



Jesus took her
by the hand
and lifted
her up

MARK 1:31

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

www.stpaulsyork.org

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

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

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

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 4, 2024
Holy Communion 8:00 AM & 10:30AM
Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1

PRELUDE

Prelude sur l'Introite de l'Epiphanie

Maurice Durufle

Stand turning to face the font

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

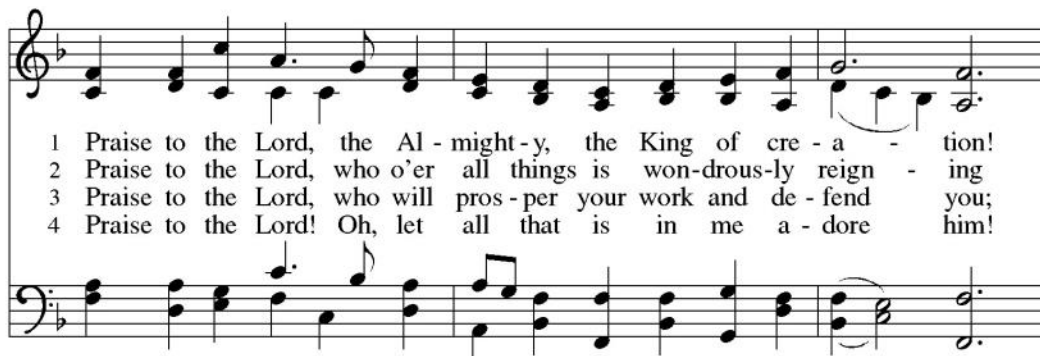
Most merciful God,

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

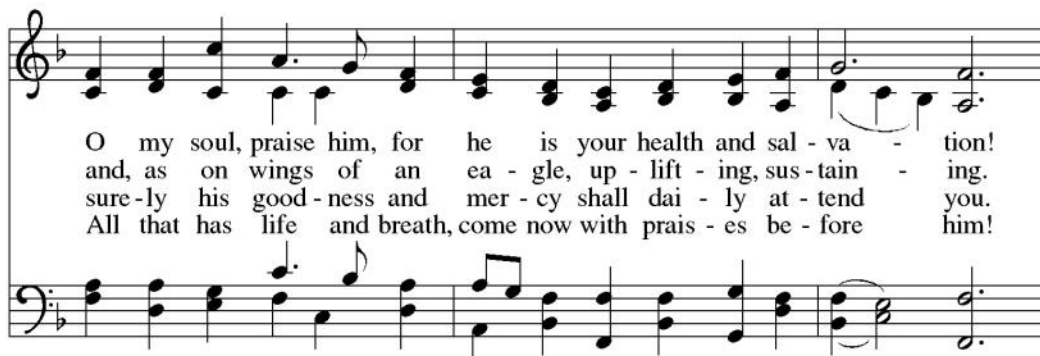
Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and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

Amen


ENTRANCE HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (LBW 543)


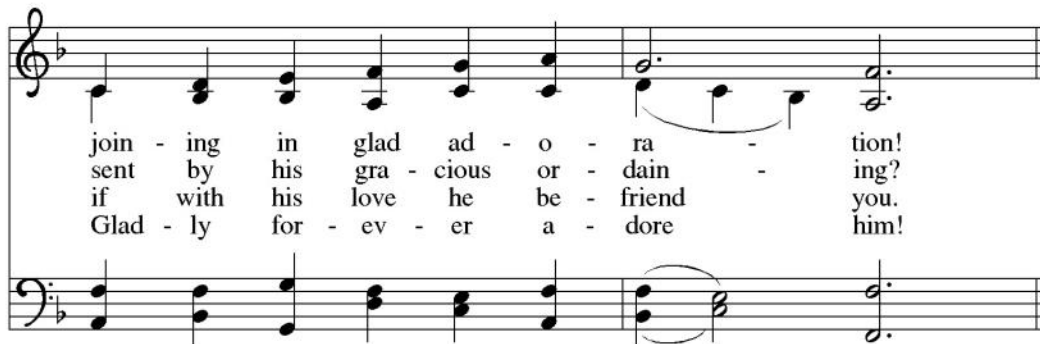
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus-tain - ing.
 sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy shall dai - ly at-tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe with joy what the Scriptures proclaim, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Sit

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:21-31 (back cover)

PSALMODY Psalm 147 1-12, 21c *spoken responsively by verse*

¹ Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!*

How pleasant it is to honor | him with praise!

² **The LORD re- | builds Jerusalem;***
he gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.

³ He heals the | brokenhearted*
and binds | up their wounds.

⁴ **He counts the number | of the stars***
and calls them all | by their names.

⁵ Great is our LORD and might- | y in power;*
there is no limit | to his wisdom.

⁶ **The LORD lifts | up the lowly,***
but casts the wicked | to the ground.

⁷ Sing to the LORD | with thanksgiving;*
make music to our God up- | on the harp.

⁸ **He covers the heav- | ens with clouds***
and prepares rain | for the earth;

⁹ he makes grass to grow up- | on the mountains*
and green plants to | serve mankind.

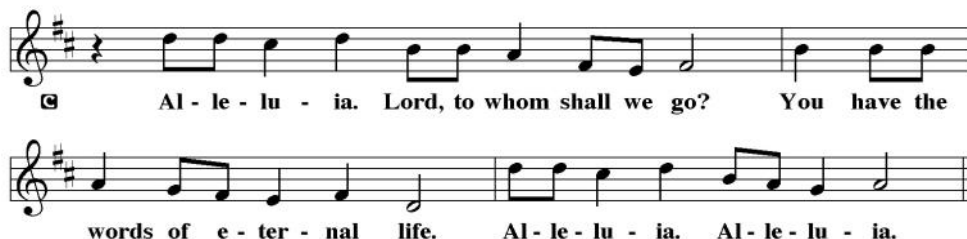
¹⁰ **He provides food for | flocks and herds***
and for the young ravens | when they cry.

¹¹ He is not impressed by the might | of a horse;*
he has no pleasure in the strength | of a man;

¹² **but the LORD has pleasure in | those who fear him,***
in those who await his | gracious favor. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 (back cover)

Stand
VERSE Sung by all



HOLY GOSPEL Mark 1:29-39 (back cover)
 The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
At the conclusion of the Gospel.
 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

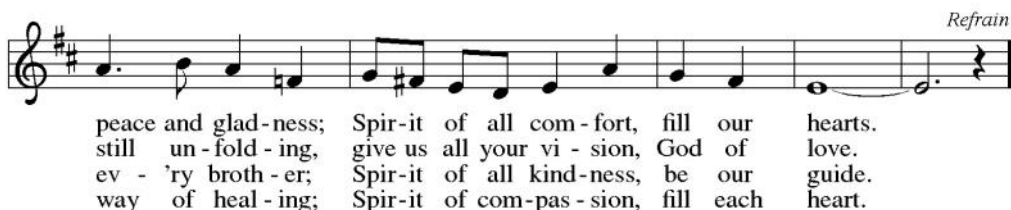
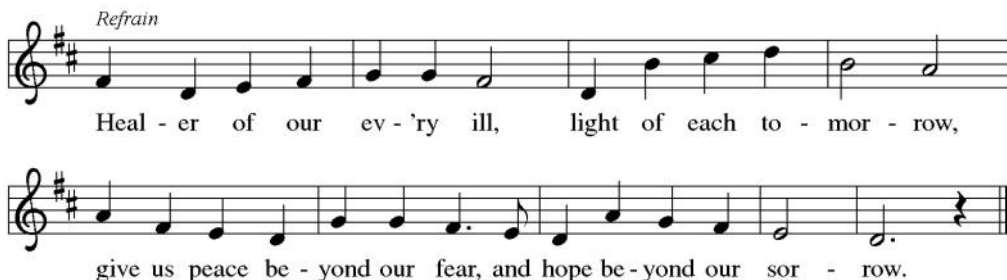
Sit
SERMON

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANNOINTING

Those desiring the laying on of hands and anointing may come forward by the center aisle to one of the stations. Worshipers may kneel or stand at the station.

During the anointing the people sing

HYMN *Healer of Our Every Ill* (WOV 738)



Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Everlasting God, bring your healing power to the church. Give us a spirit of unity as we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Provide food and shelter for all people. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into an understanding of unity. Make them serve with compassion. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all who are in need (*especially*). God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God you call each star by name, remember us and all who have died. Comfort all who mourn with your mercy and care, giving us hope in your promised salvation.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, 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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

8:00 AM

10:30 AM Chancel Choir

Offertoire

On the Other Side of the Water

Theodore Dubois

Wayne L. Wold

OFFERING

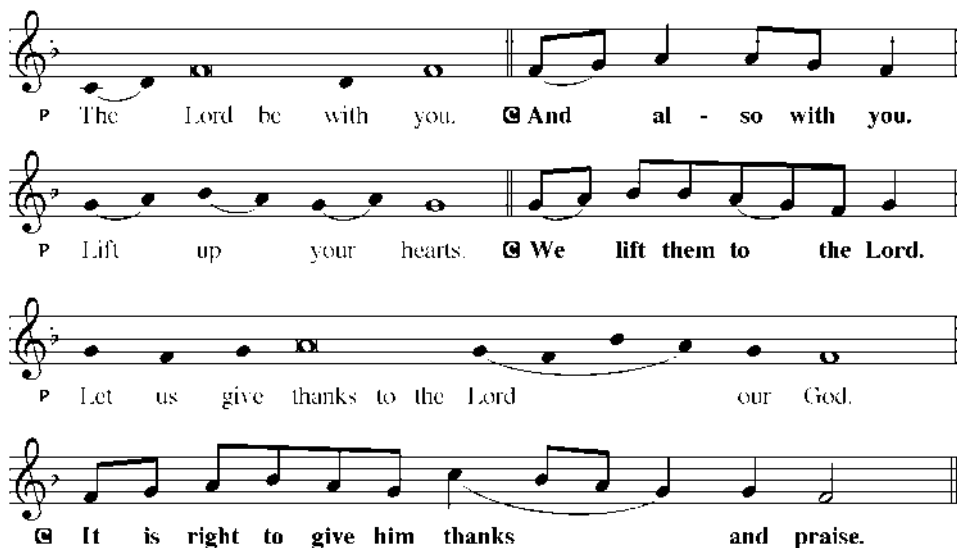


OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,

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

DIALOGUE *Sung by Pastor and congregation*



Four staves of musical notation in G-clef, 2/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: P The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you. The second staff continues the melody. The lyrics are: P Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord. The third staff continues the melody. The lyrics are: P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. The fourth staff continues the melody. The lyrics are: ☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

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

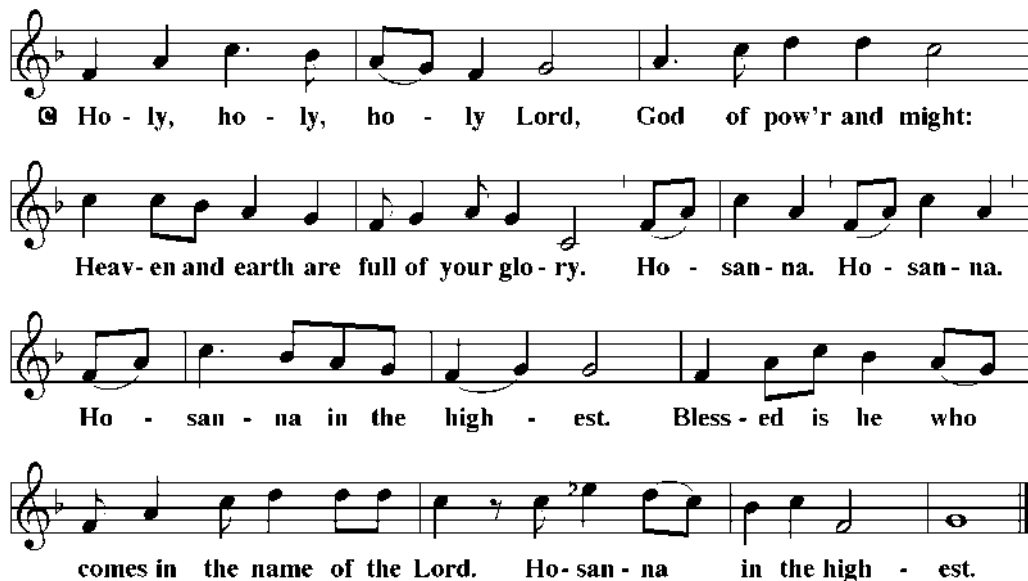
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. 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.*



Four staves of musical notation in G-clef, 2/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: ☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might: The second staff continues the melody. The lyrics are: Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na. The third staff continues the melody. The lyrics are: Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who The fourth staff continues the melody. The lyrics are: comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

☩ 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. Ho - san - na.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life;

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.

You rescued Israel, your chosen people.

Through the prophets you renewed your promise;

and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son,

who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom

and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup

we remember the life our Lord offered for us.

And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power

to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,

the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,

that we who receive the Lord's body and blood

may live to the praise of your glory

and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

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

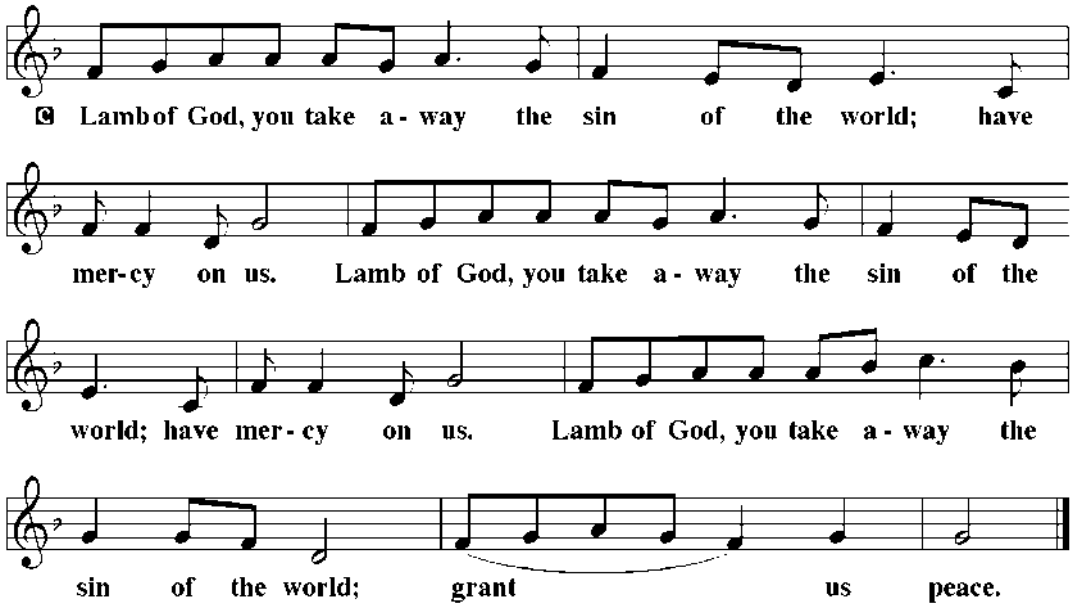
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

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.

Sit

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

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

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

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle (about 10 adults per side).*
- 2. Communion glasses are placed on credence tables at the front pews (left and right side).*
- 3. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 4. Take your place along the chancel step. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.*
- 5. Extend your hands to receive the communion host.*
- 6. Consume the communion host.*
- 7. Hold the communion glass with both hands at chest height so that the communion assistant can easily pour the wine into the glass.*
- 8. Consume the wine before you leave the chancel edge.*
- 9. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 10. Return to your pew using the side aisle.*

COMMUNION HYMN *O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come (LBW 360) next page*

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

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

HYMN *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (LBW 559) next pages*

DISMISSAL

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

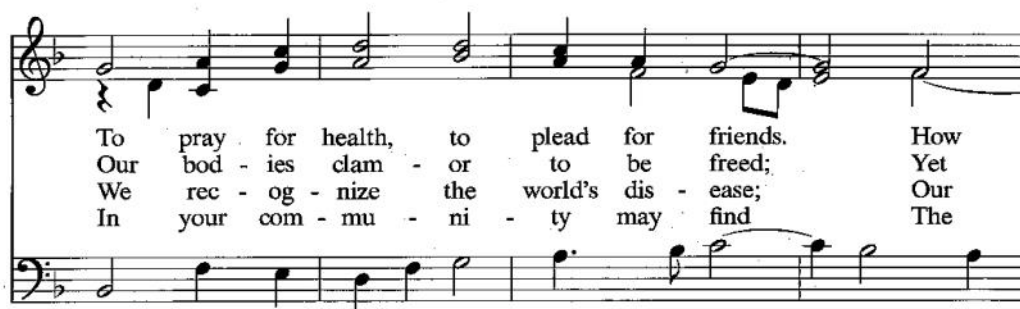
POSTLUDE *Fugue on the Carillon of Soissons Cathedral* Maurice Duruflé

360

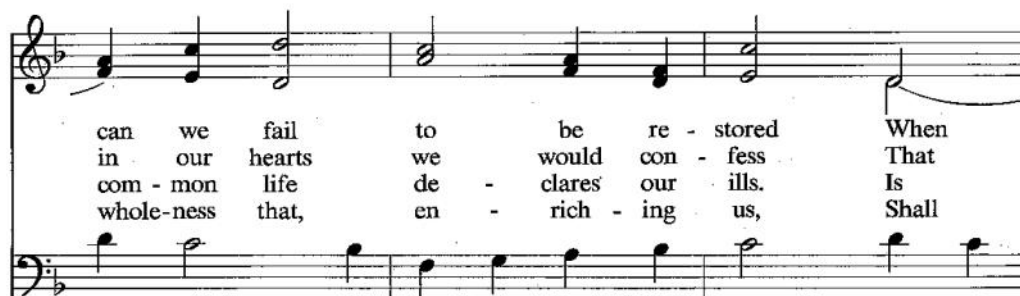
O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come



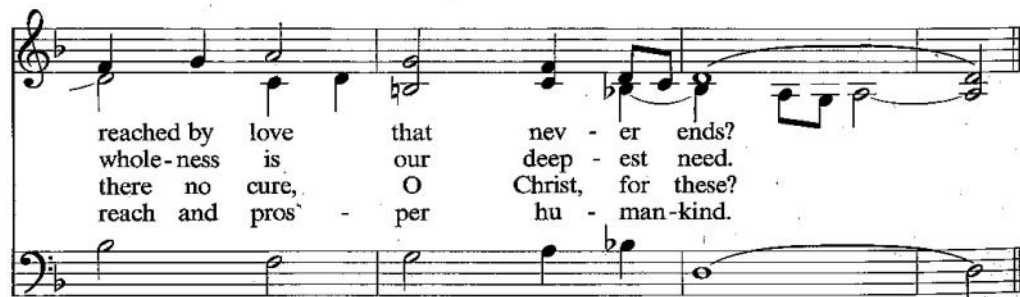
1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come
 2 From ev - 'ry ail - ment flesh en - dures
 3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health
 4 Grant that we all, made one in faith,



To pray for health, to plead for friends. How
 Our bod - ies clam - or to be freed; Yet
 We rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease; Our
 In your com - mu - ni - ty may find The



can we fail to be re - stored When
 in our hearts we would con - fess That
 com - mon life de - clares our ills. Is
 whole-ness that, en - rich - ing us, Shall



reached by love that nev - er ends?
 whole-ness is our deep - est need.
 there no cure, O Christ, for these?
 reach and pros - per hu - man-kind.

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1 Oh. for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great re-deem-er's praise,
 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
 4 He breaks the pow'r of can-celed sin; he sets the pris-'ner free.
 5 To God all glor-y, praise, and love be now and ev-er giv'n



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
 to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
 sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
 His blood can make the foul-est clean; his blood a-vails for me.
 by saints be-low and saints a-bove. the church in earth and heav'n.



Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Asst. Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Altar Clean-up
02/04	8:00 AM	Harold Sargeant	Denise Rider	Kathy Monk		Mike & Linda Hansen	Team 1E: Jeff Riese, John Monk, Bob Reed	Larry & Janet Moore
02/04	10:30 AM	Janet Fitch	Tom Gibson	Allen Reep	Deb Becker	Mike & Becky Bingham	Team 1L: Dave Kopp, Carol Woodbury, Darren Smith,	Tonya Cave, Sandy Dicken-sheets



*Today's Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God
 in memory of the Heilig & Smith Families by Greg Smith & Mary Heilig*

**The Season of Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14,
 with liturgies at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM.**

This Week at St. Paul's
Church office open 8:00 a.m.—4pm Mon—Thurs

Sunday, February 4

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, February 5

7:00 PM Preschool Commiteeee—ZOOM

Tuesday, February 6

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

Wednesday, February 7

10:00 AM Preschool & Pastor in Nave
10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall

Thursday, February 8

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

Friday, February 9

5:30 PM Valentine's Dinner Young Adults

Sunday, February 11 Transfiguration

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:15 AM Sunday School for All
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
11:45 AM 2nd Sunday Sandwiches
12 noon Holy Communion Class—Youth Room
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Announcements and Up-dates for the week February 4, 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 11th 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 Classes 9:15-10:15 AM

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!

Witness Committee to Host Senior Luncheon—Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is quickly approaching and the Witness Committee invites our seniors (65 and over) to lunch after the Ash Wednesday service, February 14, 2024. The service will begin at 11:00 a.m. and be followed by lunch. The menu will be a baked spaghetti casserole, salad, bread, dessert, and beverages. If you don't drive and would like to come, we will arrange for your transportation. Come and socialize with friends. Please contact Patee st.paulsyork@comcast.net or (717) 843-8155, let her know if you are coming, if you have any dietary restrictions and if you will need a ride to and from church. The deadline to respond is February 9.

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.

“As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue, they entered the home of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.” This biblical passage substantiates for me the practice and tradition for gathering in the home for communal Sunday dinners. Jesus and the disciples presumably had planned to gather for a post worship luncheon only to discover that Peter’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever.

I have envisioned this scene with Peter’s wife being attentive to her mother, and making certain that her needs were met, decided to forgo laying out a meal for her husband, his brother Andrew, their fishing buddies James and John and the new guy they have been following; Jesus.

The surprise is that when they told Jesus how sick, how feverish, the senior member of the household was, he didn’t waste any time. He entered the house, came to her, took her by the hand and lifted her up. And the fever left her. And she began to serve them the Sabbath meal that had been lovingly prepared on the day before.

One summer, a number of years ago, a brilliant dance instructor presented at the Chautauqua Institute. She used body movement to make sense of the poetry she witnessed through observing people in a variety of situations; from people walking and playing fetch with their dogs in Miller Park on a Sunday morning, to the young girls and boys selling The Chautauquan Daily newspaper on Bestor Plaza. She was able to capture what she saw and instantly relay it into graceful gestures of arm and body movement.

The dance instructor was called upon that particular Sunday to capture the Bible reading for morning worship. So the lector read the assigned passage. There was a period of silence. And then in fluid lyrical movement the instructor gave visual shape to the audible words spoken moments before by the lector. The reading this morning lends itself to such treatment.

Jesus came

and took her by the hand

and lifted her up.

Then the fever left her,

and she began to serve them.

The shape and movement of the text leads us to an understating that service to Jesus begins after he has lifted us up and the fever has left us.

Fever; historically this has been the time of year for fevers. Fevers accompany sickness. We tend to take a temperature to see if we are anywhere near normal, or in an acceptable range. We may discover that we are running a low grade temperature or experience at any moment acceleration into a full-blown fever. Fever; often equated with sickness, physical sickness, but rarely talked about as the underlying condition of our human sinfulness, our separation from God. We may not be aware of how low grade or elevated our fever really is. Saint Jerome who preached on this very text in Bethlehem about 1,600 years ago said:

“O that he would come to our house and enter and heal the fever of our sins by his command. For each and every one of us suffers from fever. When I grow angry, I am feverish. So many vices, so many fevers. But let us ask the apostles to call upon Jesus to come to us and touch our hand; for if he touches our hand, at once the fever flees (Corpus Christianorum, LXXVIII, 468).” Now it is not our theological position to pray to the saints, to the apostles, we rather pray with them. But 1600 years ago Jerome was preaching of the cure for our fever coming through the command of Jesus. And even now we continue to need the healing touch of Jesus to restore humanity, to restore us, to health and wholeness.

Throughout the centuries, women and men have born witness to the need of Jesus’ healing touch to restore what is fevered, what is not normal; what prevents us from getting up and serving. Some two hundred years ago John Whittier, an American Quaker poet and an advocate to abolish slavery in this country, was aware of the fever of our unjust and self-centered ways. In addition to his anti-slavery writings he is probably remembered for penning the words of what has become a great American hymn:

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,

Forgive our feverish ways;

Reclothe us in our rightful mind

In purer lives Thy service find,

In deeper reverence praise.

John Henry Newman, contemporary of John Whittier, connected the fever of life being over when our work, our service is done in his well-known prayer: *“O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.”*

It is Christ Jesus who comes to us. In the fever of accusations, unjust trial and sentencing, Jesus is lifted up on a cross to die crushing the fevers that put him there and the fevers of our humanity. It is Christ Jesus who comes to us as Easter’s resurrected one in the bread of Holy Communion and the words absolving us of both the low grade and full-blown fevers that threaten to overtake us. Taking us by the hand, he lifts us up from loneliness and despair, and through his merciful presence with us forgives us so that we are free to serve him and our neighbor. Through Christ’s command we are set free from the fevers that keep us down and prevent us from being lifted up. With Jesus in the house we are freed for service and welcome, like it was that day in Capernaum with his disciples at the home of Simon Peter. When they all went home after worship to share in a meal together, only to discover that the matriarch of the household lie ill with a fever; Jesus acts to bring about healing, restoration and hope. Peter’s mother-in-law served them that day. And such news spread.

Jesus may not be the new guy for you to follow. He may be more of a trusted lifelong friend. He comes to our house today taking us by the hand, placing himself in the palm of our hand in the bread of holy communion, lifting us up, so that the fever of life dissipates long enough for us to serve him, and our neighbor who is in need. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
 Has it not been told you from the beginning?
 Have you not understood from the foundations
 of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
 and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
 who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
 and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught,
 and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
 scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
 when he blows upon them, and they wither,
 and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
 or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
 Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
 calling them all by name;
 because he is great in strength,
 mighty in power,
 not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
 and speak, O Israel,

"My way is hidden from the LORD,
 and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
 The LORD is the everlasting God,
 the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
 his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
 and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
 and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew
 their strength,
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
 they shall run and not be weary,
 they shall walk and not faint.

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Next Sunday's Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9.

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Tracks 1 and 2
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