

PREPARE
THE WAY OF THE
LORD

MARK 1:3

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 187 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Offerings Offerings are received during the liturgy. They are presented along with gifts of bread and wine at the altar. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

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.

An AED/Defibrillator unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors. The liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Quiet activities are also available in the Narthex for infant through preschool children to use with an adult.

Please be aware that there is a rise in individuals loitering at church buildings and asking for money. This is panhandling and it is illegal. Please do not give money. Simply direct them to contact the Pastor at a time other than during worship. Thank you.

Parents, please do accompany your child to the restroom during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Children Choirs Director	Julianna Jones	jjones.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 10, 2023
Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting V

PRELUDE *Zimbelstern Prelude on “Prepare the Royal Highway”* Paul Fey

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

Amen.

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God, imploring him, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ to grant to us forgiveness.

Let us pray. 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

Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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.



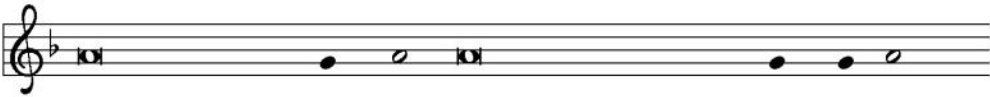
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, 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 unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Continued on next page...



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-11 (back cover)

PSALM Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 *Spoken responsively by half verse.*

¹ You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;*

you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

² You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people*

and blotted out | all their sins.

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying,*

for he is speaking peace to his faithful people

and to those who turn their | hearts to him.

- ⁹ Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,*
that his glory may dwell | in our land.
- ¹⁰ Mercy and truth have | met together; *
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.
- ¹¹ Truth shall spring up | from the earth,*
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.
- ¹² The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,*
and our land will | yield its increase.
- ¹³ Righteousness shall | go before him,*
and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.

SECOND READING 2 Peter 3:8-15a (*back cover*)

Stand

VERSE

Sung by all



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

Repeat alleluia



Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8 (*back cover*)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark
At the conclusion of the Gospel.
 The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Stan Reep

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

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach us to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal (*especially*). Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, and all who feel lonely or forgotten.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season (*especially*). Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born anew in the waters of Holy Baptism.

At the last gather us all into your eternal kingdom. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Sit

OFFERING 8:00 AM

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

David Cherwien

10:30 AM Chancel Choir

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

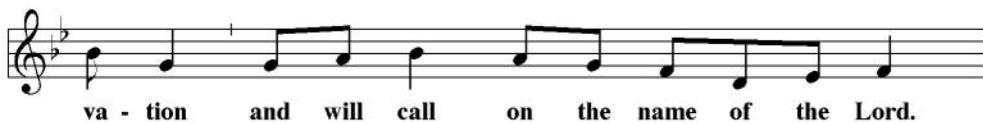
Anne Krentz Organ

Ina Myers, oboe

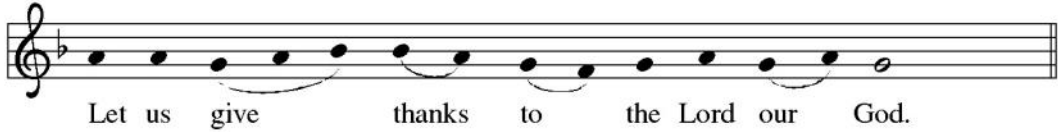
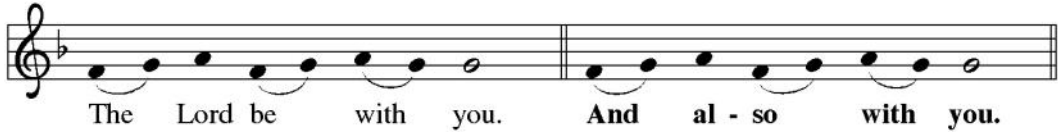
Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN

The gifts of bread and wine and monetary gifts are presented at the altar.



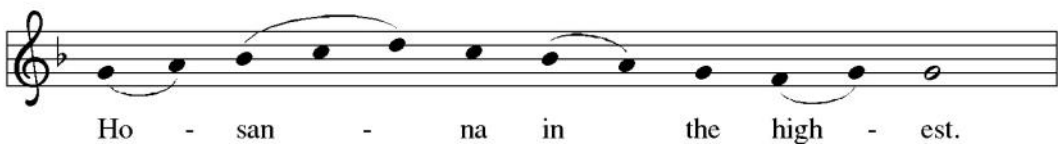
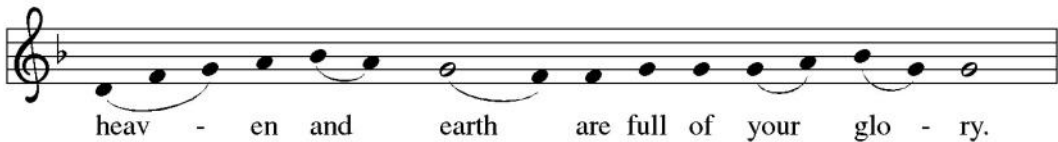
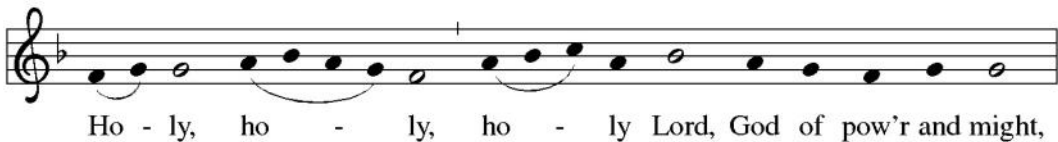
DIALOGUE

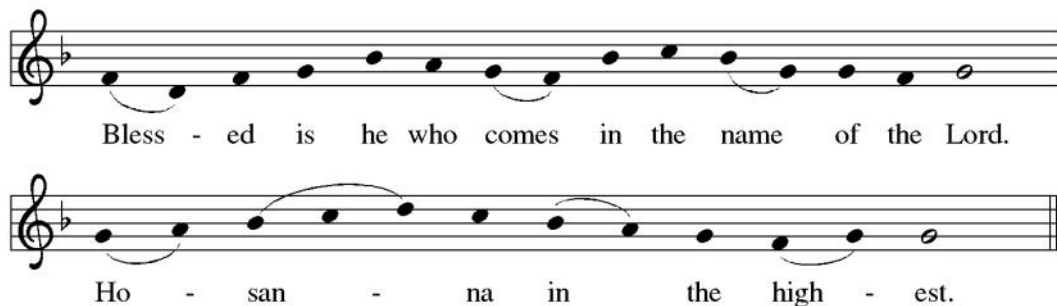


PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is said.*

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, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS *Sung by all.*





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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's
death until he comes.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory
is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen**

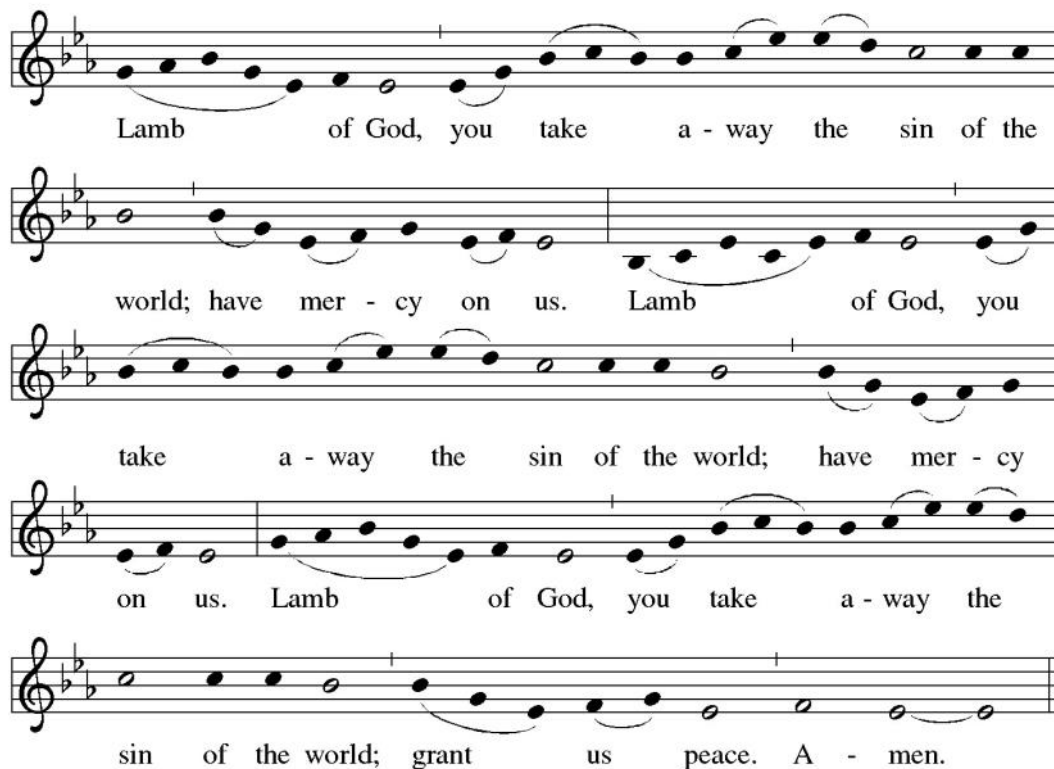
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

FRACTION RITE *A brief silence is kept*

AGNUS DEI *Sung by all.*



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. A - men.

Sit The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Holy Communion at St. Paul's Church is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

Procedure for receiving Communion:

1. Come to communion using the center aisle.
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.

COMMUNION HYMN 10:30 AM *All Earth is Hopeful (ELW 266)*



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra_al Sal - va - dor
1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell;
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y_el sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

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. Almighty God, in the Eucharist you cleanse us from our sins and prepare us for the coming of your Son. Make us ready always to welcome Him into our hearts as we receive you Holy Sacrament; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

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

HYMN *People, Look East (ELW 248) next page*

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide* Rolf Schweizer

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Serving the Lord with Gladness

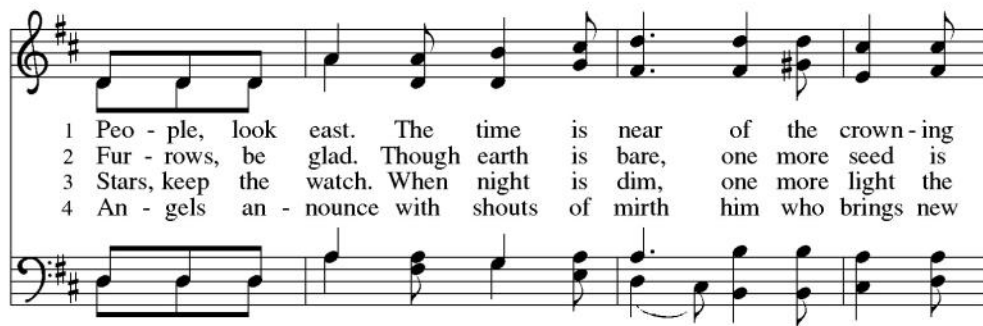
DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Clean-up
12/3	8:00 AM	Bob Reed	Kirsten Barnes	John Monk		Martina Uffelman, Nancy Banta	Ken Hinkle, John Monk, Sheridan Palmer	Kathy Monk, Lois Ann Schroeder
	10:30 AM	Tom Gibson	Blake Humple	Dan Garber	Tonya Cave, Sandy Dickensheets	Kem & Cindy Vaught, Carol Woodbury	Darren Smith, Sandy Dickensheets, Larry Becker	Janet & Larry Moore



The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
 In honor of Bean's 16th Birthday by Joe Kinkella
 And in memory of our parents and siblings by Earline and Frank Jones

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 15TH!

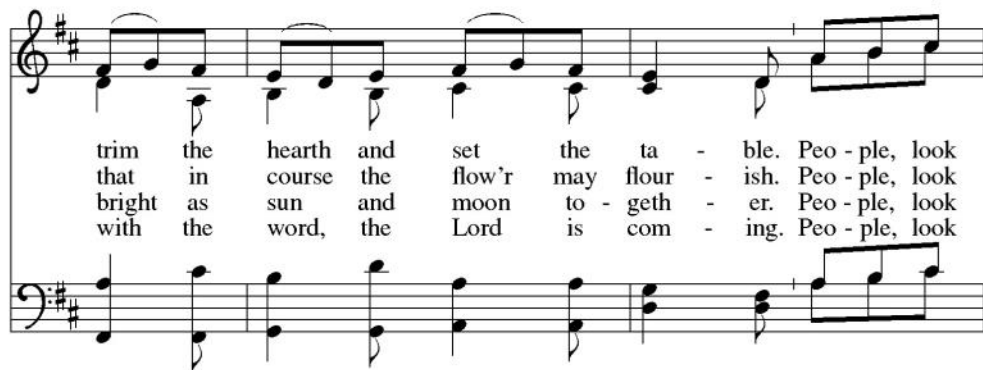
People, Look East



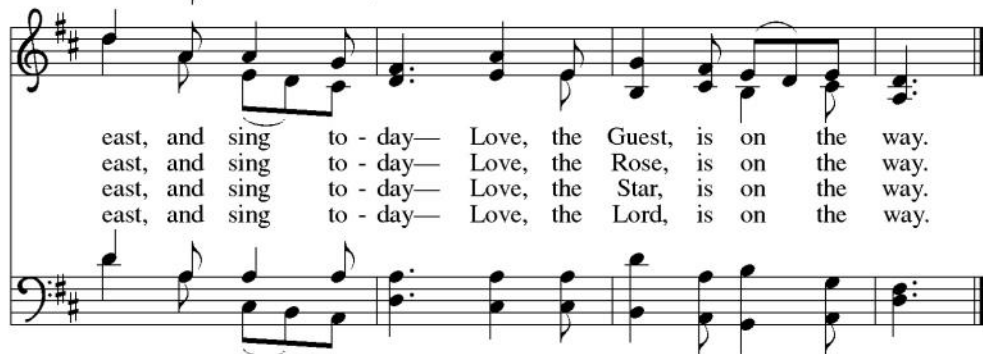
1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

“Comfort one another with these words.”

“He will send the Comforter.”

“Let your steadfast love become my comfort.”

“This is my comfort in my distress, that your promise gives me life.”

*“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.”*

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

*“Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing:
for the Lord has comforted his people.”*

“Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly.”

Those are comforting words from sacred scripture. Later in the life of Christian community such words give shape to carols which mark this season. There are a host of them. The one that came to mind quickly for me;

“God rest you merry, gentlemen,

Let nothing you dismay,

For Jesus Christ, Our Savior,

Was born upon this day

To save us all from Satan’s power

When we were gone astray

O tidings of comfort and joy,

Comfort and joy,

O tidings of comfort and joy.”

The Prophet Isaiah proclaims words of comfort and Joy in the opening verses of chapter 40. These are words that Israel needs to hear. God’s people have been through difficult times. Some of the difficulty, according to the biblical witness, was brought on by their own unfaithfulness. Because of their rebellious ways their cities have been destroyed. They have now been living in exile for more than a generation; living in a foreign land with foreign leaders and foreign religions. These external influencers made it even more challenging for the people to remain faithful to God. The structures that provide for a stable community had been ripped away, eroded, like a castle of sand by a rising tide and crashing waves at the sea shore. They were consumed by the turmoil of international power and policy. Their lives were collapsed into a perpetual daily cycle of defeat and hopelessness. But now, some fifty years later, a word of hope breaks into the gloom and despair. It is the word of God proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O Comfort my people is the word of hope and restoration that is needed. This word of hope and restoration comes from the one and only God who is in charge. God is at work making a way. A road paved through the difficult terrain of the earth's landscape; valleys lifted up and hills brought low. The metaphors employed by the prophet identify the valleys, the low places in their lives and the mountainous obstacles that prevent them from a way forward. This leveling will allow for a royal road upon which God and God's people will travel. It will be a road leading to restored; homes, communities, religious celebrations, leadership and the acknowledgment that there is only one who is in charge; the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

In our generation we too experience difficult times. Our generation is less likely to link such difficulties to unfaithfulness. I suspect that most have little knowledge of the prophet's words recorded in the biblical witness. We live in days marked by aggression in our streets and aggression by nations. Innocent lives are lost in the fray of one party seeking out revenge, justice, or domination. International tensions are elevated. Governmental grid lock precludes conversation, collaboration, and any outcomes for a common good. Comfort is perhaps the farthest thing from one's mind. And yet it is precisely in the midst of such tension, disappointment, fear, frustration and hopelessness that God comes. God's prophetic Word was delivered then by God's servant Isaiah. In our own time, God's prophetic Word is delivered by Mary in a stable on the outskirts of Bethlehem. Jesus the Word made flesh enters into a world distraught by abuse in political and religious realms. Jesus comes quietly, as a baby, born away from home in a less than ideal situation. But the Savior comes.

He is the Word of comfort that John the Baptizer proclaimed was coming when he was out on the Judean countryside camping out along the Jordan River. John's message didn't sound all that comforting, "*repent,*" "*be baptized,*" "*turn your life around.*" But John's message was one of comfort for all who believed. For those who believed they knew that something else was possible, something besides the daily cycles of poverty and injustice, something besides the oppression of the elitist political system, and something besides the exclusive religious establishment. John's message, like Isaiah's before him, was directed to people who needed to be comforted. It seemed that nothing would change, nothing could change, and nothing was possible except for more of the same.

And yet everything did change and does change and will change in the presence of Christ Jesus, the true Comforter. Advent is a season of hope and longing. Hoping and longing for something other than more of the same. The nation needs it, the international community needs it, our community needs it, our homes and family need it too. That is why Christ comes to us again this morning quietly in the simple forms of bread and wine restoring our lives and showing us that something else is possible. Christ Jesus gives himself for us, making a way forward, leveling valleys and lowering mountainous obstacles, amending life for you and me.

Jesus comes setting us free, free from the things that dominate society: violence, oppression, fear. On the cross Jesus proclaims that the ways of the world don't work. The violence, oppression and fear that got him sentenced to death are the very things that he overcomes with Easter's resurrection. This morning God's comforting word is addressed to you.

As people who believe, announce God's comforting Word to one who needs it. Live your Advent faith. Though it, others will hear and experience the beginning of the Good News of the Gospel of Christ Jesus. With such comforting words they will join us in hoping and longing for God's way. "*O tidings of comfort and joy.*" Amen.

This Week at St. Paul's

Church Office hours Mon, Thurs 8am-4pm; Fri 7:30-11:30am

Sunday, December 10 Advent 2

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

Monday, December 11

7:00 PM Council Mtg— Christ Hall

Tuesday, December 12

9:30 AM Food Pantry
6:00 PM CREATE— Preschool thru Grade 6

Wednesday, December 13

10:00 AM Preschool & Pastor—Nave
10:30 AM Bible Study
6:00 PM Decorate the Church for Christmas

Thursday, December 14

11:00 AM Funeral—Chloe Eichelberger
4:00 PM Book Club— Panera Bread
6:30 PM Handbell Choir—Christ Hall
7:30 PM Chancel Choir—Music Room

Sunday, December 17 Advent 3

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

Please be sure to check with the church secretary *before* you schedule your meetings at the church. Call or email the office with your request.

Announcements and Up-dates for the week December 10, 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool Anniversary T-shirts— Pick-up will be Sunday December 17, from 8 AM-Noon and Dec 18-20 during preschool hours 9 AM-Noon.

2024 Offering Envelopes are available in the Good Shepherd Room . Please take yours along with you.

Please join in the church decorating on Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 PM.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the St. Nicholas Day event such a memorable experience, especially Dale Smith for the piano music, Kirsten Barnes for the St. Nicholas cookies, our fabulous music staff, Victor, Leah and Julianna and all the coordinating efforts by our Youth Director Miss Kelly. But what's a St. Nicholas event without Santa himself? **Thank you, Santa!**

Today and December 17th all children up to grade 6 are gathering together in the youth room for Sunday School. We will hear, act out, build, and play parts of the Christmas Story. A service project for our Pantry Shoppers is also part of the morning plans. Haven't been part of the Sunday school classes this fall? This is a great time to try it out. Come both weeks or just one.



Food Pantry—December

Items needed: Canned fruit. This has been difficult for the pantry to get.

Please put your donations in the shopping cart in the Good Shepherd Room. Thank You.

We also need paper grocery bags with handles and plastic bags. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”. **Volunteers are needed Tuesday mornings to help our neighbors shop. Call Teresa Rohrbaugh or the church office (717-843-8155) to volunteer.**

2024 Flower Chart

The 2024 flower chart is posted on the Springettsbury vestibule bulletin board. The cost of the flowers is **\$35 per vase**. You are welcome to sign up to provide one or both vases. After you have signed up, simply make a check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and mark it altar flowers. This is a great way to honor someone, celebrate a milestone in life, or remember a loved one. The flowers may be taken home with you at the conclusion of the last liturgy or you may have them given to someone who is sick, shut in, or hospitalized. If you wish, you can contact the office to reserve a date, and to provide us with all of the correct information for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin.

St Paul's is collecting clothing for Union Lutheran Church's Clothing Ministry. Union collects 'gently used' clothing (and shoes) for its clothing closet and offers it **free of charge** to needy families in the York City community. A bin has been placed in the Good Shepherd room to collect any clothing you would like to donate. These donations will surely be a blessing to our neighbors. Union's volunteers are very appreciative of our cooperation and our help.

**INCLEMENT
WEATHER
INFORMATION**



You may get information regarding closures at our website www.stpaulsyork.org or on our Facebook page St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George.



Reminder for End-of-Year Check Donations / U.S. tax deadline:

Check envelopes must be postmarked by USPS on or before December 31, 2023 to be eligible for a U.S. 2023 tax deduction. The date on the check does not designate the year of giving.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Please note the alternate service times throughout the Christmas Season

Sunday December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:15 AM

The Holy Eucharist

O, Come, O Come Emmanuel

Sunday December 24, Christmas Eve - The Nativity of Our Lord

4:00 PM

The Holy Eucharist

Joy to the World

The Ringing in of Christmas

Organ, Children's Choir, Cello, Violin, Flute

Lighting of Hand Candles

7:00 PM

The Holy Eucharist

Once in Royal David's City

Handbells, Organ, Chancel Choir, Piano Duet, Violin, Flute

Lighting of Hand Candles

Monday December 25, Christmas Day

10:30 AM

The Holy Eucharist

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Organ, Dulcimer, Trio

Sunday December 31, The First Sunday after Christmas

9:15 AM

The Holy Eucharist

In His Temple Now Behold Him

Sunday January 7, The Baptism of Our Lord

8:00 & 10:30 AM

The Holy Eucharist

With Thanksgiving for Holy Baptism

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be dissolved.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

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