



For God  
all things  
are possible

MARK 10:27

# 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 which is accessed through the double doors front right.

**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.

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

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

**An AED/Defibrillator** unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.

**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.

**BULLETIN AND NEWSLETTER EMAIL ISSUES:** Due to restrictions being put on the number of recipients we can email at one time and the size of the email itself we are no longer able to send out the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter via email. If you would like to see a copy of the bulletin please go to our website [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org) and click on "Bulletins" and "Newsletter" in the upper right hand corner.

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>
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	<a href="mailto:vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Children Choirs Director	Julianna Jones	<a href="mailto:jjones.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">jjones.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	<a href="mailto:lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>
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Sexton	Ted Weikert	<a href="mailto:tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	<a href="mailto:director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com">director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com</a>

**Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**  
**October 13, 2024**  
**Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM**  
*Musical Setting #4 Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

**PRELUDE**

*When in Our Music God is Glorified*

McNeil Robinson

*Stand turning to face the baptismal 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

*God Whose Giving Knows No Ending (ELW 678)*



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.



## 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

Let us pray. . . Almighty God, source of every blessing, your generous goodness comes to us anew every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Sit*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### FIRST READING

**Amos 5:6-7, 10-15** (back page)

### PSALM

**Psalms 90:12-17**

*sung unaccompanied Cantor/congregation*



- <sup>12</sup> So teach us to num- | ber our days,\*  
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.
- <sup>13</sup> **Return, O LORD; how long | will you tarry?\***  
**Be gracious | to your servants.**
- <sup>14</sup> Satisfy us by your lovingkindness | in the morning;\*  
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days | of our life.
- <sup>15</sup> **Make us glad by the measure of the days that you af- | flicted us\***  
**and the years in which we suf- | fered adversity.**
- <sup>16</sup> Show your ser- | vants your works\*  
and your splendor | to their children.
- <sup>17</sup> **May the graciousness of the LORD our God | be upon us;\***  
**prosper the work of our hands; pros- | per our handiwork.**

### SECOND READING

**Hebrews 4:12-16** (back page)

*Stand*

### VERSE

*Sung by all*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

**Mark 10:17-31**

*(back page)*

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.*

Almighty God, use our resources for the up-building of your kingdom; seeking all who are lost, clothing those who are naked and mending what is broken. Make us generous bearers of your eternal love. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for farmers, field workers, and those who process crops. Keep us mindful of environmental threats to the nourishing food that feeds the world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Inspire world leaders to share resources and work collectively to end global poverty, starvation, and preventable disease. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are afflicted, tormented, grieving, oppressed, or lonely (*especially*). Deliver the strength of your love and compassion to all who need it today. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the first nations and tribes who inhabited this land (*local Indigenous tribes or settlements may be named*). We lament the harm done by colonization. Call us to deeper appreciation and care for the languages, rituals, and history of all Indigenous people. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Ever-living God, we rejoice to be heirs of the eternal life made real in Jesus' death and resurrection. We give thanks for saints of all times and places, who inspire us to faithful living. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

*Sit*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

8:00 AM *If You But Suffer God to Guide You*

Garth Edmundson

10:30 AM Chancel Choir *God Still Sings*

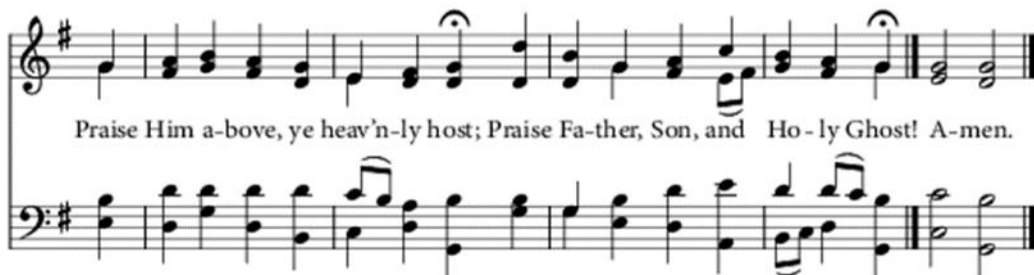
Alfred V. Fedak

*Stand*

## OFFERTORY



Praise God, from Whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be-low;



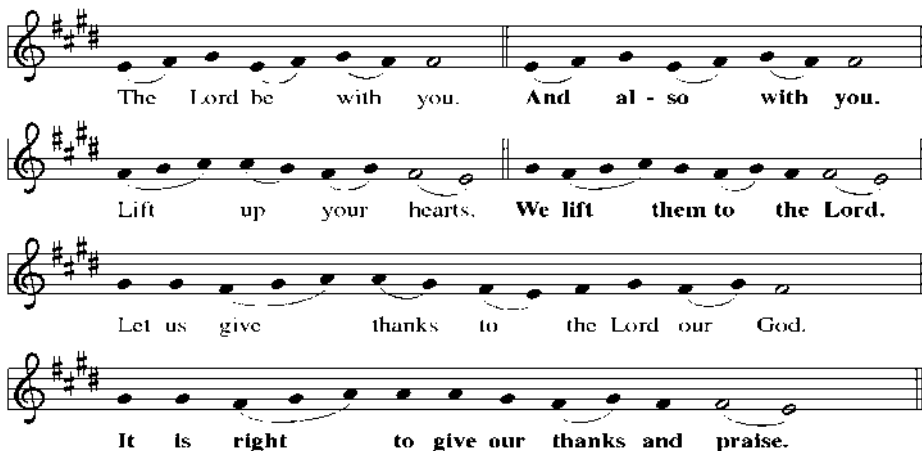
Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost! A-men.

## 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*



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.

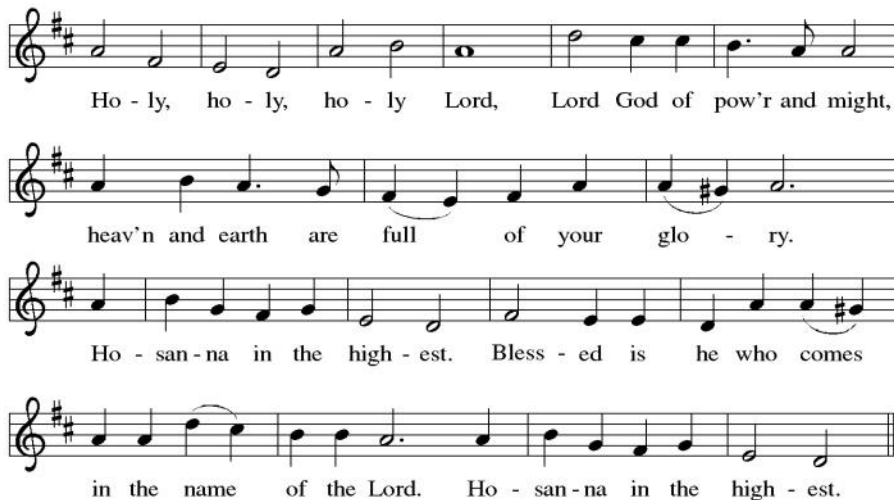
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## 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, 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, Lord God of pow'r and might,

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

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.



## 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.

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;**

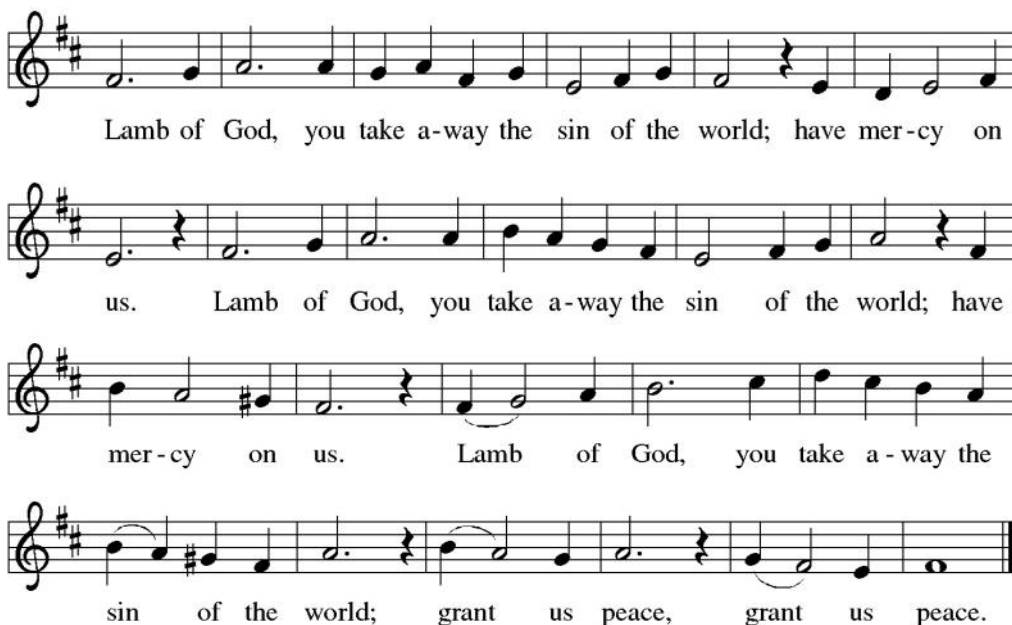
**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

**FRACTION RITE**    *a brief silence is kept*

## AGNUS DEI

*Sung by all.*



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

*Sit*

## COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

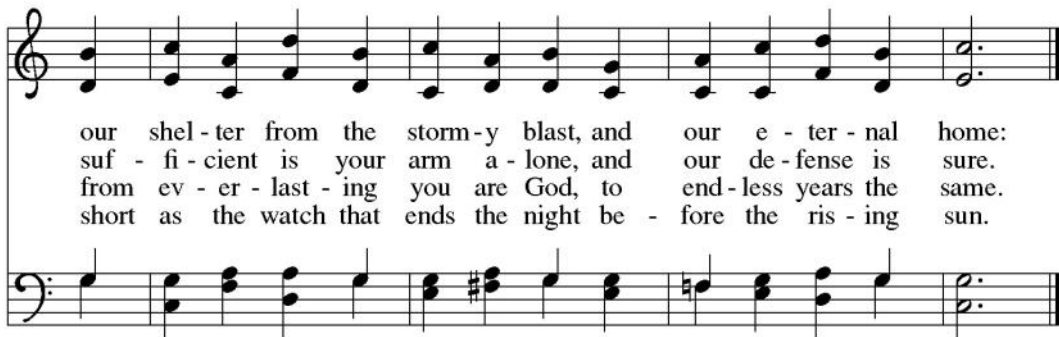
Holy Communion at St. Paul's Church is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

*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 host 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

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past (ELW 632)*



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all our years away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last  
and our eternal home!

### ***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**      *Son of God, Eternal Savior (ELW 655) (next page)*

### **DISMISSAL**

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

### **POSTLUDE**

*Tuba Tune*

C. S. Lang

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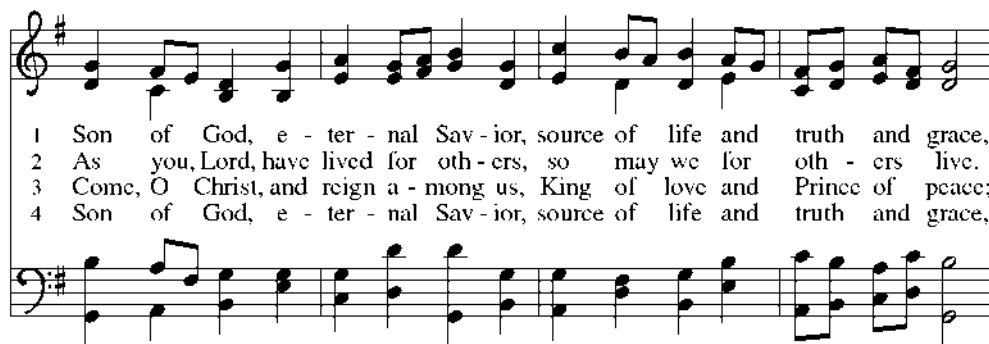


The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God  
In memory of Kathryn Mummert and Pat Mummert by Jim  
Mummert

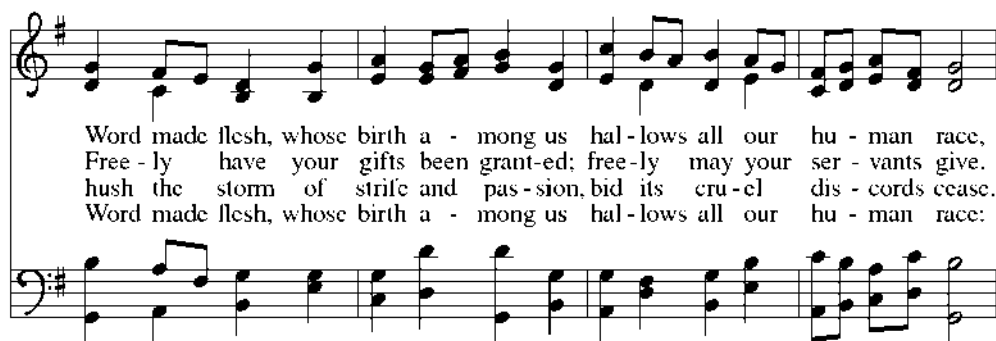
**The Flower sign up sheet is now open for 2025.**

Please sign up on the sheet on the Springettsbury entrance bulletin board  
and fill out the sentiment sheet. One vase is \$35.00

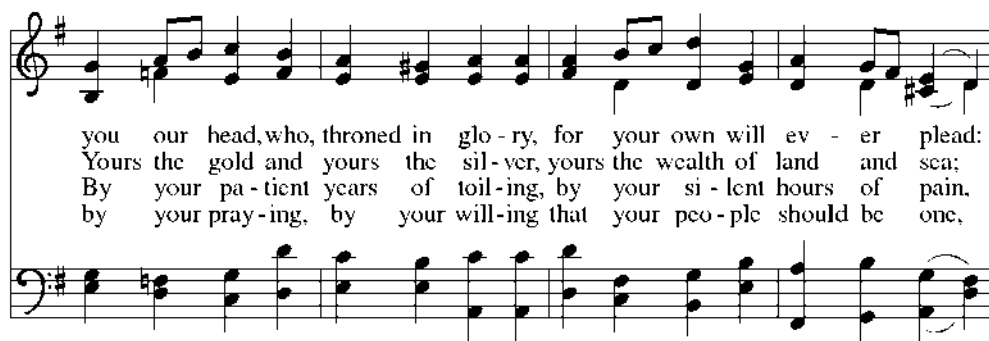
## Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

## Harvest Dinner

**Saturday October 19, 2024**

**Make your reservations through the church office.**



October 19<sup>th</sup> is the Harvest Dinner and Auction to benefit the ongoing work and needs of the Food Pantry. The cost of the dinner is \$125 per person. This includes the wine pairings, a delicious gourmet meal, dessert, and the entertaining interactions as members and friends try to outbid one another for the original artwork and hand crafted items. And please remember there over 30 fabulous silent auction items!

The Silent Auction items are presented in catalog form with bid sheet included. Please have all bids returned to the church office by Thursday, October 17.

**Music and Create**—Age 3 through Grade 6—Tuesday evenings 6:00 PM—7:15 PM  
Please come and enjoy making crafts and music with your friends. We are looking forward to this opportunity for our families with young children to engage in music and art while also having the opportunity to connect with other families. The program is designed for children ages 3 through grade 6. We divide the children into two age groups, age 3 through grade 1 and grade 2 through grade 6.

**St. Paul's Dinner Groups- A time for fellowship, food, and fun**—Dinner Groups will be gathering in January and February. They are comprised of about 6-8 people who gather at the homes of church members and share appetizers, main course, and dessert. The focus is getting better acquainted with people of St. Paul's. The sign-up sheet will be posted on the Springettsbury lobby bulletin board. Last day of sign-up is November 17th.

**Hurricane Relief Offerings** to help meet needs with Hurricane Helene and Milton should be placed in a special offering envelope and marked "Hurricane Relief". All donations will be given to the ELCA Donations for Disaster Response Fund.

### **Book Club meets at St. Paul's**

October 17th @ 3:00 PM:

American Ramble: A Walk of Memory and Renewal  
by Neil King Jr



### **R&K Sub Fundraiser for St. Paul's Preschool**

Order subs and pretzel sandwiches to help support the preschool! The money raised will be used for additional programs, updating materials and supplies for our students. Order forms are available at the entrances to the nave. Please make checks out to St. Paul's Lutheran Church Preschool or provide cash in exact change. Turn in orders to the church office by October 25th. All sandwiches may be picked up on Tuesday, November 12th from 11:30-12 noon or 6-30 PM in the Good Shepard room.



### Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Live stream	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild	Acolyte
10/13	8:00 AM	Bob Reed	Kirsten Barnes	Ken Hinkle		Dale & Betsy Smith	Team 1E: Jeff Riese, John Monk, Alex Bastian	Kathy Monk, Lois Ann Schroeder	
	10:30 AM	Janet Fitch	Larry Moore	Patty Snyder	Allen Reep	Earline & Frank Jones	Team 1L: Dave Kopp, Carol Woodbury, Darren Smith	Pat Rudicille, Jerry Briggs	

### This Week at St. Paul's

#### Sunday, October 13

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
 9:15 AM Jesse Tree Ornament for Children—Youth Room  
 9:15 AM Men's Group—Community Rm  
 9:15 AM Women's Group—Christ Hall  
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live-Stream  
 11:45 AM 2nd Sunday Sandwiches  
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Christ Hall

#### Monday, October 14 Columbus Day

**Office Closed**

#### Tuesday, October 15

**Council Reports due to Secretary**

**Newsletter Deadline**

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

#### Wednesday, October 16

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

#### Thursday, October 17

10:00 AM Preschool & Pastor—Nave  
 6:30 PM Handbell Choir—Nave  
 7:30 PM NO Chancel Choir

#### Saturday, October 19

5:30 PM Harvest Dinner & Auction

#### Sunday, October 20 Healing Service St. Luke

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
 9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages  
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live-Stream  
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Christ Hall

**Food Pantry News**—We need **PEANUT BUTTER!** Please put your donations in the shopping cart in the Good Shepherd Room. **FOOD DONATIONS ONLY, PLEASE!** 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. Contact Patty Snyder, Ken Hinkle Teresa Rohrbaugh or the church office (717-843-8155) to volunteer.



Senior Autumn Luncheon  
Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Invitations were sent out to our seniors (65+) by e-mail and details are in the October newsletter. We will be joining preschool 3 and 4 year old class for morning chapel at 10:30 a.m. in the church nave. It will pro-

vide a window into what the children are learning and how they, at a very young age, are learning to offer God prayer, praise and thanksgiving in response for all that God does for humankind. There will be a time for fellowship and lunch at 11:30 a.m. provided by the Witness Committee. After lunch we will be reminiscing, adding some trivia, and laugh. Have you signed up to attend? Deadline to sign up is October 20! We look forward to seeing you there!

**St Paul's is collecting clothing for Union Lutheran Church's Clothing Ministry** and your help is requested. Union collects 'gently used' clothing (and shoes) for its clothing closet and offers it **free of charge** to needy families in the York City community. A bin has been placed in the Good Shepherd room to collect any clothing you would like to donate. These donations will surely be a blessing to our neighbors. Union's volunteers are very appreciative of our cooperation and our help. If you have large donations you may take them directly to Union Lutheran Church. Simply call them to arrange a time.

### **Adult Education Continues this fall Christ Hall**

Sunday morning adult education is offered at 9:15 AM in Christ Hall. The fall of the year is divided into three sections with two intergenerational events. The second session is "Living the Catechism" and draws upon Luther's Small Catechism. It will be led by Pastor Snyder. The third session is "Living the Gospel of Luke" and draws upon themes used by the evangelist. It will be led by Pastor Reep. The intergenerational events will facilitate the men and women of the congregation meeting to encourage a men's group and to reactivate a women's group. Chris Lipp and Alexis Heistand will be on hand to help guide those sessions. And because of the overwhelming positive response to the Jesse Tree Story event we have placed it back on the calendar! Pastor Reep will guide us through the story of salvation made known through the Old and New Testaments.

### **Intergenerational Event**

October 13     Men's group/Women's group

**Second Session "Living the Catechism" Pastor Snyder (Meets in Christ Hall)**

**Proper 23 B, 2024      Amos 5:6-7, 10-15;      Hebrews 4:12-16;      Mark 10: 17-31**

Wednesday afternoon was spectacular. The kind of October day that made me want to take my leave from Bible study, return home, switch into other clothes, and go for a run. Running, its appeal is that at least for a short while I am alone with my thoughts, able to enjoy the beauty of the neighborhood and the fresh air. Going for a run is Biblical;

In the book of Genesis Abram ran from the tent to meet the three holy visitors.

Isaiah the prophet says “wait on the Lord, run and not grow weary.”

After the battle of Jericho, Joshua’s men ran to capture the city.

The father in the parable of the prodigal son runs down the lane to meet his son.

Mary Magdalene ran to Peter on Easter morning telling him that the tomb was empty.

The Apostle Paul tells us to run with endurance the race that is set before us.

This morning it is a rich man who runs to catch up with Jesus.

These stories all advance God’s story of hope and salvation.

Abram greeted the three holy guests and had Sarah prepare a meal.

Isaiah’s words seem to be slightly contradictory “wait” no “run.”

Joshua’s men had no idea what they would find when they entered the foreign city.

The father welcoming the Prodigal Son’s return with ring and robe and sandals, and a fatted feast erupts in family turmoil.

Mary’s news to Peter is received with yet more running as Peter and the beloved disciple run to the tomb to see for themselves the rolled up grave cloths.

Paul’s running is part and parcel of what he has been doing for the sake of the gospel. Mission takes; energy, time, resources, commitment.

The rich man’s running concludes with him kneeling before Jesus. It ends with a posture of humility. It ends with questions about faithfulness. It ends with conviction about eternal life and how you obtain it and what if anything you can do to get it.

Today I am intrigued by the man running to Jesus. Now there are plenty of obvious things and themes in this biblical text that we could focus on; stewardship (selling and giving to the poor), God’s love (especially to the man who couldn’t do what Jesus asked of him), what is hard and what is easy for humanity and for God (the camel and needle thing), so why the running? Jesus is setting out on a journey. That is biblical code announcing to the reader or listener that the mission of Jesus is advancing. He has been here and done what he could or what was necessary or what was asked of him. Jesus is taking his leave from this particular town. He is moving on to the next region. The story is advancing. And for whatever reason the man in the story I believe senses that he is missing a golden opportunity, the moment of a lifetime, if he doesn’t do it now he never will. Perhaps you have had such a moment;

Riding a bike without training wheels - don’t do it now you never will

Diving off of the diving board for the first time - don’t do it now you never will

Asking someone to marry you - don’t do it now you never will

Speaking up for someone who is being bullied - don’t do it now you never will

Quitting a job because it’s holding you back, dead end, going nowhere - don’t do it now you never will

Changing majors or universities or careers - don’t do it now you never will

It was just such a moment for the man in the gospel this morning. So he, a man of means a man who publicly doesn’t run because it is unbecoming to a person of his stature, he breaks the social norms of his time, and he runs to Jesus. Not only did he run to catch up to Jesus, to reach him before it was too late, down he went kneeling before Jesus. I think he does this both as a sign of humility and as a way to keep Jesus from moving on. And in this posture the dialogue ensues.

The thrust of the conversation is about eternal life. He has observed the commands and obviously done the things that were required by the religious community of his time. Jesus picks up on the one thing that he lacks. One thing! (If I were to run to Jesus and throw myself down before him I know straight up that I lack more than one thing, for I know I lack many, many things.) It is in *Jesus looking at him, loved him* that there is good news. Can you imagine for just a moment the shocking things that Jesus knows we need? He knows how we are quick to run to things and quick to run to others and quick to use our resources for self-satisfaction. But the good news for the man that day was *Jesus looking at him, loved him*. And this morning in the presence of Jesus, he is looking at you, and he loves you. He loves us.

Few of us are able or willing to sell all that we have and give it to the poor. That information shocked the man and sent him away grieving because he had so many possessions. It is just as shocking for us. (We have many possessions.) The shocking thing is that in the midst of the many things we lack, we are not lacking a loving, gracious Savoir, for Christ Jesus, strange as it may seem, comes to us bending low, taking on human form, suffering on a cross and dying because he loves us. He loves you. He loves us.

The story concludes in a rather open ended way. We do not know if in time the man sold somethings and gave to the poor, or in time sold everything and gave it to the poor. We do not know conversations he had with others; friends, family, wealthy men in his social circle. We do not know if he ever ran again; ran because he had a burning question, ran because he wanted to be in the presence of Jesus, ran because he needed assurance of how he went about life and fulfilling religious obligations. But we know that Jesus loved him. Jesus knew what he lacked, and yet he loved him.

This morning we are in the presence of Jesus. We stated boldly in our confession *the things we have done and the things we have left undone*. We are aware of our shortcomings and the things we lack. We also hear that in the love of God made known to us in Christ Jesus the things done and left undone and the things we lack are forgiven because of God's gracious looking at us, loving us, forgiving us so that we take our leave and live our days;

Running like Abram to welcome holy visitors.

Running like Isaiah proclaimed and not growing weary.

Running like Joshua's men to discover it's not what you imagined but in Christ it will be ok.

Running like the parent of the prodigal only to discover sibling heartache.

Running like Mary Magdalene to share perplexing news only to discover resurrection hope.

Running like the Apostle Paul to do mission work in challenging places and with challenging people and challenging resources.

Running like the rich man in search of eternal life.

Running through baptismal water toward the banquet table to hear again that with God nothing is impossible. God loves you, gives his Son for you, and pours forth the Holy Spirit into you so that you don't live grieving but rejoicing in God's love.

It is a spectacular day for a run. I know that I don't run like I once did. But today we run to Jesus. We bow in humility. We receive from him the gift of life, eternal life "*This is my body given for you, this is my blood shed for you*" in concrete tangible means in bread and wine Jesus' **looking in love** becomes wholly real. Whether you lack one thing or one hundred things, Jesus loves you. Trust his word, for with God nothing is impossible. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15**

Seek the LORD and live,  
or he will break out against the house of Joseph  
like fire,  
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to  
quench it.

<sup>7</sup>Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
and bring righteousness to the ground!

<sup>10</sup>They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

<sup>12</sup>For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.

<sup>14</sup>Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

<sup>15</sup>Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

**Psalms 90:12-17**

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:12-16**

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper  
than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides  
soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to  
judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And  
before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked  
and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must  
render an account.

<sup>14</sup>Since, then, we have a great high priest who has  
passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God,

let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not  
have a high priest who is unable to sympathize  
with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every  
respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.  
<sup>16</sup>Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with  
boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find  
grace to help in time of need.

**GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-31**

As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up  
and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher,  
what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>18</sup>Jesus said  
to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good  
but God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: 'You  
shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You  
shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You  
shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" <sup>20</sup>He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since  
my youth." <sup>21</sup>Jesus, looking at him, loved him and  
said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and  
give the money to the poor, and you will have trea-  
sure in heaven; then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup>When he  
heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving,  
for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus looked around and said to his disci-  
ples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth  
to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup>And the disciples  
were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them  
again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom  
of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye  
of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the  
kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup>They were greatly astounded and  
said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" <sup>27</sup>Jesus  
looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible,  
but not for God; for God all things are possible."

<sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left ev-  
erything and followed you." <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, "Truly I tell  
you, there is no one who has left house or brothers  
or sisters or mother or father or children or fields,  
for my sake and for the sake of the good news, <sup>30</sup>who  
will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—hous-  
es, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and  
fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come  
eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and  
the last will be first."