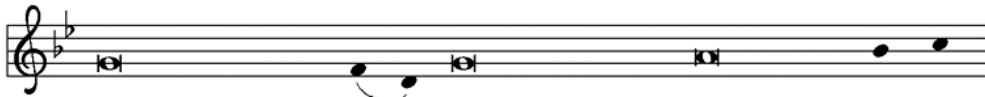
Lord, have mer - cy.



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...*



**FIRST READING**

Jeremiah 23:1-6

*(back cover)***PSALMODY Psalm 23***Sung by the Cantabile Choir*<sup>1</sup>The LORD<sup>1</sup> is my shepherd;\*I shall not<sup>1</sup> be in want.<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down<sup>1</sup> in green pastures\*  
and leads me be-<sup>1</sup>side still waters.<sup>3</sup>He re-<sup>1</sup>vives my soul\*and guides me along right pathways<sup>1</sup> for his name's sake.<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall<sup>1</sup> fear no evil;\*  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they<sup>1</sup> comfort me.<sup>5</sup>You spread a table before me in the presence of those who<sup>1</sup> trouble me;\*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is<sup>1</sup> running over.<sup>6</sup>Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days<sup>1</sup> of my life,\*  
and I will dwell in the house of the<sup>1</sup> LORD forever.**SECOND READING**

Colossians 1:11-20

*(back cover)**Stand***VERSE****HOLY GOSPEL**Luke 23:33-43 *(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***Christ the Lord is King*

Raymond Weidner

*Stand*

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the  
Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

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.*

We pray for your church. Embolden denominations and faith-based organizations in creative and collaborative ministries that bear fruit for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth. Protect waterways from pollution and animal habitats from destruction. Guide us in careful stewardship of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Instill in every leader's heart a desire for justice and peace. Support the work of international collaborations that seek the goals of health and joy for all people (*especially Hugh Miller, 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 Glaudel, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, Courtney Snell*).

Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**



We pray for all who are oppressed. Strengthen the voices of the unheard and break open stubborn systems of injustice. Bring about your righteousness and fill us all with your redeeming light. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. Guide our pastor and council members in discernment, and nurture newly elected leaders with fresh ideas. Give us a spirit of discipleship and service. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for all who have died in the faith (*especially*). Console us who mourn and comfort us with the beautiful promise of life in your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

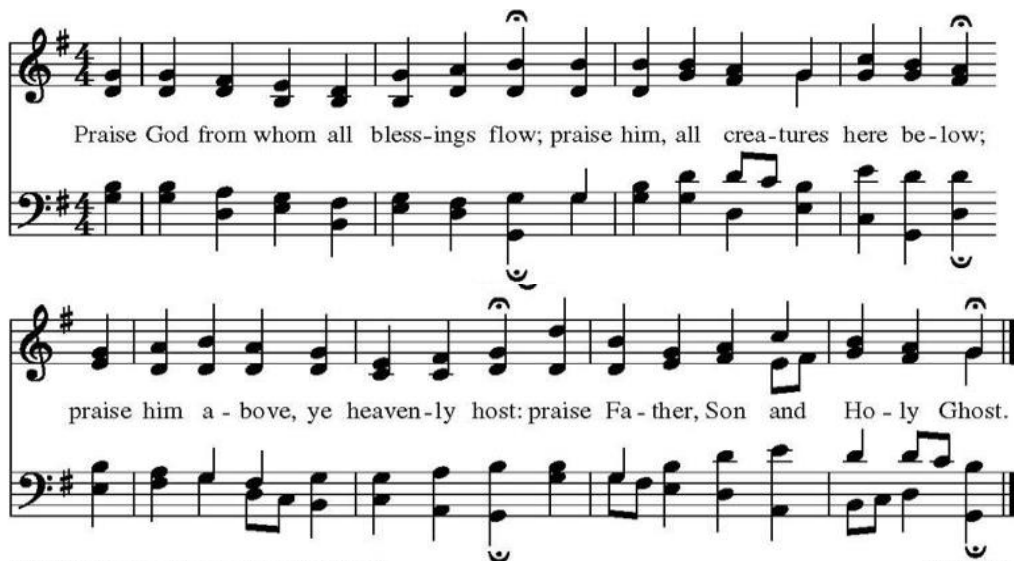
Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## 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 heaven-ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

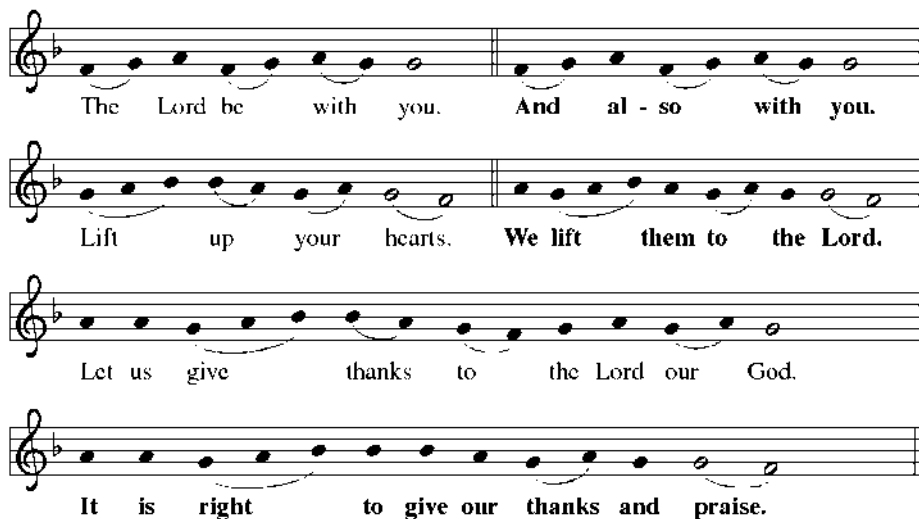
WORDS: *Doxology*, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)  
MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois (ca. 1510-1561), *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

OLD 100th  
L.M.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,  
**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

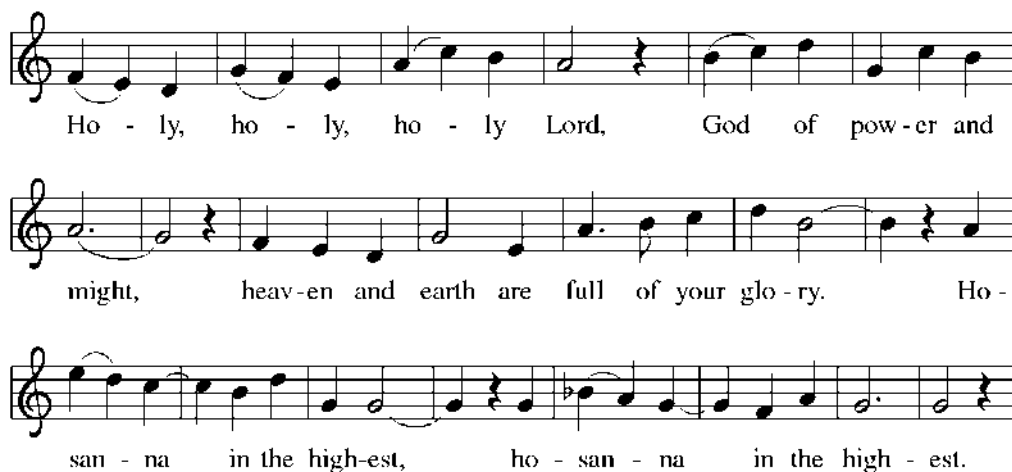
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. Lord, in this Most Holy Sacrament you have given Christ, the King of all creation, as food for eternal life. Give us the grace to live by His Gospel, and bring us to the joy of His Kingdom, where He lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

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

**HYMN**    *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! (ELW 634) next page*

## DISMISSAL

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

**POSTLUDE**                    *Toccata on "All Hail the Power of Jesus" Name*        Tim Fields

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Flowers This Week

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God  
In memory of Mildred Blake, Alice Vinik, Jim Blake  
and Margaret Gillamore by Kirsten and Sammy Barnes*

## *Serving the Lord with Gladness*

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Altar Clean-up	Acolyte
11/20	9:15 AM	Harold Sargeant	Tom Gibson	Dan Garber	Kathy Monk	Gary & Patricia Van Natten	Kem Vaught, Larry Becker, *Steve Heistand, Dan Garber	Deb Becker, Isabella Lehr	Anna Herdson, Addison Harrington

**Food Pantry Items needed:** Rice, beans, Tomato sauce, pasta, mashed potato mix, gravy and stuffing mix for the holidays.

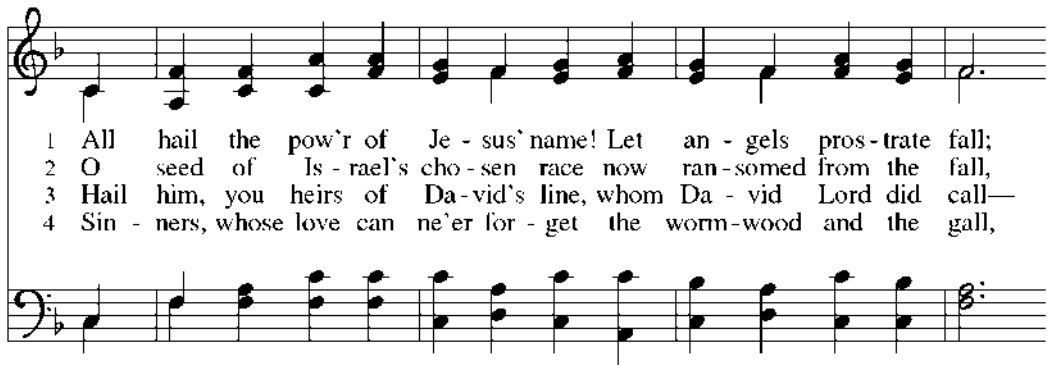
## Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

*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.*

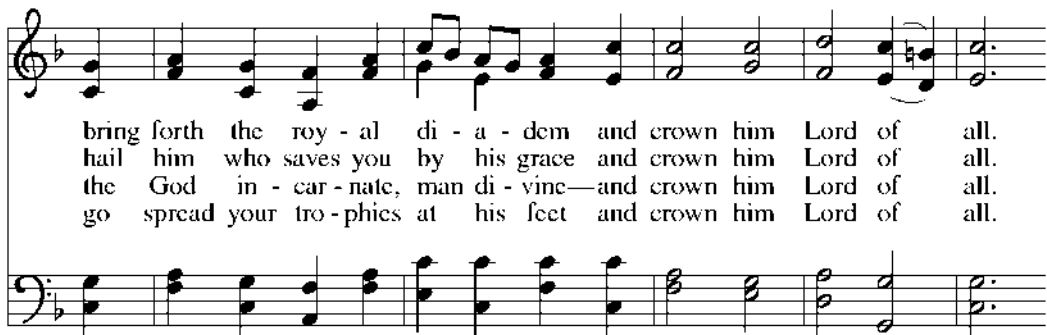
**Our COVID-19 task force** is assisting us as we remain open. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, Norma Shue, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.



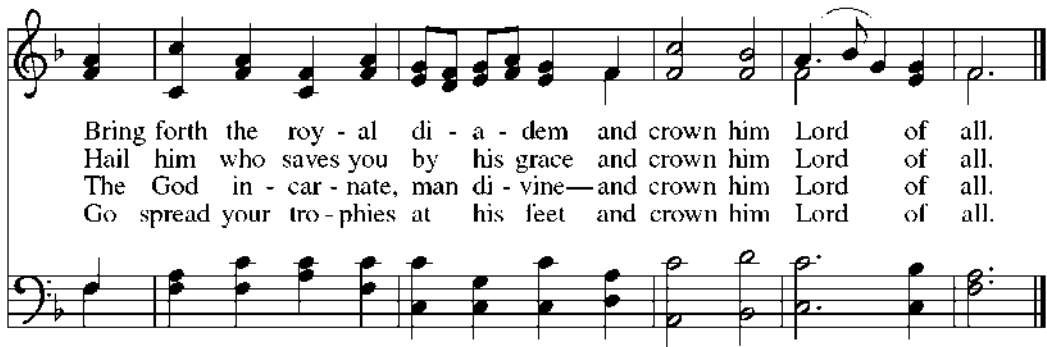
# All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;  
 2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - sored from the fall,  
 3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—  
 4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
 hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
 the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
 go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
 Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
 The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
 Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe  
 on this terrestrial ball  
 to him all majesty ascribe  
 and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng  
 we at his feet may fall!  
 We'll join the everlasting song  
 and crown him Lord of all.

# This Week at St. Paul's

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

## 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

## Monday, November 21

7:00 PM Finance committee—ZOOM

## Tuesday, November 22

9:30 AM Pantry  
 6:00 PM NO CREATE  
 6:00 PM NO Property Committee

## Wednesday, November 23

10:30 AM NO Scripture Study

## Thursday, November 24 THANKSGIVING

OFFICE CLOSED

## Friday, November 25

OFFICE CLOSED

## Sunday, November 27 Advent 1

### Poinsettia orders due today

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
 9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages  
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

*Advent Vespers—Every Wednesday we will gather at 7:00 PM for the beautiful service of Evening Prayer. We are host for collaborative services with Grace York, St. Peter's N. York, and Christ Manchester. Please join us!*

## News and Updates November 20, 2022

**God's Global Barnyard** is back after a three year pause . It is under the leadership of our 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades Sunday school class. Be sure to bring your quarters to the Good Shepherd Room and place them in the PVC tube!

**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.

**Hospitality Team**—Volunteers are needed to host the York College Choir, Sunday December 4th. The concert starts at 3pm. Please call the office if you can help.

**Mpuguso Raise the Roof** offerings may still be given. Simply place your gift in a special pew envelope at mark it "Mpuguso Roof".

**Advent Resources** are available in the Good Shepherd Room for all ages. Check it out!

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

## Christ the King, C 2022

Jeremiah 23:1-6, Colossians 1:11-20, St. Luke 23:33-43

How is it that multiple groups of people who were scoffing, mocking, and deriding each other a few weeks ago are suddenly all chummy? This is not a new question. It seems to run deep within the fiber of our human condition to put aside differences in order to gang up on one who seems to be a threat or who pose a threat or who operates from a different perspective. It seems all too comfortable to let someone else take the blame if it leaves you off the hook.

This is the very situation that we have encountered in the gospel reading this morning. The religious leaders were at odds with the military leaders who were at odds with the followers of Jesus who were at odds with the religious leaders. None of them seemingly were able to get along. They couldn't wait to cause a commotion, contribute to the rise of tensions, and allow for the other to be viewed as inferior. But now, at this point in time the groups who were unable to get along just a few weeks ago are cast in the text as the allusive "they," a collective group, a group with a common purpose. "*When **they** came to the place called the Skull **they** crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.*" There our Lord was, surrounded by a scoffing, mocking, deriding group, who suddenly has become incredibly chummy, as **they** put him to death.

The gospel reading centers completely on the cross. We hear the familiar story of the crucifixion. We hear the story that is mostly reserved for Holy week and Good Friday. We are drawn into the scene with Jesus and the two criminal's one on each side. And it is easy to overlook the ideologies that were abandoned or downplayed to reach this unifying all be it tragic, moment. On this they all agreed. Put the healer, feeder, forgiver, restorer, to death. Out of the moment of chummy unified action, the silence is broken as He speaks. We hear the words "*Father forgive them*" and "*today you will be with me in Paradise.*" It is challenging for us to take this all in and to make sense out of such a story. The outsider, from all of the groups I have mentioned, recognizes Kingship. It is the Criminal who acknowledges that he deserves the punishment who recognizes the kingship of Jesus.

To the majority, the "they" of the text, Kingship doesn't seem to be all that recognizable. King Herod of course is threatened he doesn't want any competition for the crown, the religious establishment is threatened, but kingship that is not from this world seems to elude so very many. Let's face it, even when Jesus asked his own disciples, "*Who do people say that I am?*" It took a while for them to muster a response. They ran through the list of prophets before Peter called out, the Messiah, the Christ. None of them placed him as King, at least not like any king they had ever known.

I think that Jesus asked them "*who do people say that I am*" because he wanted to know that he made a difference to them, that what he taught and how he interacted with others was significant. His kingdom was coming and what would make it recognizable was how his followers lived. It is important to know what they said and did and how lives would be changed. With Jesus they had a glimpse of life lived far differently than they had ever experienced it. But not one of them quickly, or immediately, or with rapid response identified kingship with Jesus. It eluded them.

The annual meeting today is about making God's kingdom known. Yes we elect official leaders, and adopt a spending plan for ministry, and hear about the past year together and even share vision regarding our future life together. But the meeting has at its core making the kingdom

of God recognizable in the world; how we, the Baptized, live and what we say and do, and how through our ministry together in Christ Jesus, lives change. Lives change and that includes yours and mine. That is why we have stewardship appeals, and commitment cards, and Time and Ability Forms, and temple talks, and devotional books, and Bible study and education classes and mission partners and weekly worship. These are the sorts of things that keep our life together focused on Christ and his kingship, his realm, his saving grace.

The bulletin of reports contains concrete activities and events bearing witness to what it means to follow Jesus, at St. Paul's, at this time. Our work and life together announcing God's saving love for the world is of the highest importance. It is what gives shape to our ministry and mission. How we choose to spend financial resources, anticipate long and short range projects, respond to benevolence requests, all of this discerning work bears witness to God's love in Christ Jesus. This is no ordinary king of whom we speak and sing and announce this day. Here he takes center, the one who loves us, and gives himself for us, and takes a place among criminals, so that we would be saved; because we are valued; biblical language says things like honored and precious and loved.

As a rule we don't talk about salvation, at least not in the way other members of the Christian tradition do. We tend to use sacramental words and grace filled words when we speak of being saved. God's realm of course has something if not everything to do with salvation. God's kingdom is brought about by and through saving grace. Jesus comes among us to save us from sin, death, and the devil, and to make us his own, heirs of his kingdom. That's what the catechism and Holy Scriptures teach. Each group in the gospel story this morning; the rulers, the soldiers, the followers and the criminals all know that Jesus has something to do with salvation. They all know that he has power to change things. They have witnessed it before. Salvation is part of the Kingdom.

The rulers of the day scoffed at him.

“He saved others; let him save himself If he is the  
Messiah of God, his chosen one!”

The soldiers mocked him. “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

The criminals derided him. “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

Jesus is crucified precisely as “Savior.”

We also know that by **not saving** himself that Jesus does, in fact, save us.

In God's kingdom we are given a glimpse of life lived far differently than we may encounter it on a daily basis in our secular culture. We know that as heirs of God's kingdom through Baptism that our lives are changed and are being changed. The way that we go about living life is recognizably different from the way of the world. This is different in a good way, because we are part of God's way, God's Kingdom. In his kingdom we are given worth and value and place. We are the ones who recognize that we deserve punishment. We are numbered among others who are granted forgiveness and promised paradise, not because we have such clarity of thought, but because Jesus' kingship is so graciously amazing. Such grace often eludes us. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6**

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. <sup>2</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. <sup>3</sup>Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup>I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

<sup>5</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

**Psalm 46****SECOND READING: Colossians 1:11-20**

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup>He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things

visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

**GOSPEL: Luke 23:33-43**

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup>and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" <sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup>Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup>He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44.

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