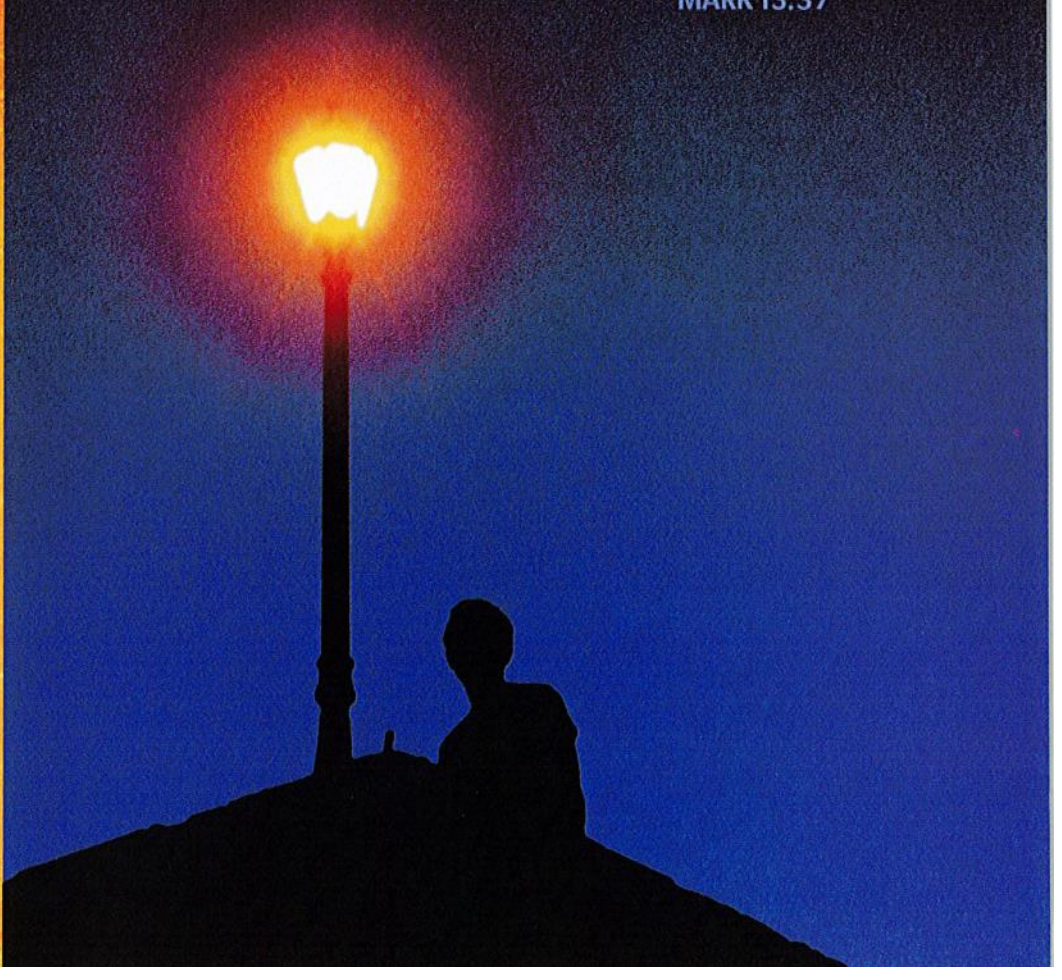




Keep awake

MARK 13:37



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	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 3, 2023
Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM

PRELUDE

Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

Mark Sedio

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

Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn (ELW 242)



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing,
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing,
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er,
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

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.



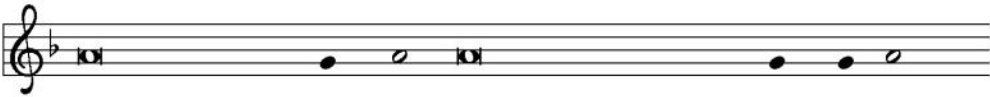
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9 (back cover)

PSALM Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 *Spoken responsively by half verse.*

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;*

shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

² In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh, *

stir up your strength and | come to help us.

³ Restore us, O | God of hosts;*

show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

⁴ O LORD | God of hosts, *

how long will you be angered despite the prayers | of your people?

⁵ You have fed them with the | bread of tears;*
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
⁶ You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,*
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
⁷ Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.
¹⁷ And so will we never turn a- | way from you;*
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
¹⁸ Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (*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 13:24-37 (*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.

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

All creation signals your presence, the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Enrich the spirits of all who are hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief (*especially*). Deliver all in any need. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You gather your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence (*especially Francis Xavier, whom we commemorate today*). 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, made known through our Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 Though Long-expected Jesus* Carlton Young
10:30 AM Chancel Choir *Lumen Christi* Jane Southwick Cool

Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN

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



☐ What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to me?



I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing



and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the

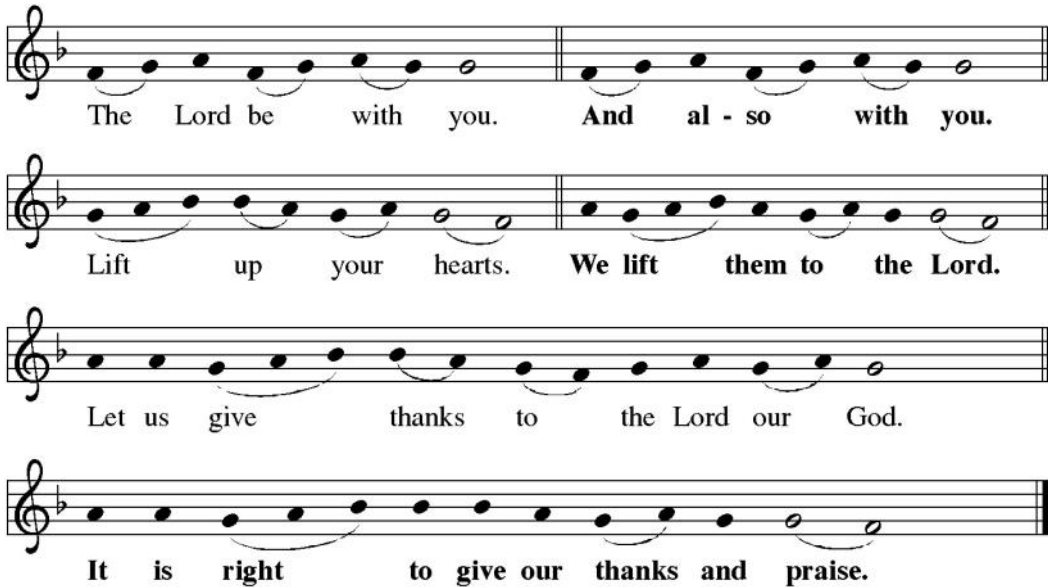


pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,



in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

DIALOGUE



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

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

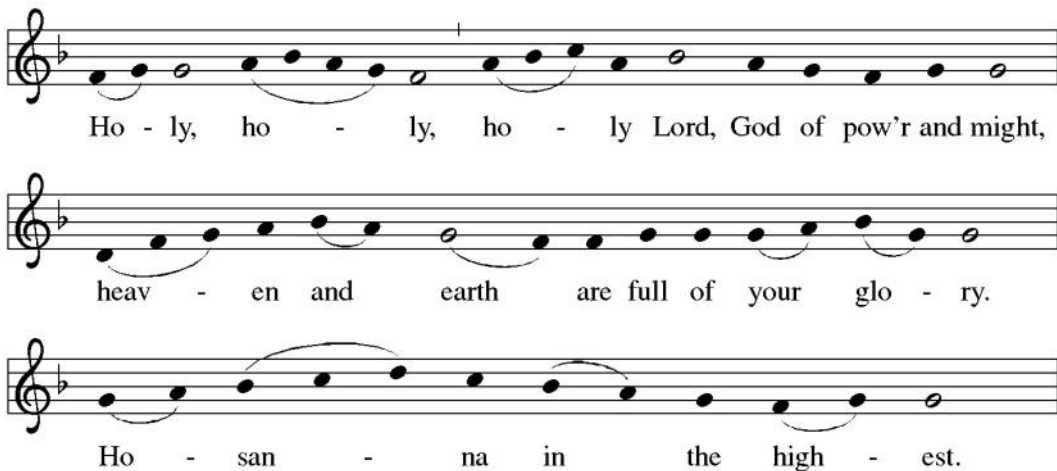
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE *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:

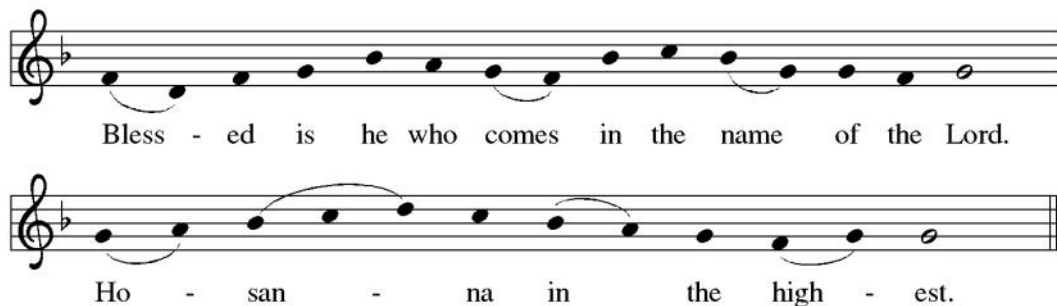
SANCTUS *Sung by all.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

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

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.

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.

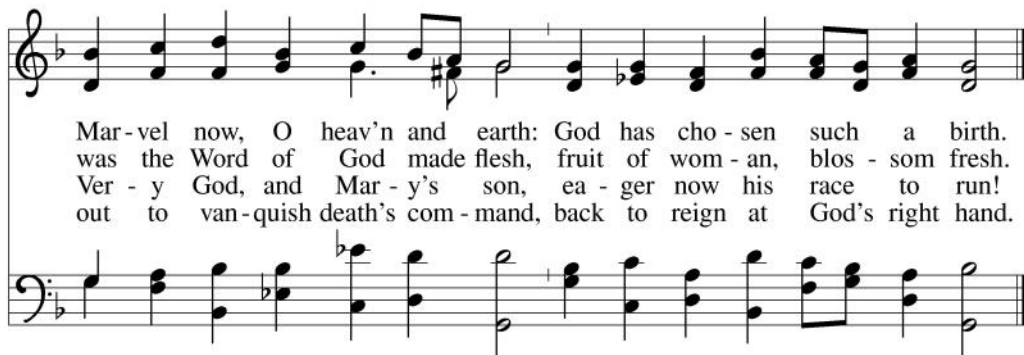
Procedure for receiving Communion:

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 *Savior of the Nations, Come (ELW 263)*



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

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 *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding! (ELW 246) next page*

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
 2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, come with par-don down from heav'n.
 4 So, when next he comes in glo-ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son

"Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.
 Let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all, to be for-giv'n;
 he will shield us with his mer-cy and with words of love draw near.
 with the ev-er-last-ing Spir-it while un-end-ing a-ges run!

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake for Night is Flying Emma Lou Diemer

This Week at St. Paul's

Church Office hours Mon, Tues 8am-4pm; Weds 7:30-11:30am

Sunday, December 3 Advent 1

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Jesse Tree in Christ Hall for all
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
 3:00 PM York College Holiday Concert
 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Tuesday, December 5

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

Wednesday, December 6

10:00 AM Preschool & Pastor—Nave
 10:30 AM Bible Study
 5:30 PM St. Nicholas Day Celebration—
 Fellowship Hall, enter Springettsbury Ave.

Thursday, December 7

10:00 AM Preschool & Pastor—Nave
 6:30 PM Handbell Choir—Christ Hall
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir—Music Room

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

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.



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
 in memory of Anna Glessner.*

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	Ken Hinkle	Harrison Palmer	Connie Reed		Pat Scarborough, Norma Shue	Bob Reed, Sheridan Palmer, Ken Hinkle	Kathy Monk, Lois Ann Schroeder
	10:30 AM	Larry Moore	Ephraim Lipp	Chris Lipp	Larry Becker	Peter & Nancy O'Connor	Darren Smith, Sandy Dickensheets	Janet & Larry Moore



Adult Classes

Adult Sunday School Sessions

This week 9:15 AM The Jesse Tree, Good Shepherd Room
 Next week 9:15 AM The Great "O" Antiphons, Christ Hall.
 Both are led by Pastor Reep.

Announcements and Up-dates for the week December 3, 2023

In conjunction with the 60th Anniversary of the St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool a newly designed T-shirt is available for purchase. The preschool receives a percentage from each T-shirt purchased. Buy one to wear on Pentecost! The bright red color is sure to be noticed and you will help get the word out about our fabulous early childhood education program at St. Paul's.

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

St. Nicholas Day—Wednesday December 6, 5:30 PM Fellowship Hall Holiday Dinner and Entertainment—The entire congregation is invited for a holiday dinner and entertainment on Wednesday December 6th at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to enter through the Springettsbury Avenue entrance. The menu is designed to accommodate the wide variety of ages within our faith community; baked ham, scalloped potatoes, peas, apple sauce, macaroni and cheese, tomato soup, grilled cheese, salad bar, and brownies with ice cream for dessert. We have planned St. Nicholas themed crafts, entertainment by the children's choir, handbell choir, chancel choir, with additional musical selections and a visit from you know who! The hope is that we can share in a joyous time together in the midst of a very busy season. By so doing we hope to create memories for all participants of the joy of Christian fellowship. The activities conclude at 7:00 PM so that everyone can get home in a timely fashion. Most things have come together nicely for this parish event. However, if you are willing to help with the setup or clean up, that would be a huge help. Simply contact Miss Kelly and let her know how you can help. **For reservations please call 717-843-8155!**

Christmas Decorating Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00 PM—The Worship and Arts Committee invites anyone able and willing to help with the church decorating on Wednesday December 13th at 6:00 PM. We are decorating earlier than is our custom due to Advent 4 and Christmas Eve both on Sunday December 24. We will be working with fresh greens so please bring along gloves and clippers. There are some jobs that require using a ladder and others that don't. Most jobs are inside while a few do take place outside. This is the first year for us using oil filled candles in the aisle posts. Some extra time and care will most-likely be needed as we discern effective implementation. From the Time and Ability forms 18 of us checked off "Christmas decorating" so do plan to come. If you didn't check off that box on the form feel free to join us, the more the merrier! If you are able to help decorate on December 13th please notify the church office.



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 it, 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.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 15TH!

TODAY! Holiday Voices December 3 at 3:00 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran

The York College Chorale and Chamber Singers will present their annual “Holiday Voices” concert at St. Paul's Lutheran on Sunday, December 3 at 3:00PM.

Along with the two choirs, the concert will feature Grace Muzzo as conductor, Victor Fields as organist and pianist, and selected student soloists. Repertoire will include newly imagined choral settings of ancient Christmas texts, as well as holiday songs from a variety of languages and traditions. The audience will be invited to join in the singing at the end of the program!

This concert is free and open to the public.

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

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION

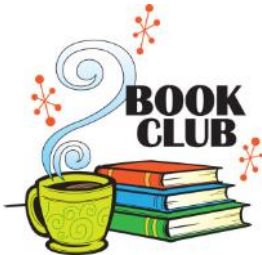


You may get information regarding closures at our website www.stpaulsyork.org or on our Facebook page St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George.

Year-End Giving

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.



St. Paul's Book Club: Join us at Panera Bread on South Queen Street 4:00-5:00 PM as we discuss....

December 14 True to Form by Elizabeth Berg

Help us celebrate 60 years of St Paul's Lutheran Preschool!

T-Shirts for sale November 12-30. Orders go in on December 1st.

Pick-up will be Sunday December 17 during church 8-12 and Dec 18-20 during school hours 9-12.

Adult sizes Small-4XL. Youth XS-XL.

Short sleeved \$20 or long sleeved \$25 are for sale.

Adult sizes come in Hanes Cotton or a Tri-blend short sleeve upgrade for an additional \$10.

Samples will be in the Good Shepherd room on Sunday 11/12, 11/19 and 11/27 to see sizes.

Orders are to be placed online. Please see clipboard by samples if you need assistance.

Shipping is free to the church or may be shipped to your home for \$9.95.



YORK, PENNSYLVANIA

Advent 1 B, 2023 Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

It was Sunday morning. Harriet busied herself in the kitchen preparing breakfast. Time was becoming rather short. She went to the bottom of the stairs and called up “George, come down!” There wasn’t any answer. Harriet had done this several times and was beginning to grow anxious. “George my son; are you awake?” “Yes,” he replied. “It’s time to get dressed and come down for breakfast, we are going to be late for church” Harriet continued. “Give me one good reason” groaned George. “Well” Harriet continued, “For one thing, your breakfast is ready, and for another you are the pastor!”

“Come down!” Harriet is imploring her son George to come down to do his job, to show up and be present for the congregation. The “come down” this morning proclaimed in the first reading are the imploring words of God’s prophet Isaiah. Come down to the chaos, come down to the suffering, come down to the warring, come down to the injustice, come down to the prejudice, come down to the heartache, come down O Lord God and bring the chaos, suffering, warring, injustice, prejudice, and heartache, to a screeching halt. Your people need you!

Isaiah was praying for God to come down, because in his time it seemed that God had abandoned the people. That God would, rather like George, prefer to stay in bed than come down and get involved in the everyday lives of ordinary people. The prophet believed that because of their sinful ways God was choosing to stay away, that God decided to hide himself and so the people of God decided to sin all the more. It seemed fitting, if there wasn’t any sign from God then they may as well keep living for themselves, full throttle, straight ahead, choosing sinful behavior, and by so doing drifting farther and farther from God.

The people had forgotten to call on God. It was as though the heavens were shut up. No angelic messengers, no word from God. It is as though the former time of Exodus from Pharaoh and slavery and Egypt was of no consequence. They have a memory that is shorter than George’s snooze alarm on a Sunday morning! God’s people have little memory of the lasting deeds and actions of God’s love and promise. They have even begun thinking that they are the potter, giving shape and purpose to their own lives.

The prophet Isaiah wants God to tear open the heavens and come down so that everyone can see, so that everyone will recognize, so that everyone will acknowledge that God is indeed the creator of all, the Potter giving shape and form and purpose to creatures and to creation alike. Isaiah seeks restoration for God’s people and for the world in which they live.

In the Gospel of Mark we hear of the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. This coming of the Son of man welcomes us in the season of Advent. We turn our attention to a season synonymous with watching, working, and waiting for a day at once imminent and unknown. “*In those days*” there will be suffering, people will have forgotten God, they will be living for themselves, wars and violence will punctuate daily existence. Jesus tells his followers then and now that while others try to

plot and chart the time and attempt to figure out exactly when The Lord God will return; only the Father knows.

Jesus tells a story to shed light on the question of when. He uses the example of the fig tree pushing out new green branches, tender shoots, leaves, “when this is taking place” he says, “you know that summer is near.” So Jesus says when these things are taking place you know that God is near, at the very gates.

God is near. Advent, season of hope, comes around every year. And with it comes the recognition that we have drifted from God, even at times conveniently forgetting that God is with us. In a former time this season was marked with a theme of repentance. But in these days the theme pushes us toward the hope that is not only possible for us, but is gifted to us through God’s only Son, Jesus. On most days we hear more about wars and violence, injustice and prejudice, natural disasters and unrepentant hearts than I suspect any of us cares too. We often lose sight of the hope that is ours in Christ Jesus. Like the prophet Isaiah, we pray that God will come down grabbing the attention of a world suffering the effects of amnesia. We forget that God is the one who led Israel across the Red Sea, and the one who raised Jesus from the dead. As if we were in the days of Isaiah, God, Church, faith community, for an increasing number of people are only on the radar when it is convenient or someone needs something. And so we forget, like God’s people before us, that God has acted on our behalf leading us out from the bondage of sin and death through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. And God is acting now, forgiving our sins, amending life, and proclaiming a word of hope, making a way forward.

Advent comes calling out to us to get our attention, Keep Awake!” Harriet stood at the bottom of the stairs calling out to get George’s attention “wake up!” Stop neglecting God, because by so doing we are only being led farther and farther away. Keep Awake, Jesus tells his followers. He tells us to turn our lives around, to end the things that are warring within us, to stop the violence that seizes life, to rebuild community, to work on the side of justice, and to continually call on God in prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

Isaiah believed that God was hiding, staying away, because he was angry at the people. We believe that God is not hiding, that God is present with us now revealing himself to us in communion’s bread and wine and baptism’s water and Word. In the person of Jesus Christ, the Savior comes down from heaven offering life to all. To those at war, those engaged in violent acts, those who don’t get a fair chance, those whose lives are ravaged by natural disaster, and those whose hearts are every bit as hardened as the Pharaoh’s. Christ comes to you and me offering to us another way to live and work and play. Advent announces the one who comes into our world and into our lives with the lasting promise of life, which gives us hope.

We pray “Come Lord Jesus!” Come and take away the chaos, the suffering, the warring, the injustice, the prejudice, the heartache, that is present in the world and in my life and replace them with your peace, hope, joy and love.

George got dressed, came down, ate his breakfast, and on that First Sunday in Advent, preached a message of hope. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
 so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
 and the fire causes water to boil—
 to make your name known to your adversaries,
 so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
 you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
 no ear has perceived,
 no eye has seen any God besides you,
 who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
 those who remember you in your ways.
 But you were angry, and we sinned;
 because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
 and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
 We all fade like a leaf,
 and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
 or attempts to take hold of you;
 for you have hidden your face from us,
 and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
 we are the clay, and you are our potter;
 we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
 and do not remember iniquity forever.
 Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,
 and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
 and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8.

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