

*Jesus  
was in the  
wilderness  
forty days*

MARK 1:13



# 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.

*This morning we extend a joyful welcome to the members and friends of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, N. George St. and to Pastor Schlegel for their companionship through the Epiphany season (8:00am liturgy).*

**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](http://www.stpaulsyork.org). Please remember that during the Season of Lent we are giving to "God's Global Barnyard".

**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.

**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	<a href="mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net">st.paulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	<a href="mailto:kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
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**First Sunday in Lent**  
**February 18, 2024**  
**Holy Communion 8:00 AM & 10:30AM**  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting 4

*One hundred eighty-eight years ago on this very date the first meeting to organize an English speaking Lutheran Church in York was held. Officers were elected. The second meeting was held on February 25 where the constitution was adopted forming the first English language Lutheran Church west of the Susquehanna, thus forming St. Paul's Lutheran Church.*

**PRELUDE**                      *Fantasy on Forty Days and Forty Nights*                      Kenneth Leighton

***Stand***

**8:00 AM Blessing And Dedication of Altar Appointments and Vestments** (*insert*)

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

ENTRANCE HYMN      *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days (ELW 319)*

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and single notes or simple chords in the left hand. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with line numbers 1 through 4 indicating the four voices. The hymn concludes with a double bar line.

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

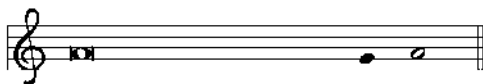
prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

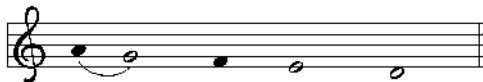
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.



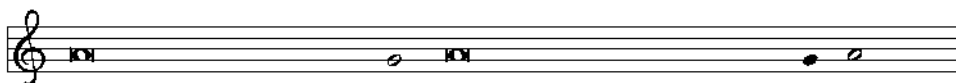
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



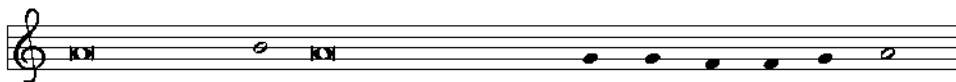
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

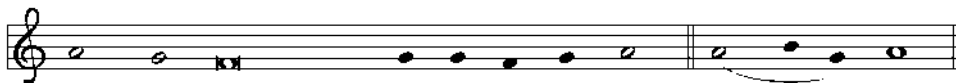


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

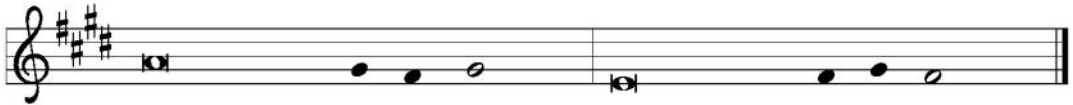
Let us pray....O Lord God, you led your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your Church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

*Sit*

# CHILDRENS' SERMON

**FIRST READING**      Genesis 9:8-17      (back page)

**PSALMODY** Psalm 25:1-9 (ELW #5) *The organ introduces the Psalm tone then the Psalm is sung unaccompanied by cantor/congregation.*



- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my | trust in you;\*  
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.
- 2 **Let none who look to you be | put to shame;\***  
**let the treacherous be disappointed | in their schemes.**
- 3 Show me your | ways, O LORD,\*  
and teach | me your paths.
- 4 **Lead me in your | truth and teach me,\***  
**for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.**
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,\*  
for they are from | everlasting.
- 6 **Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;\***  
**remember me according to your love**  
**and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.**
- 7 Gracious and upright | is the LORD;\*  
therefore he teaches sinners | in his way.
- 8 **He guides the humble in | doing right\***  
**and teaches his way | to the lowly.**
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are | love and faithfulness\*  
to those who keep his covenant and his | testimonies.

**SECOND READING**     1 Peter 3:18-22     (back age)

***Stand***

**VERSE** *Sung by all*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,

*Continued on next page...*



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**HOLY GOSPEL** Mark 1:9-15 (back page)  
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**

*Stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *When We are Tested* (ACS 922)



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

## 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.*

O God, we give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken us especially that of Martin Luther, renewer of the church, whom we commemorate today. Hear us, Lord.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats that are endangered. Hear us, Lord.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. Hear us, Lord.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any who are at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, Lord.

**Your mercy is great.**



O God, grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of all who are home-bound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling. Hear us, Lord.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

O God, we remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. Hear us, Lord.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, Accompany us on our journey and receive the prayers of our hearts, through 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 *Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing*

Paul Kickstat

10:30 AM Chancel Choir *Show Me Thy Ways*

Walter L. Pelz

## OFFERTORY



## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you,

**O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**DIALOGUE**     *Sung by Pastor and congregation*

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 sung.*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, 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, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With [name/s and] your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O  
God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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, 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 bread.
6. Consume the communion bread.
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.

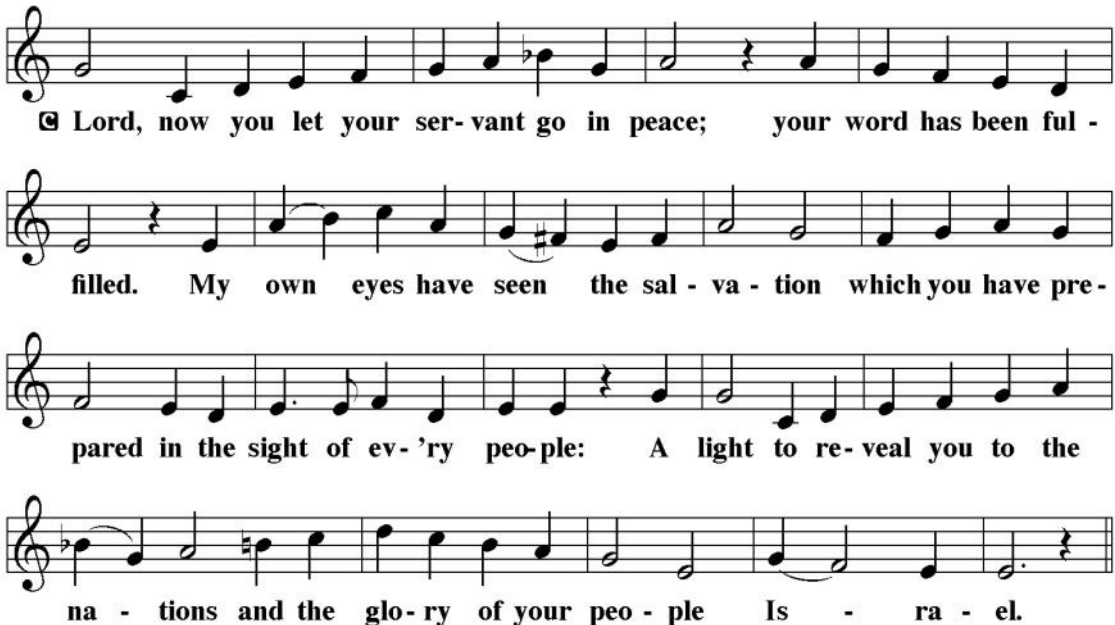
## COMMUNION HYMN *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (ELW 461 ) next pages*

*Stand*

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen**

### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



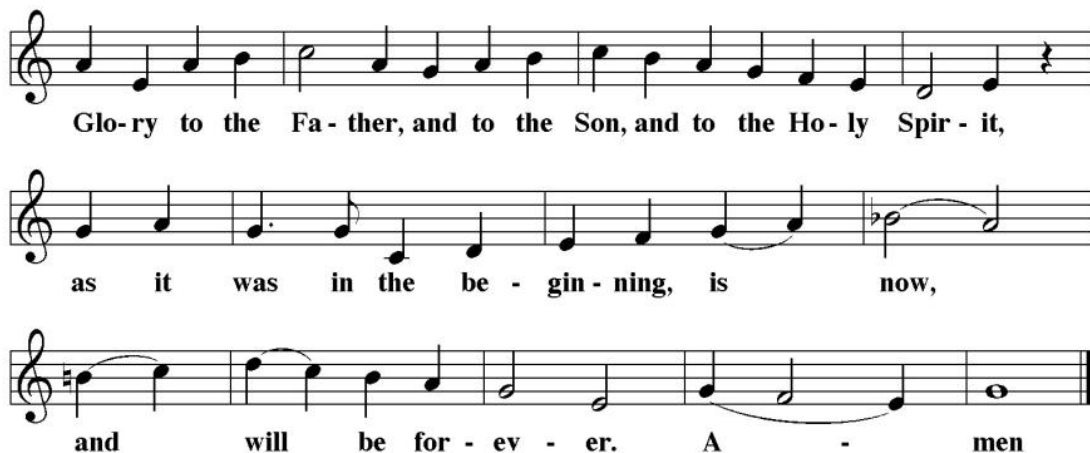
Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -

pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the

na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.





### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### BLESSING

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

### DISMISSAL

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

*The people remain standing until the minister and servers exit the nave.*


### POSTLUDE

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

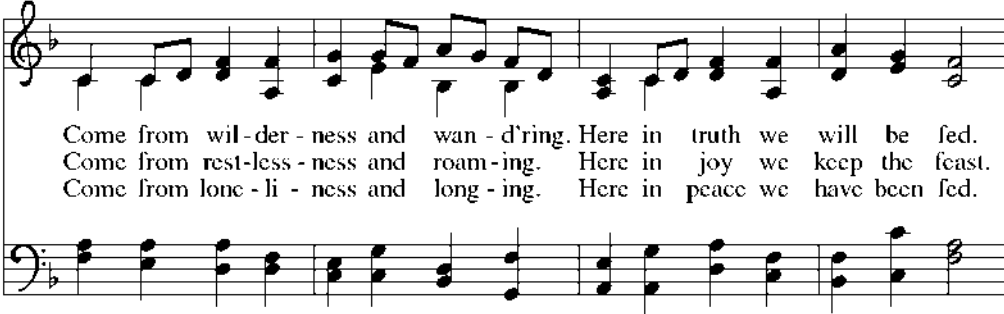
Seth Bingham

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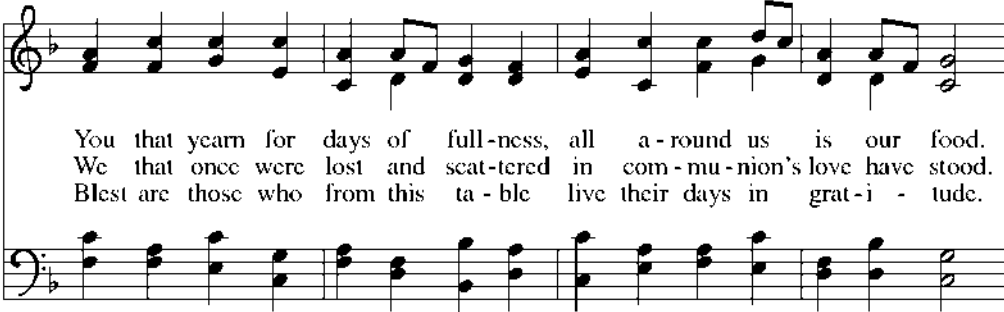
# All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.  
2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
Come from rest-less - ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a - round us is our food.  
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.  
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

## *Serving the Lord with Gladness*

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Altar Clean-up
02/18	8:00 AM	Jennifer Ports	James Palmer	Dale Smith	John Monk	Kathleen Lemke, Lois Ann Schroeder	Team 3E: Sammy Barnes, Norma Shue, Cliff Beck, Sheridan Palmer	Tim & Melissa Yakim
02/18	10:30 AM	Aaron Jacobs	Tonya Cave	Chris Lipp		Gail Kerchner, Tina Llorente	Team 3L Dan Garber, Joe Guarriello, Larry Becker	Gail Kerchner, Deb Becker

### **This Week at St. Paul's**

Church office open 8:00 a.m.—4pm Tues—Thurs

#### **Sunday, February 18**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
8:00 AM Blessing & Dedication of New Altar Paraments  
9:15 AM Sunday School for All  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream  
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

#### **Monday, February 19—President's Day**

Office Closed

7:00 PM Council Meeting—Christ Hall

#### **Tuesday, February 20**

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

#### **Wednesday, February 21**

10:00 AM Preschool & Pastor in Nave  
10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall  
11:30 AM Mpuguso Meeting—Christ Hall  
6:00 PM Lenten Dinner  
7:00 PM Lenten Vespers

#### **Thursday, February 22**

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

#### **Friday, February 23**

10:00 AM Pantry Meeting—Pantry

#### **Sunday, February 25**

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



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

**Food Pantry News**—We need **CANNED SOUPS**! Please put your donations in the shopping cart in the Good Shepherd Room. We are always in need of paper grocery bags with handles and plastic bags. Money donations are gratefully accepted as well. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”. Volunteers are also needed for a variety of tasks. Contact Patty Snyder, Ken Hinkle Teresa Rohrbaugh or the church office (717-843-8155) to volunteer.





## Lenten Worship

### Sundays 8:00 & 10:30 AM

New Members Class	9:15 AM	Good Shepherd Room
The Psalms	9:15 AM	Christ Hall



### Wednesdays

6:00 PM	Supper	Christ Hall
7:00 PM	Vespers	Nave



March 24	Palm/Passion Sunday Handbells, Brass, Organ	Combined liturgy	9:15 AM
March 25	York Conference Vespers Combined Conference Choir	Hosted by St. Paul's	7:00 PM
March 28	Maundy Thursday Foot washing/Stripping of Altar		7:00 PM
March 29	Good Friday Cellos Reproaches of the Cross		7:00 PM
March 30	The Vigil of Easter		7:00 PM
March 31	The Resurrection of Our Lord Organ, Trumpets, Piano Duet	Combined liturgy	9:15 AM

**Wednesday Mid-Week Lent Soup & Bread Supper, Christ Hall 6:00 PM**  
**Vespers with Preaching, Church Nave 7:00 PM, Starting February 21**

The Wednesdays of Lent offer opportunities to strengthen Christian fellowship. A simple supper of soup and bread will be held in Christ Hall at 6:00 PM. Volunteers are needed to sign up to bring soup and bread for each of the five Wednesdays. We will need at least three crock pots of soup for each week.

Following the supper Evening Prayer, Vespers, will be held in the church nave at 7:00 PM. We have invited the congregations of Grace, St. Peter's and Christ Manchester to join us for all or part of the evening. For those who cannot join in person please do join us through the live stream at 7:00 PM. If you would like to provide soup for one on the Wednesdays in Lent please contact the church office or sign up on the bulletin board at the Springettsbury Ave Entrance. Thank you in advance for joining in the meal preparations and offering your prayer and thanksgiving to God.

**Lenten Devotional Booklets, *Walking in His Ways Foot Steps to the Cross***

Lenten devotional booklets are available in the narthex on the oval library table and in the Good Shepherd Room on the breakfront. The theme "*Walk in His Ways*" is from Psalm 128 verse one. In this season of Lent daily devotions strengthen our individual families as well as our church family at St. Paul's. In addition to the Lenten booklets for adults, there is one geared for children, *Foot Steps to the Cross*. This booklet is accompanied by a sticker chart. Directions are provided on the sticker chart and the daily foot print stickers numbered for each day of lent are provided in the booklet. Please remember that you need both the chart and the booklet! The Christian Education Committee is hopeful that these resources will support you and your family in the Lenten journey.

**Lenten Mid-week Offering—God's Global Barnyard**

The offerings from the mid-week Lenten services are designated for God's Global Barnyard, a project undertaken by the elementary Sunday school classes. Donations may be made by using your Lenten envelope provided in the packet, by marking a special white color envelope located in the pew rack "Barnyard" and placing it in the offering basin, or through the website by using the Donate Now designation for God's Global Barnyard. In advance thank you for your generous support of the project and for working in conjunction with the Sunday school children. The children look forward to totaling all of the offerings and then with a dollar amount in hand beginning the hard work of figuring out what animals to purchase to help a family or families in a developing nation. We anticipate their report to the congregation during the Easter Season as they share with us the outcome of their work. We extend a special thank you to the Sunday school teachers who work with the children and provide oversight throughout the project.

**The Lutheran Men's Club of York** sponsors Wednesday morning Lenten Devotions **for men and women** during breakfast at the Lyndon Diner on Rt. 30. The time of fellowship is provided for both men and women and calls upon pastors from the York area to led the devotional. The start time is 7:30 AM, however, many folks arrive a bit early to share in conversation. Participants order from the menu and are responsible for the cost of their breakfast. Reservations are not needed. This year's presenters are as follows:

Feb 21 - Vicar John Sheaf - Pastor with Trinity, Wrightsville

Feb 28 - Rev Stan Reep - Pastor with St. Paul's

Mar 6 - Rev Andrew Berdahl - Pastor with Advent

Mar 13 - Rev Katherine Brantner - Pastor with St. Paul - Hametown

Mar 20 - Rev James Watt - Pastor with Christ

Mar 27 - Rev Thomas McKee - Retired Pastor. He will administer the Sacrament.



**Announcements and Up-dates for the week February 18, 2024**

**The next St. Paul’s Book Club** will meet on March 7, 4:00-5:00 PM at the Panera on South Queen Street. We will discuss Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger. The April meeting is set for April 11<sup>th</sup> with the book to be announced. All are welcome.

**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 for collections. These donations are a blessing to our neighbors. Union’s volunteers are very appreciative of our cooperation and our help.

**Sunday Morning, Preschool through Grade 6 children** will meet upstairs in their age grouped classrooms where they will be learning about Jesus’ early life including the coming of the Wisemen, Jesus’ baptism, the calling of the disciples, and some of Jesus’ miracles. Often children get to act out the stories, wonder about the characters and how they might have felt, and discuss ways that they can grow their own walk as Christians. This is a great time to start your child in a class. Some of the best stories are explored during this winter and spring season. Come!

**Tanzania Mission Trip**

Those representing St. Paul’s congregation this June are:

Kesetbrhan Keleta	Ezra Ericson	Anna Herdson	Elizabeth Mitchell
Stan Reep	Iris Ericson	Paula Herdson	Cameron Dickerson
Emily Reep	Steve Heistand	Drew Herdson	Margaret Dickerson
Allen Reep	Sue Heistand	Keith Kates	Tina Llorente
Tristan Ericson	Scott Herdson	Christine Kates	Jacyln Kinkella
Jessica Ericson	Nicki Herdson	Laura Ferree	Cheryl Reifsteck

The group of travelers divides into 4 groups reflecting; Youth, Medical, Educational, and Pastoral Concerns. The children and youth plan to engage with peers learning of similarities and differences in growing up in a Christian community. Those interested in medical care, the new hospital being built in Matayma, and local health clinics will engage with health care professionals. Those who share a passion for education, especially music, will learn educational approaches as well as the enrichment of music. Lastly, others will learn of the work of the local congregation, Mpuguso Lutheran Church, and the Konde Diocese. Please know that the costs associated with the trip have escalated since planning began a year ago. Please do give a gift to help offset the enormous expense of the mission trip. You may do so through a “special” envelope located in the pew rack and marking it “Tanzania”. Thank you!

**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.

**Lent 1 B, 2024 Genesis 9:8-17    1 Peter 3:18-22    Mark 1:9-15**

My best friend's mom was willing to tackle just about any project that involved fabric, a sewing machine, a staple gun, tacks and a hammer. So in high school when I wanted to put to use a "How To" book that my dad had given to me on upholstery, Mrs. Stroup was the logical person to ask for help. She had reupholstered lots of stuff. She took me under her wing and brought me step by step from tearing off the old fabric, stripping it down to the frame, adding new padding and finishing it off with new fabric. I found the challenge appealing and achieved great satisfaction with the finished product. Mrs. Stroup was encouraging, forgiving, supportive, and always fostered a sense that anything was possible. She provided me with accolades on my upholstery project. But more than the accolades was how she applied aspects of the project to daily life and living.

Elaine her neighbor wanted to learn how to reupholster. My friend's mom thought that this wouldn't be that much different than working with me. Elaine, as it turned out didn't like to get dirty. She didn't want to rip or tear or sew or tack or hammer. What Elaine wanted was a beautifully finished product without really too much work. Mrs. Stroup called to see if I would help out. I couldn't watch my friend's mom get stuck doing all the work alone. So I pitched in. I ripped and tore and pried out staples and tacks and prepared the chair for fabric.

Elaine arrived with the bolt of new fabric, a slippery, satin, multicolored stripe. "I thought it was just beautiful" said Elaine as she unrolled a yard or so of the sleek fabric. It certainly was beautiful, except we had suggested that she select something solid, or an all over pattern, something that would be easy to work with and to match up and something that wouldn't be slippery to sew.

Elaine didn't really want to learn how to reupholster. She would have been better off hiring a professional rather seeking free assistance from her neighbor and a high school kid. She wanted every stripe straight and all of the stripes meticulously to line up perfectly when they crossed over from front to back. She wanted the seat cushion to have the stripes line up no matter which way you turned the cushion. Elaine would have driven a professional upholsterer mad. But we managed to complete the project.

When the chair was finished Elaine was thrilled with her results! Sid, her husband, stopped with his pickup truck. The chair was loaded, wrapped tightly with plastic, and secured in the bed of the truck. Mrs. Stroup and I waved as the two of them headed down the driveway. Then we looked at each other and simultaneously and said "I'll never do that again."

Maybe you have said it too? "I'll never do that again?" It could be with little things or with big things. Skipping homework only to be greeted the next class period with a quiz on the material you should have studied. "I'll never do that again." Foregoing a reservation at a restaurant only to be turned away or being confronted with the interminable wait. "I'll never do that again." Driving through a snow storm and after a great deal of tension and anxiety you finally reach your destination. "I'll never do that again."

The flood waters receded. Noah built an altar and made a pleasing offering to God. God smelled the pleasing odor and was moved deep in his heart. God said “I’ll never do that again.” We pick up the story with a conversation between God and Noah, and Noah’s sons; Shem, Ham and Japheth. The subject of the conversation is the Great flood. God is telling them “I’ll never do that again.”

It is one thing to say that you will never do something again, but we tend to be forgetful. Before we know it a similar situation arises and we are right back at it. We need something or someone to remind us. And it seems, according to the Old Testament reading this morning, that God is no different. As a sort of post it note God places a bow in the sky. The rainbow is going to serve as a reminder to God of his promise to humankind. *“I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the water shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.”*

We don’t always get rainbow colored post it notes to remind us of the things that we say we won’t do again. With the homework it may be a parent whose voice serves as the bow reminding of the potential quiz. With the reservation it may be a spouse whose voice serves as the bow reminding of the wait. With the inclement weather and driving conditions it may be the voice of children who serve as the bow reminding you of their fearful recollections. I know that it was my friend’s mom who for years served as the bow reminding me of the situation with Elaine and not to take on projects when you don’t honestly know what all is involved.

We would like to think that God remembers everything. Except that I am glad that God in Christ Jesus remembers my sin no more. I am relieved that God forgets those offensive things that I have said and done and for which I am sorry. The biblical text this morning reminds us that God does in fact need to be reminded. With the covenant in Genesis he puts a bow, a rainbow in the sky to remind him of that promise. With the New covenant God makes with us in Christ Jesus, the sign is a loaf and cup, the bread and wine, his body and blood, Holy Communion. And with this sign come; encouragement, forgiveness, support, and the countless possibilities that life in Christ Jesus holds for the recipient. When the bread is placed in our hands and the cup pressed to our lips the words *“given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sin”* are spoken. With this sign we receive exactly what is promised. God remembers us and remembers our sin no more. The gift of his only Son, Christ Jesus, reminds us of God’s endless love, and his promises to us.

In those early days after the Great flood God was communicating to Noah and his sons that they would not have to live in fear of another flood destroying every living creature. “I’ll never do that again” said God. God’s word of promise made seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night to continue. They *shall not cease* says the scripture text. And to insure that they don’t and to insure that God will “never do that again” God places a bow in the sky as a reminder.

And now in these last days after the Event of Christ, his suffering, death and resurrection, God is communicating to us so that we need not live in fear. This time the sign for us is not a bow in the sky. God gives; loaf and cup, bread and wine, body and blood, Holy Communion, assuring us of his endless love. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17**

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

**Psalms 25:1-10****SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22**

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38.

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