A stylized, artistic illustration. In the center, a man and a woman are depicted from the chest up, holding hands. The man is in the background, with his eyes closed and a serene expression. The woman is in the foreground, looking directly at the viewer with a gentle smile. They are surrounded by vibrant, stylized flowers in shades of yellow, orange, and purple. The background is a deep purple with a textured, mottled appearance. The overall style is reminiscent of folk art or a woodcut print.

*Abide  
in my love*

JOHN 15:9

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

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

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

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

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

**WELCOME** Thank you for being with us.

**We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition** (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 188 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) or use the QR Code provided.

**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.



Lutheran Church in York, PA - St.  
Paul's Lutheran...

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

## Sixth Sunday of Easter Sunday, May 5, 2024 Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM

**PRELUDE**

*Jesus Shall Reign*

Aaron Shows

*Stand*

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!


**He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!**

# ENTRANCE HYMN

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice & Sing (ELW 385)*



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is  
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which  
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
 rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:  
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
 one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

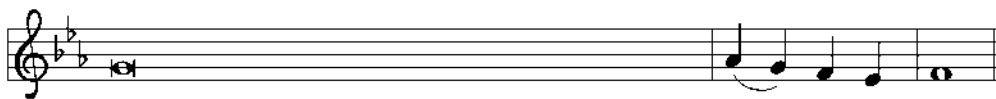
## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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



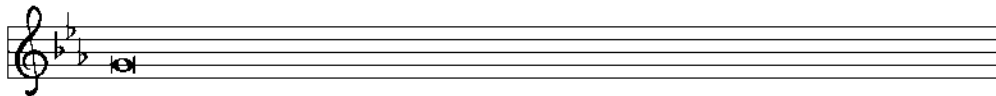
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
 Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



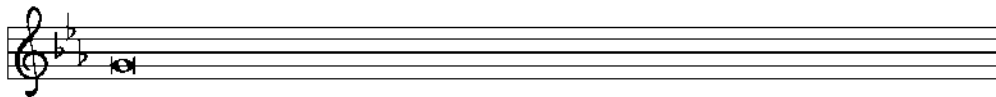
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men, a - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

The musical score is written on ten staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. Some notes are beamed together, and there are occasional slurs. The lyrics are: Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Continued on next page...*



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . O God, from whom all good things come: Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to think those things which are right, and by your goodness help us to do them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

*Sit*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### FIRST READING

**Acts 10:44-48**

*(back cover)*

### PSALM

**Psalm 98**

*spoken antiphonally* **pulpit side/font side**

<sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD | a new song,\*  
for he has done | marvelous things.

- <sup>2</sup> **With his right hand and his | holy arm\***  
**has he won for him- | self the victory.**
- <sup>3</sup> The LORD has made | known his victory;\*,  
 his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight | of the nations.
- <sup>4</sup> **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the | house of Israel,\***  
**and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.**
- <sup>5</sup> Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;\*,  
 lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.
- <sup>6</sup> **Sing to the LORD | with the harp,\***  
**with the harp and the | voice of song.**
- <sup>7</sup> With trumpets and the sound | of the horn\*  
 shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.
- <sup>8</sup> **Let the sea make a noise and all | that is in it,\***  
**the lands and those who | dwell therein.**
- <sup>9</sup> Let the rivers | clap their hands;\*,  
 and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
 when he comes to | judge the earth.
- <sup>10</sup> **In righteousness shall he | judge the world\***  
**and the peo- | ples with equity.**

## SECOND READING

**1 John 5:1-6** (*back cover*)

*Stand*

## VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia, 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

**John 15:9-17** (*back cover*)

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Stand*

**8:00 AM 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**

*The 8:00 AM liturgy continues on page 10 with the prayers.*

*Stand*

**10:30 AM RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

**PRESENTATION**

Blake Humpal has been instructed in the Christian faith and desires to make public affirmation of his Baptism.

Dear friend, we rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world.

**RENUNCIATION OF EVIL**

Beloved of the Lord: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you a member of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at his holy table and called to be a witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

*The Confirmand responds "I do."*

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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**

*Sit*

## **COMMITMENT**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear his Word and share in his supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*The Confirmand answers.*

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

## **PRAYER OF BLESSING**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept so that prayer may be made for the confirmand.*

Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made this man your own. You forgave him all his sins and brought him to newness of life. Continue to strengthen

him with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in him your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**Amen**

*The Confirmand kneels at the altar.*

## LAYING ON OF HANDS

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in Blake the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm his faith, guide his life, empower him in his serving, give him patience in suffering, and bring him to everlasting life.

**Amen**

*Stand*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the risen Christ let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Fill the church with the gifts of your Spirit. Strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Revive your creation. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Grant your wisdom and vision to world leaders. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation that work for justice, peace, and the good of all. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. (*We pray especially for . . .*) God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Bless the ministry and mission of this congregation. Make us embody your love for the world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Sustain Blake and all who study your word, learn of your loving purpose and grow more deeply in Christian fellowship, that living for you they will be drawn to love you and their neighbors. God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us (*especially*). At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living 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.*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

8:00 am Organ

*Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

Robert J. Powell

10:30 am Chancel Choir

*Alleluia*

Elaine Hagenberg

## OFFERTORY *Come to the Table (ELW 481)*



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

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*

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 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. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;  
you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.

We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise:  
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the  
homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your  
promises.

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, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son:  
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life:

his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the  
seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty  
and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup  
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the  
kingdom of heaven, and may 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**

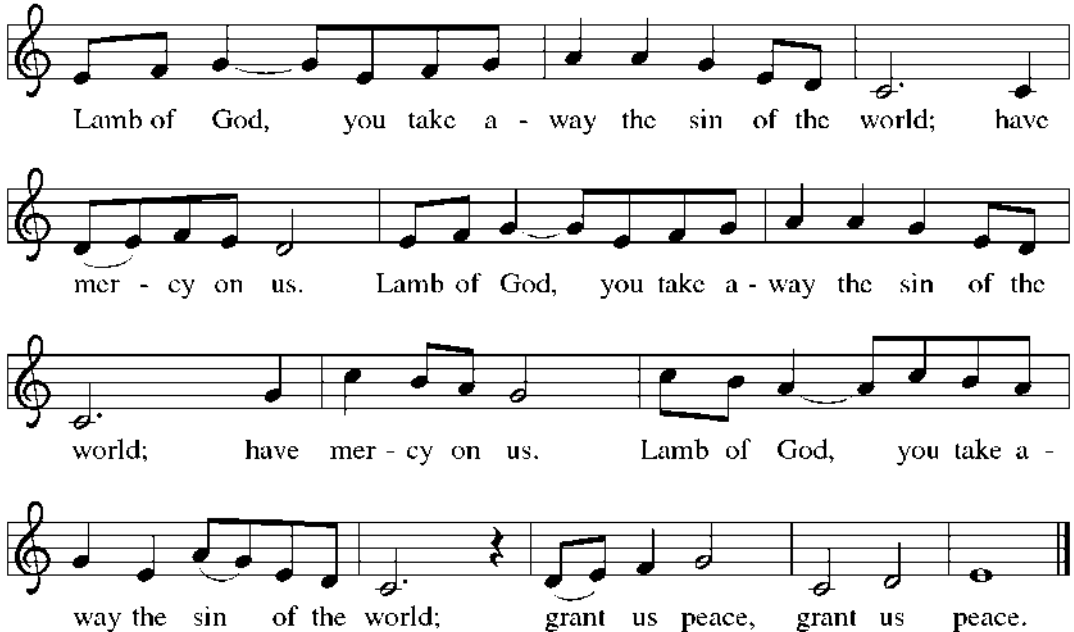
### FRACTION RITE

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.

When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

### AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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

### COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

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

We receive communion by intinction today.

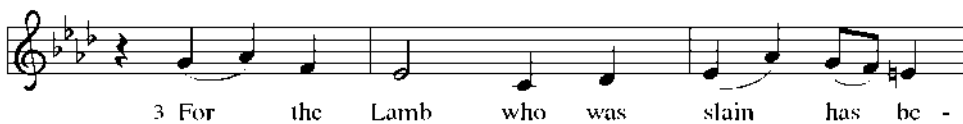
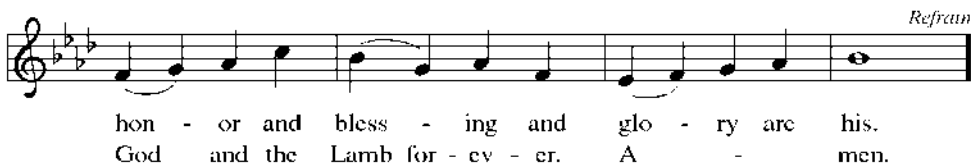
1. Come to communion using the center aisle.

2. The Pastor will give the host, communicant dips the host in the chalice

3. Return to your pew using the side aisle.

## COMMUNION CANTICLE

### *This is the Feast*



*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. All powerful and ever-living God, in the Eucharist we celebrate the Mystery of Faith. By this Easter Sacrament, renew in us the gift of faith in the New Life it promises. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. **Amen**

## BLESSING

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

## HYMN

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (ELW 545)*



- 1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
- 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
- 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.  
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.  
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der-ness.  
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.  
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Celebration*

Robert Hebble

## *Serving the Lord with Gladness*

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Comm. Assist	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild
5/5	8:00 AM	Kirsten Barnes	Denise Rider	Laura Livingston		Nancy Banta, Tom Martin	Team 3E: Sammy Barnes, Norma Shue, Cliff Beck, Sheridan Palmer	Ron & Norma Reise
	10:30 AM	Tonya Cave	Allison Lehr	Christian Kopp		Sandy Dickensheets, Lehr Family	Team 3L: Dan Garber, Joe Guarriello, Larry Becker	Deb Becker, Isabella Lehr

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

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

### **Sunday, May 5 Confirmation**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist– Live-Stream  
 Rite of Confirmation–  
 Reception to follow  
 3:00 PM High School Choral Concert  
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

### **Monday, May 6**

7:00 PM Preschool Committee—ZOOM

### **Tuesday, May 7**

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

### **Wednesday May 8**

10:00 AM Preschool w/ Pastor—Nave  
 10:30 Bible Study

### **Thursday, May 9**

10:00 AM Preschool w/ Pastor—Nave  
 7:00 PM Ascension Day Service—Nave  
 7:45 PM Chancel Choir

### **Friday, May 10**

10:00 AM Fellowship Committee

### **Saturday May 11**

9:00-11 AM Drop off Bake sale items

### **Sunday, May 12**

### **Mpuguso Bake Sale after Services**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist– Live-Stream  
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

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

## Announcements and Up-dates for the week of May 5, 2024

**This morning we rejoice with the Humpal family** as their son, Blake, confirms his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and commits to taking a more active role in the community of faith. Please express your words of encouragement following the 10:30 AM liturgy at the reception in the Good Shepherd Room.

**The Benevolence Committee** continues to receive applications for funding ministry projects for 2024 and 2025. Please request an application from the church office.

**We continue to collect clothing** in support of Union Lutheran Church, W. Market Street, with their clothing closet. There is a collection bin in the Good Shepherd Room. If you have a large number of items to donate you can take them directly to Union Lutheran Church, simply call them for details.

**Jackson Elementary School:** This is the last day to contribute books and activities for students at Jackson Elementary school. The items will be given to the children to provide for some summer time fun and recreation. If you forgot your items, please contact Nancy Bennett.

**This afternoon** at 3:00 PM High School Choirs Concert hosted at St. Paul's. Students from Central York, West York and Red Lion will present a combined concert. The concert is free and open to the public.



**Next week is the Mother's Day Elegant Dessert Bake Sale.** For those who signed up to make and donate a dessert, simply bring it to the Springettsbury entrance on Saturday between 9:00 – 11:00 AM. For those planning to purchase a dessert for your Mother's day dinner, or to take to a neighbor, or give to a coworker, or freeze for a later celebration, a donation basket will be provided. Please do come prepared to give generously to assist with the June 2024 mission trip to Tanzania.

**Mother's Day Geranium Sale Reminder:** The flowers will be delivered to your home unless you make arrangements to obtain them at St. Paul's between 10:15 and 10:30 am on Saturday May 11th. Please see the order form on the bulletin board at the Springettsbury entrance for more information.



**Preschool sub sales sandwiches,** for those who ordered, may be picked up on Tuesday May 7, from 11:30 – noon or 6:00 – 6:30 PM.

**Food Pantry News**—We need **canned soup, fruit, canned tuna!** 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. 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.



**Children’s sermons** are a way of communicating the faith and sharing the good news of God’s love in Christ Jesus. We are seeking volunteers to provide a children’s sermon during the summer months. A clip board with the dates and Bible texts is located on the table in the Good Shepherd Room. Simply sign up for a Sunday that fits your schedule. Thank you!



**Summer Worship Schedule** begins on Memorial Day weekend, Sunday May 26, Holy Trinity Sunday, with combined liturgy at 9:15 AM with fellowship to follow. The schedule remains through Labor Day weekend September 1, 2024.



**Bread Bakers** for the summer months are needed. If you are willing to bake communion bread for one or more of the Sundays this summer please contact the church office. Thank you.

### **Upcoming Holy Days**

**Thursday, May 9, The Ascension of our Lord, Holy Eucharist at 7:00 PM**

**Sunday, May 19, Pentecost, Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:30 AM**

**Sunday, May 26, Holy Trinity Sunday, Holy Eucharist at 9:15 AM**



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God  
by Joe & Jen Guarriello*

“On demand” has been marketed to our society. I first remember it being used when the cable TV company Comcast rebranded to Xfinity with the tag line “on demand.” I suspect that it was marketed as a solution to the “shrinking” amount of hours in a day because of the many “demands” placed upon us; work, home, family, school, government, and everything else associated with “adult-ing” in modern culture. And it provided an innocuous platform for maximizing time spent absorbing the sports, news, and entertainment industries. It was possible through new technologies.

Now it seems that “On Demand” culture has swallowed us up. I suppose “on demand” was the next logical progression to grow out of the “instant culture” with things like “fast food,” instant oatmeal and microwaves. I’m not knocking it, I am simply trying to identify the patterns that change culture, move it from one thing to another, making it seem normal, ordinary, and an essential part of daily life.

You would expect this from me. Attempting to live out my calling as a Baptized child of God and as a pastor of the Church, I am part of a different culture. This is the culture in which Blake will soon confess his faith and pledge to take a more active part. And Blake and I are not alone in this enterprise as we are surrounded by you, the baptized who are also called to live life swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ. His victory over sin, death and the devil, establishes patterns that change culture, move it from one thing to another, making the culture of Christ Jesus; normal, ordinary, and essential to daily life for the baptized. We hear of this shift in society and culture in all three of the readings this morning.

Peter has just delivered bold proclamation of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. While he is speaking the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. The Holy Spirit was poured out even on the most unlikely of folks, the Gentiles. Here God is at work bringing unlikely groups of people together. And together they extoll God. This led to Cornelius and his family, along with everyone else upon whom the Holy Spirit fell that day, to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. They become part of a people swallowed up in the victory of our Lord. They are people for whom patterns for daily life and living will change; soon gathering for daily prayer, sharing their resources, participating in the Holy Meal, and caring for others will become a shift running contrary to their present culture.

In First John we hear of a societal shift flowing from the love of the Father to the Son, and the Son to his fellow believers. This love that the Father has bestowed moves believers to obey his commandments. And as the text reminds us, His commandments are not burdensome. Loving God and loving neighbor changes the culture of the world. The text uses “conquers the world” and these days with the prevalence of the military aggression going on in the world “Conquers” does sound a bit militaristic, but the faith that is ours through the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, moves us to live the command to love. And love establishes patterns that change culture, move it from one thing to another, making the culture of Christ Jesus; normal, ordinary, and essential to daily life.

Swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ the gospel writer John opens us to the love of Jesus for the Disciples. This is the same love that the Father has for Jesus, the Son. This love is given, bestowed; sharing in Divine love is what followers do. Abide in Jesus' love. This love is ongoing, continually present, renewing constantly.

On my computer I need to click on the “refresh” icon periodically to bring things into the present moment. Otherwise I am only able to view items that are frozen in time. But I am not accessing anything currently in the present. The love that we hear about in the gospel of John, and the love that is given to us through Christ Jesus, is abiding love; ongoing, continually present, renewing constantly. It is as though the “refresh” icon is constantly being employed to keep God's love made known to us in Christ Jesus in the “now.”

In Acts those who were swallowed up in the victory of the Lord Jesus were extolling God. In First John those who were swallowed up in the victory of the Lord Jesus keep his commandments. In the gospel it is Joy, doing the will of the Father, that changes the culture of community and society. Here Jesus calls his followers “friends” and he does this because the relationship is changed. We are no longer servants, not knowing what the master may or may not do or how our future may be changed and impacted by such actions of the master. We are called friends because Jesus has made known to us everything that he has heard from the Father. We are promised a future that is consistent with the love bestowed on the Son, Christ Jesus, by the Father. His victory over sin, death, and the devil, swallows you up in a love that will not let you go. It is a love that is; abiding, renewing, everlasting for you and for me and for all who come to believe.

In this new relationship as friend, Jesus has chosen us to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. This lasting fruit is the kind of fruit that does not perish, decay, rots. It is nonperishable. It is the kind of fruit referenced in Paul's letter to the Galatians; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control. And as his friends we take seriously what Jesus takes seriously. Earthly human friendships can be fickle. When both parties don't take seriously the things that bring joy, cause pain, extend future, the friendships can easily wither, decay, rots. In Christ Jesus friendship hinges on keeping his commandments, taking seriously what Jesus desires.

The resurrected Lord Jesus comes among us to save us not so that we can revel in salvation and lord it over others as a kind of badge that we are better, but rather to bear fruit; going and loving others modeling his selflessness; selflessness manifest through his own suffering, death, resurrection and ascension. We experience his love in the forgiveness of our sins. He gives us the power to forgive, and there, in the midst of forgiveness there is love. This love, the love of God made known in Christ Jesus is not available on demand. The command to love is a sort of Bible language reminding us that the Father wills that the children of his love give themselves to one another freely. And that freely given love establishes patterns that change culture, move it from one thing to another, making the culture of Christ Jesus; normal, ordinary, and essential to daily life and living. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48**

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

**Psalm 98****SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

**GOSPEL: John 15:9-17**

[Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."