

*Little girl,  
get up!*

MARK 5:41



# 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.

August 25 at the 9:15 AM liturgy we will rejoice with our mission delegation and hear first hand stories of their journey. The Fellowship Committee is preparing lunch for us. The presentation will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall.



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

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

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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## Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

June 30, 2024

### Holy Communion 9:15 AM

*Musical Setting #9 Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

#### PRELUDE

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Emma Lou Diemer

*Stand turning to face the font*

#### CONFESSION

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**

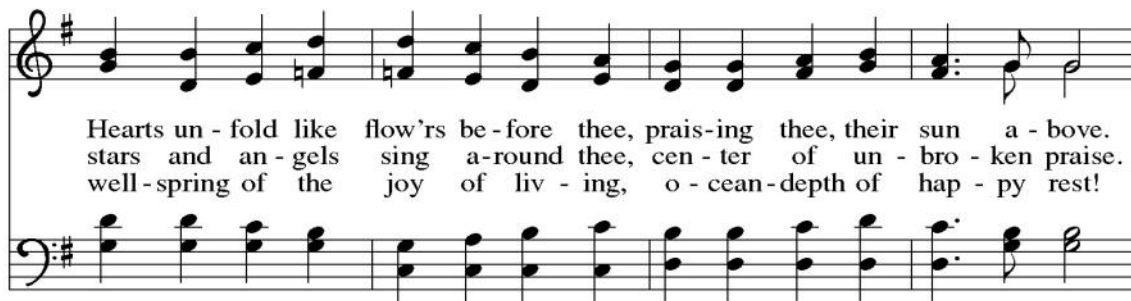
Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and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

**Amen**

## HYMN

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (ELW 836)*


1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
 stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
 well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,  
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di-vine!

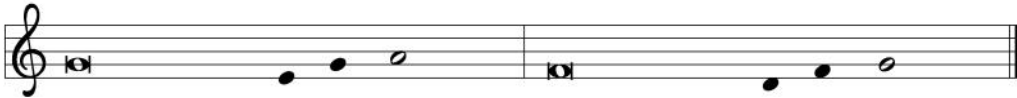


The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray. . . O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

(back cover)

**Psalm 30** *sung unaccompanied Cantor/congregation*

- 1 I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lift- | ed me up\*  
and have not let my enemies triumph | over me.
- 2 **O LORD my God, I cried | out to you,\***  
**and you restored | me to health.**
- 3 You brought me up, O LORD, | from the dead;\*  
you restored my life as I was going down | to the grave.
- 4 **Sing to the LORD, you ser- | vants of his,\***  
**give thanks for the remembrance | of his holiness.**
- 5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling | of an eye,\*  
his favor | for a lifetime.
- 6 **Weeping may | spend the night,\***  
**but joy comes | in the morning.**
- 7 While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never | be disturbed.\*  
You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong | as the mountains."
- 8 **Then you | hid your face,\***  
**and I was | filled with fear.**
- 9 I cried to | you, O LORD;\*  
I pleaded with | the Lord, saying,
- 10 **"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down | to the pit?\***  
**Will the dust praise you or de- | clare your faithfulness?**
- 11 Hear, O LORD, and have mer- | cy upon me;\*  
O LORD, | be my helper."
- 12 **You have turned my wailing | into dancing;\***   
**you have put off my sackcloth and clothed | me with joy.**
- 13 Therefore my heart sings to you | without ceasing;\*  
O LORD my God, I will give you | thanks forever.

**SECOND READING****2 Corinthians 8:7-15***(back cover)**Stand***VERSE***Sung by all*

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



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



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**HOLY GOSPEL****Mark 5:21-43***(back cover)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

*At the conclusion of the Gospel.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Glory to you, O Lord.****Praise to you, O Christ.***Sit***SERMON**

Pastor Reep

*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.*

God of abundance, you fill your church with a multitude of gifts. Open our hearts to use them to express the wondrous breadth of your love. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of creation, multiply the fruits of the earth and rescue it from our wastefulness. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of justice, bring peace between nations ravaged by war or strife (*nations and places may be named*) and illumine paths of justice and freedom for those in leadership. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, bring healing and revive us for life. Hear our prayers for (*names and*) all who are in need, and for doctors, nurses, and health care workers who provide care. We pray especially for Dr. Lee working in Tukuyu and providing oversight for the construction of a new hospital in Mbeya. Turn wailing into dancing and weeping into joy. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of community, gather us at your table of plenty. Where there is hunger among us, open our hands. Where we are indifferent to the needs of others, open our hearts. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of the ages, great is your faithfulness. We remember in thanksgiving our beloved dead (*especially Joe Triggs*) who with all the saints sing without ceasing in your realm of glory. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and 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 OF OUR GIFTS

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Marianne Kim

*Stand*  
**OFFERTORY**

Musical score for Offertory, featuring two systems of music. Each system consists of a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the second system.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

**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*

Musical score for Dialogue, featuring four systems of music. Each system consists of a single treble staff. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And also 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." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth system.

The Lord be with you. And also 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, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS**                    *Sung by all.*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

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

san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**THANKSGIVING**

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.  
We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:  
the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of  
the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the  
good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

*Continued on next page...*

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 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, that we who share in Christ'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 glory and honor 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

*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*

## COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

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

*Procedure for receiving Communion:*

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle.*
- 2. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 3. Take your place along the chancel step.*
- 4. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.*
- 5. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 6. Return to your pew using the side aisle.*

## COMMUNION HYMN *Great is Thy Faithfulness (ELW 733)*



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

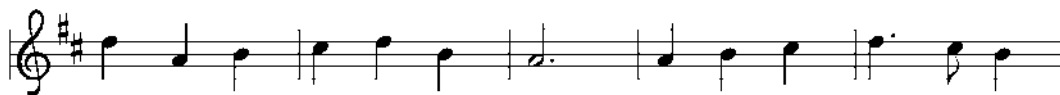


pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

### *Refrain*



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

### *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

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending( ELW 678) next page*

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Tune*

Aaron David Miller

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### *Serving the Lord with Gladness*

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Comm. Assist	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild
6/30	9:15 AM	Jennifer Ports	Ken Hinkle	Dan Garber	Ken Hinkle or Jennifer Ports	Dan, Kathleen & Henry Garber	Team 3L: Dan Garber, Joe Guarriello, Larry Becker	Early: Kathleen Lemke, Late: Tonya Cave, Sandy Dickensheets



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Ordination of the Rev. Judith A. McKee and the Rev. Thomas E. McKee and in grateful appreciation of their faithful service to Christ and his Church by the Church Council and  
In Thanksgiving to God for 60 years of marriage by Janet and George Fitch*

**Food Pantry Needs**—We need **PEANUT BUTTER!** 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.

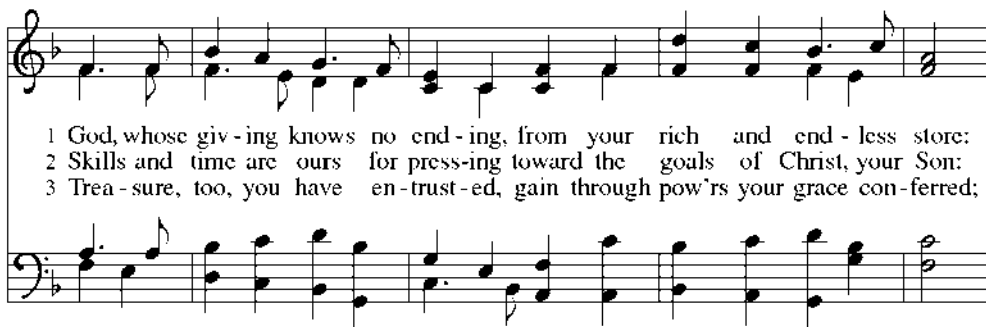
**The Benevolence Committee** continues to receive applications for funding ministry projects for 2024 and 2025. Please request an application from the church office.

**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.

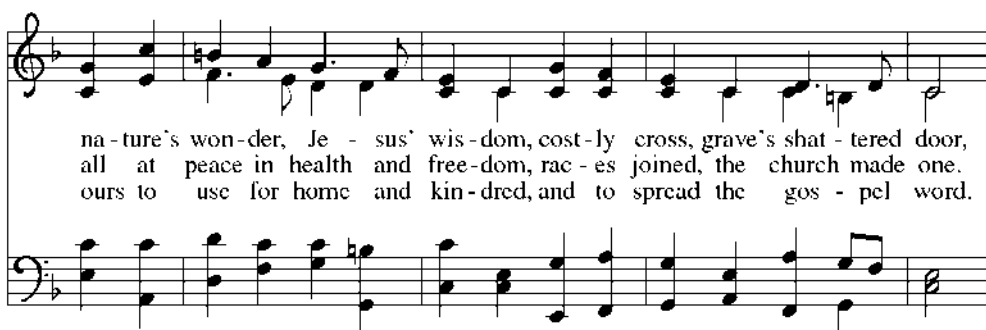
### **Nurturing Faithful Families—Summer 2024—Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30 PM**

On Tuesday evenings **through August 13**, we will gather to nurture faithful stewardship families. Mark your calendar now. The first 9 sessions will be held at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. Enter through the Springettsbury Ave. Entrance. Gather in Christ Hall for the meal and for the session. The last session on Tuesday August 13 is a picnic at Kain Park. Everyone is invited to come and join in nurturing faithful stewardship families! For additional information and to volunteer to help with these summer sessions please contact; Johanna Paterson, Christian Education Chairperson; Miss Kelly, Youth Director; or Pastor Reep.

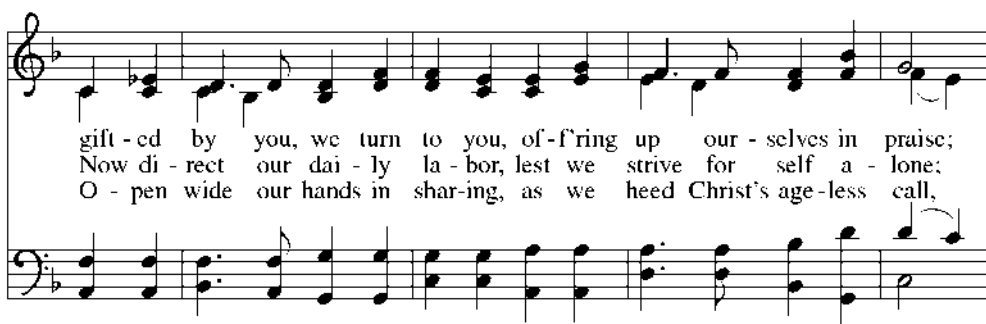
# God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



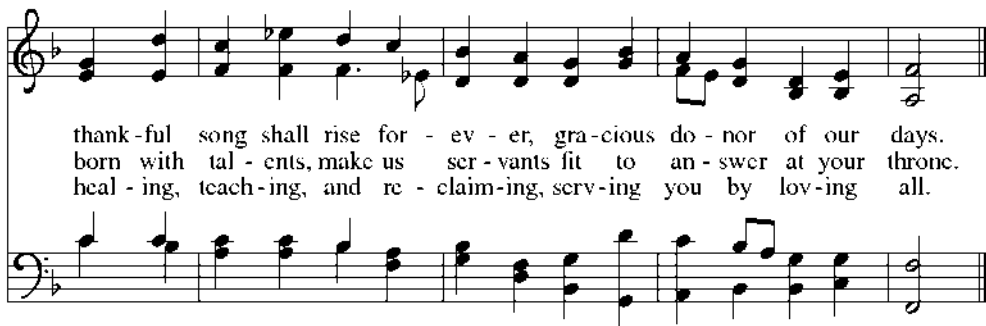
1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store;  
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son;  
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,  
all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.  
ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;  
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;  
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.



## This Week at St. Paul's

### Sunday, June 30

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist– Live-Stream  
6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

### Monday, July 1

7:00 PM Preschool Mtg—ZOOM

### Tuesday, July 2

9:30 AM Pantry  
5:30 PM Nurturing Faithful Families—  
Simple Supper and Fellowship for all

### Wednesday, July 3

No parking Springettsbury Ave.

**Thursday, July 4 OFFICE CLOSED**

**Friday, July 5 OFFICE CLOSED**

### Sunday, July 7

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist– Live-Stream  
6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

## Return from Tanzania

Our delegation to The Konde Diocese and Mpuguso Lutheran Church has returned. Those who traveled are organizing hundreds of photographs by place and event. As not everyone in the group did the exact same thing, even members of the delegation are eager to see the images captured through camera lenses of fellow travelers.



Pastor Reep has been preparing select images for a 2025 calendar “Experiencing Tanzania” which should be available later in the year. The photos are submissions by many different travelers.

One small group consisting of six members went to Manow Junior Lutheran Seminary, a boarding school of the diocese, and met with the headmaster, teaching staff and students. There are many good things happening but the group has identified some specific ways that we can provide assistance and help to improve the educational experiences of the students.

A smaller group was privileged to spend time with Dr. Lee (coordinator of the hospitals and clinics of the diocese). Some toured Metema Hospital. And one person from the group traveled to all three hospital sites!

The majority of the group spent time with our sisters and brothers at Mpuguso Lutheran Church and sought ways to help us better understand ministry contexts and share in common life and support one another through prayer.

On Sunday August 25 members of the group will share first hand stories from the journey. We plan to ring the Choir Chime selections that we rang for the Mpuguso congregation on the day of their church dedication. We also hope to sing a hymn that the choir of Meta Parish sang for us when we arrived in Mbeya. There will be up-dates with details and potential future mission projects. And all of this will be done to strengthen our relationships one with another here at St. Paul's and with those far away in the Konde Diocese in Tukuyu, Tanzania.

Lamentations is a book from which we read only every so often in the lectionary. It is a collection of poems, a sort of Psalter of communal laments over the fall of Israel to Babylon in 587 BC. The entire collection seems rather dirge like. The city is dead and it seems like things can't get any worse. The laments sound a kin to something that we might hear from the book of Job. But then in the middle of chapter three, in the midst of hopelessness, there is an acknowledgement of God's great faithfulness.

God's Great Faithfulness. God, willing to restore a humbled and repentant Israel, that is some good news sandwiched between verse after verse, and a couple of chapters of lament. The Lord is good to those who wait for him. It can however be a very long wait. With such utter destruction all around it is surprising for this burst of hope to break in. But we hear the equivalent of "nevertheless, I am with you" echoed from Psalm 73.

So these words of hope come at a good time, at least for me. Do you ever allow yourself to lament? Do you give yourself the gracious space to allow for really acknowledging how dreadful, alarming, crappy, or disappointing things are?

On Monday morning, after 36 hours of travel on Friday and Saturday returning from Tanzania, and a long day on Sunday (I awoke at 3:30 AM) with morning worship and an afternoon synod meeting, I arrived at work ready to face the inevitable pile of work and chain of emails that found their way to my desk during the past two weeks. That is when I was confronted with the door to the secretary's office busted open, and the petty cash box emptied of its content. Upon further inspection a window had been broken to permit entry into the building. The perpetrator had lucked into breaking in while the security system was switched off. That also meant that this act occurred while at least one staff person was in the building. This was of course dreadful, alarming, crappy, and disappointing.

The police officer who arrived inquired if we were experiencing an increase of situations, vandalism, assault, confrontation. I responded that for a brief period of time we hadn't experienced such activity. Then my mind began to race recalling situations from the past; Teenagers hurling bricks onto South George Street, young children throwing gravel at one another, a little girl being bullied by older children as she received punches from those who were holding her to the ground permitting her to be used as a punching bag by others, and skirmishes from pantry shoppers shouting obscenities at people jumping line or thinking that they didn't receive enough of one item in comparison to someone else. There was the incident with the theft of a snow blower and a couple engaged in less than churchly activity in a window well during Thursday choir rehearsal. I even recalled painful discussions about the pros and cons of blocking up windows that once permitted sunlight to penetrate the depths of our Fellowship Hall when we were renovating; could we continue to sustain broken glass shattering into a space most often occupied by preschoolers? Monday's news, discovering a petty cash plundering, left me in a state of lament. And to think, I hadn't even begun to ponder national news!

To hear the words of Lamentations come at a good time. *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."* And reading on, we hear the words of hope for a community that is suffering *"The Lord is my portion, therefore I will hope in him."* Hoping in the Lord is of course not just pie in the sky or a quick verse

of scripture to quote as a salve for a chain of lousy situations. Hope comes through Christ Jesus. Hope comes through the one who willingly enters into situations from which the world would turn and run.

The Gospel reading from Mark is a prime example. Jesus does not turn and run either from the woman afflicted for 12 years with a hemorrhage or from Jairus' daughter who is dying. The Woman who has suffered for 12 years has the medical professionals baffled when she is restored to health by the presence of Christ. And the 12 year old girl who is dead has the mourners perplexed when Jesus touches her and restores her to life. Jesus willingly enters into situations that are complex, dreadful, alarming, crappy and disappointing. Jesus is our hope, our portion, for with him there is life and healing.

In the midst of hopelessness, there is an acknowledgement of God's great faithfulness. God's great faithfulness is made known to us in Christ Jesus. Jesus, our hope, is with us this morning. He is our hope amid all of the things for which we honestly lament. He is hope for those who think that steeling is a way forward. He is hope for the kids throwing stones, and beating each other up. He is hope for the argumentative women at the panty who think they didn't get what they deserve or that they were treated unfairly. He is hope for a city riddled with problems and for people who don't think that much can be done. He is hope for a nation polarized by political discord. He is hope for the nations advancing greed and power. In all of this Lamentations reminds us that the Lord God does not turn and run, but that the Lord God is faithful and for God we must wait. And sometimes it is a very long wait for things to be revealed. However, the faithful One is with us. Jesus, hearing our laments, willingly comes among us giving himself to us in ordinary daily things; words and water, bread and wine. His body and blood, given and shed for all that is dreadful, alarming, crappy, and disappointing in your life and in mine.

Lamentations is not one of the more popular books in the Bible. Perhaps it is because as a community and as individuals we don't really understand lament or the important place it has in and for our lives. Lament is not complaining about things, lament comes out of deep concern, a desire for things to be: put right, restored, renewed, and a willingness to be part of that restoration and renewal. Lament is shaped by our understanding of God and God's great faithfulness.

Our collective desire is that people don't steal, that children don't bring harm to one another or to the property of other's. Our deep desire is that cycles of poverty can be overcome, that children are valued and are provided with loving caring homes. Our deep longing for the things that ail our troubled lives, our troubled city, our troubled nation and a troubled world allow us to cry out to the Lord just as our ancestors did when Babylon brought on ruin and despair. And in the midst of our poetic cry, the Word of the Lord breaks in reminding us now as it did to believers then "*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end.*" Great is God's faithfulness.

Amen.

**FIRST READING: Lamentations 3:22-33**

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;

<sup>23</sup>they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

<sup>24</sup>"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,  
"therefore I will hope in him."

<sup>25</sup>The LORD is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.

<sup>26</sup>It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup>It is good for one to bear  
the yoke in youth,

<sup>28</sup>to sit alone in silence  
when the Lord has imposed it,

<sup>29</sup>to put one's mouth to the dust  
(there may yet be hope),

<sup>30</sup>to give one's cheek to the smiter,  
and be filled with insults.

<sup>31</sup>For the Lord will not  
reject forever.

<sup>32</sup>Although he causes grief, he will have  
compassion  
according to the abundance of his steadfast  
love;

<sup>33</sup>for he does not willingly afflict  
or grieve anyone.

*or Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24 [not printed]*

**Psalms 30**

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15**

[not printed]

**GOSPEL: Mark 5:21-43**

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. <sup>22</sup>Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet <sup>23</sup>and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." <sup>24</sup>So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. <sup>25</sup>Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. <sup>26</sup>She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. <sup>27</sup>She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup>for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." <sup>29</sup>Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. <sup>30</sup>Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" <sup>31</sup>And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" <sup>32</sup>He looked all around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup>But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup>He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

<sup>35</sup>While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" <sup>36</sup>But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." <sup>37</sup>He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. <sup>38</sup>When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup>When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." <sup>40</sup>And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. <sup>41</sup>He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" <sup>42</sup>And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. <sup>43</sup>He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13.

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