

She
put in
everything
she had,
all she had
to live on

MARK 12:44

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

www.stpaulsyork.org

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 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

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.



Reception of Lutherans by Transfer - This morning we officially welcome and receive Jim and Heather Eaton and their children, Jack and Maddie, into the St. Paul's Lutheran Church membership.

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

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 10, 2024
Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Musical Setting #1 Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE

Still Be My Vision

Stephen Paulus

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

Once He Came in Blessing (LBW 312)



1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
 2 Still he comes with - in us; still his voice would win us
 3 Thus, if you have known him, not a - shamed to own him,
 4 Those who then are loy - al find a wel - come roy - al.



came in like - ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
 from the sins that hurt us; would to truth con - vert us
 nor have spurned him cold - ly, but will trust him bold - ly,
 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;



bore the cross to save us; hope and free - dom gave us.
 from our fool - ish er - ror ere he comes in ter - ror.
 he will then re - ceive you, heal you, and for - give you.
 let us here con - fess you, till in heav'n we bless you.

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.

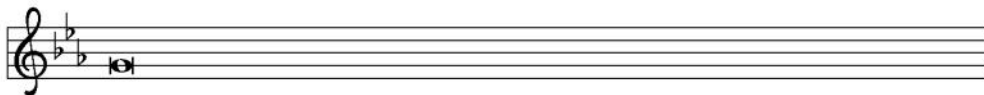
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For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



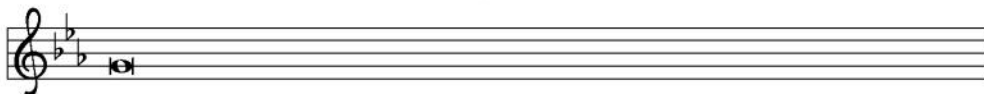
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God in the high -

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

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - mighty God and

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

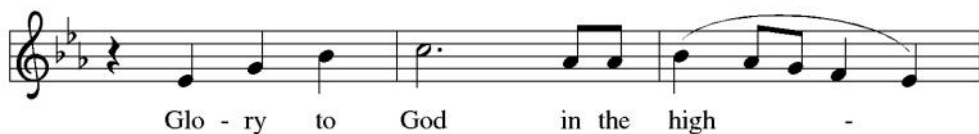
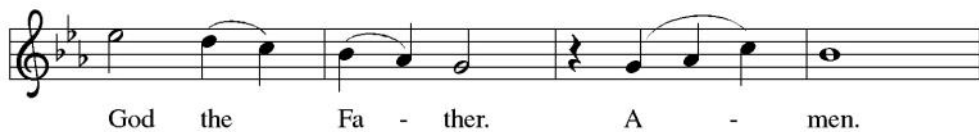
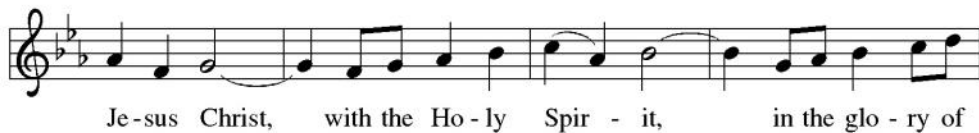
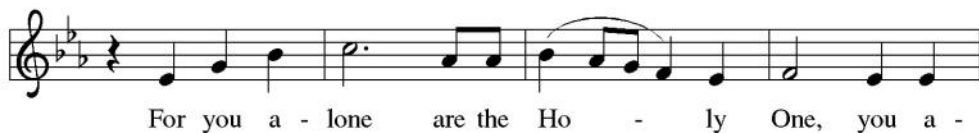
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people to seek more eagerly the help you offer, that, at the last, they may enjoy the fruit of salvation; through our Lord Jesus Christ .

Amen.

Sit

10:30 AM RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

10:30 AM **CHILDREN'S CHOIR** *Ise Oluwa—Nigeria Folksong*
 1st time children only 2nd time the congregation sings the response

Call D C₆ Response D

do

I - se o - lu - wa ko le ba - je - oh;

Call ee shay oh las wah Response D jay

I - se o - lu - wa ko le ba - je - oh.

Call D G₆ Response D

Ko - le ba - je - oh, ko le ba - je - oh.

Call D C₆ Response D

I - se o - lu - wa ko le ba - je - oh;

Call D G₆ Response D

I - se o - lu - wa ko le ba - je - oh.

Silver Burdett MAKING MUSIC
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PSALM Psalm 146 *spoken antiphonally men odd verses, women even verses*

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, | O my soul!*
- I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.
- ² **Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any | child of earth,***
for there is no | help in them.
- ³ When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,*
and in that day | their thoughts perish.
- ⁴ **Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,***
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;
- ⁵ who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;*
- who keeps his prom- | ise forever;
- ⁶ **who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,***
and food to | those who hunger.
- ⁷ The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind;*
- the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;
- ⁸ **the LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares | for the stranger;***
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.
- ⁹ The LORD shall | reign forever,*
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING Hebrews 9:24-28 *back page*

Stand

VERSE

Sung by all

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 Mark 12:38-44

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

back page

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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.

Renew your church, O God. Make us servants to one another for the sake of the gospel. Instill a heart for service and a passion for the Gospel in our bishops, deacons, pastors, and lay leaders. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Renew your creation, O God. Sustain the earth and seas and all that is in them. Kindle in us a reverent awe for all creatures great and small, and strengthen us as we care for the environment. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Renew the nations, O God. Heal our nation's veterans from the unseen wounds of war. Tend to their trauma and soothe burdened consciences. Make leaders of the world to end conflicts and pursue peace. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Renew your people, O God. Protect those in our communities who are vulnerable or ill (*especially*). Accompany persons who are unemployed or underemployed, children who are in foster care, and those who live alone. Watch over and uphold them. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Renew this congregation, O God. Give us clarity in our mission and boldness in our witness. Bless our ministries that attend to basic needs of any who lack sufficient resources, that all may live with dignity. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all your faithful ones who praised you as their God all their life long and who now rest in you. As we eagerly wait for you, inspire us by their lives of service. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

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

Sit

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

8:00 AM	Organ	<i>Awake, Awake to Love and Work</i>	Wilber Held
10:30 AM	Chancel Choir	<i>Weave Us In Community</i>	Karen Marrolli

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.

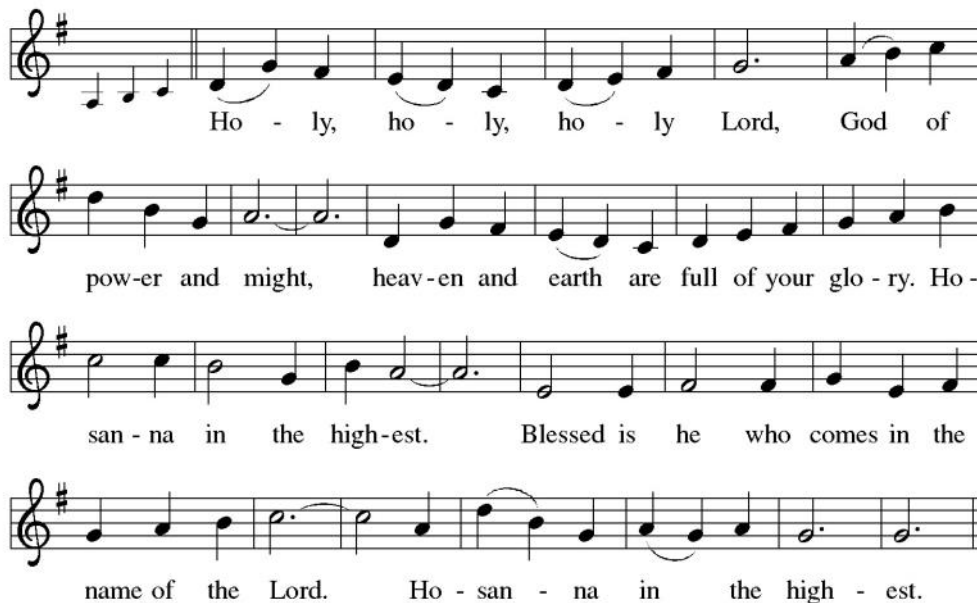
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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.



THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,

that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you:

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church both now and forever. **Amen**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

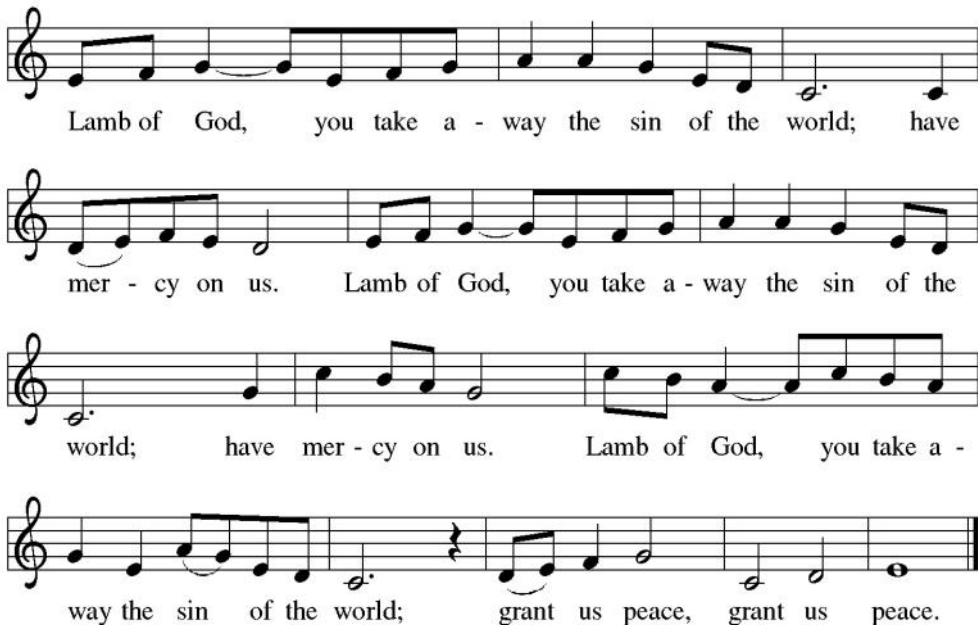
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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 *Take My Life that I May Be (ELW 583)*

Refrain/Estribillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

To stanzas *Last time*



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té
1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
3 Take my voice and let me sing
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with - hold;
al - ways, on - ly for my King;
it shall be no lon - ger mine:



que_a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
take my feet and let them be swift and
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
take my lips and let them be filled with
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall



Refrain/Estribillo

pul - so de tu_a - mor.
beau - ti - ful for thee.
pow'r as thou shalt choose.
mes - sag - es from thee.
be thy roy - al throne.

2 *Que mis pies tan sólo en pos
de lo santo puedan ir,
y que_a ti, Señor, mi voz,
se complazca en bendecir.* Estribillo

3 *Que mis labios al hablar
hablen sólo de tu amor;
que mis bienes dedicar
yo los quiera_a ti, Señor.* Estribillo

4 *Que mi tiempo todo esté
consagrado_a tu loor;
que mi mente y su poder
sean usados en tu honor.* Estribillo

BLESSING

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

DISMISSAL

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

HYMN

Day By Day (ELW 790) next page

POSTLUDE

Carillon Sortie

Henri Mulet

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Altar
Flowers

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
In honor of my father, Dale L Moyer's 60th anniversary of his ordina-
tion to the priesthood by his daughter Kirsten Barnes.*

Day by Day



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



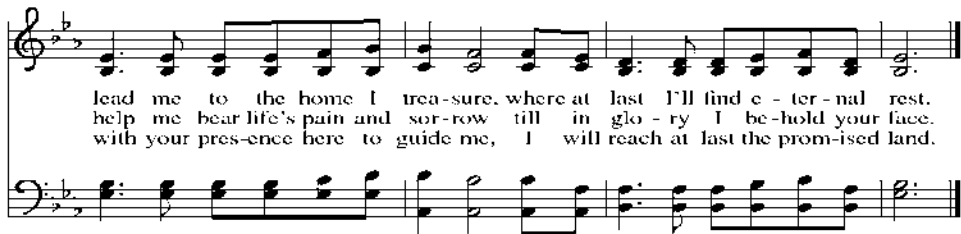
to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005

Music: BLÖTTEN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882

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This Week at St. Paul's

Sunday, November 10

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live-Stream
 11:30 AM Second Sunday Sandwiches1
 11:45 AM Holy Communion Class
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Room

Monday, November 11

7:00 PM Finance Committee Mtg—ZOOM

Tuesday, November 12

Council Reports due to the secretary

9:30 AM Pantry
 11:30-noon Preschool sub sandwich pick-up
 6:00-6:30 PM Preschool sub sandwich pick-up
 6:00 PM Create—Preschool thru Grade 6

Wednesday, November 13

No parking Springettsbury before noon

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

Thursday, November 14

10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor—Nave
 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir—Choir Rm

Friday, November 15 ***Newsletter Deadline***

Saturday, November 16

8:00 AM Fall Cleaning, Church clean-up

Sunday, November 17

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live-Stream
 12 noon Annual Meeting—Fellowship Hall
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Room

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Live stream	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild	Acolyte
11/10	8:00 AM	Jennifer Ports	Denise Rider	Harrison Palmer		Ann & Axel Ulrich	Team 2E: Ron Riese, Kathy Monk, Ken Hinkle, Alex Bastian	Kathy Monk, Lois Ann Schroeder	
	10:30 AM	Aaron Jacobs	Tonya Cave	Patty Snyder	Allen Reep	Nancy & Peter O'Connor	Team 2L: Kem Vaught, Gail Kerchner, Sandy Dickensheets	Sandy Dickensheets, Tonya Cave	

Annual Meeting & Dinner

Noon - Sunday November 17

The Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held on Sunday November 17th at noon in Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Committee is preparing for a delicious meal. The Congregation Council is preparing an agenda highlighting the many remarkable things that God is doing through the ministry of St. Paul's congregation.

At the meeting the Nominating Committee will present their slate of persons willing to serve on; Congregation Council, Benevolence Committee, and Mutual Ministry Committee. These are important roles as they give shape and direction to our shared mission. The Finance Committee will present the proposed 2025 budget. Additionally we will receive reports from key areas of ministry. In order for the Fellowship Committee to prepare the food for the meal a sign-up sheet will be circulated through the congregation in early November. You may also call the church office to add your name to the list of attendees. In advance, thank you for your participation in our faith community.



**Fall House Cleaning—Property Committee invites you to take part
Saturday, November 16, 8:00 – 11:00 AM**

In three hours' time we should be able to give the main level of the church building a good cleaning. The committee will prepare jobs to be accomplished on 3X5 cards and place them on the table in the Good Shepard Room on Sunday November 10 (the Sunday preceding the cleaning). If you wish to bring your favorite supplies in order to complete the task you have selected, please feel free to do so. Know that materials and supplies will be available on the fall cleaning day. Please let one of the property committee members know if you plan to lend a hand. Current Committee members are: Kem Vaught, Jeff Riese, Larry Becker, Sammy Barnes, Ted Weikert, and Stan Reep. If there are 30 volunteers we will accomplish 90 hours of work! And our building will be ready to greet worshipers during the Advent/Christmas season.

Adult Education Continues this fall—Christ Hall

Sunday morning adult education is offered at 9:15 AM in Christ Hall. The next session "Living the Catechism" draws upon Luther's Small Catechism. It will be led by Pastor Snyder.

Music and Create—Age 3 through Grade 6—Tuesday evenings 6:00 PM—7:15 PM

We provide 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.

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.

Food Pantry Needs: Plastic and paper grocery bags. Peanut butter.

Monetary donations can be placed in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry".

Volunteers on: Tuesday (distribution day), Thursdays (food delivery days) and some Sundays (pantry stocking days) Contact Teresa Rohrbaugh, Patty Snyder, Ken Hinkle, or the church office (717-843-8155) with questions.

The "Pantry Grocery Cart" in the Good Shepherd Room is for bags and food donations only.

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 in the Good Shepherd Room. **Last day of sign-up is November 17th.**

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.

They thought for certain that the strong man could fix everything. They couldn't believe that there might be another way to be delivered from oppressors. They had convinced themselves that a triumphalist, a zealot, a military political leader would pull them from the brink. And so they kept looking in the same direction for a way to be delivered, delivered from all that was wrong in the world, especially all that was wrong in their corner of the universe.

When seeking a way out of an oppressive situation it is easy to slip into familiar patterns. By nature we return to what is tried and true, to things that have worked in the past, call upon a colleague or friend or family member who has bailed us out. Such memories are recalled, and we act on them for rescue, relief, and assistance in the current time of need. Those recollections become hope for the present crisis.

That is the way it was for God's beloved people. God promised to send the Messiah. They knew that when the Messiah appeared that things would improve. And so they were on the lookout. But what they were looking for was a strong man who could fix everything, a triumphalist, a zealot, a military political leader, the kinds of individuals who had rescued them in the past.

It should have been obvious, the "Beware" sign. Not like the ones we place in our front window or affix to the storm door "Beware of Dog." No, this time it is on the lips of Jesus. This time it isn't a strong man boasting of his accomplishments and the battles he has won and the need he has for recognition, and ego stroking. No, this time it is Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus who rode into town on a borrowed colt, cursed a fruitless fig tree, drove buyers and sellers out of the temple and overturned the tables of money changers. *What on earth have you done? You have turned the place into a den of robbers. This is a house of prayer.* But for some reason the audible word "beware" was a cautionary word spoken for someone else. Surely it couldn't be me. I can't be the one to whom this Galilean fellow is speaking?

When was it that I walked around town in nice clothes, latest fashion, designer labels and had my friends call out to me when I was shopping at the market? When was it that seats were reserved at the table, my favorite table, making sure that a stranger, a foreigner, or someone new to the community wouldn't sit there? And when seating charts are assembled you know with whom I wish to sit what's wrong with that? And when was it that I cheated a widow out of some cash? Most likely you can see me standing and delivering long prayers. That's more who I am.

But on that day when Jesus spoke the cautionary word "beware" he got comfortable in a seat across from the temple treasury and did some people watching. He watched people pass by; the rich and the not so rich, those in elegant robes and others in pauper's clothes. He watched them as they contributed to the treasury. They were there,

same as Jesus, to fulfill religious obligation. It was easy for him to identify the false piety prevalent by the affluent as they noticeably placed large sums into the treasury and the true piety revealed when a widow tossed in her only two coins. Beware is still a cautionary word. Even with the task of calculating a gift for the temple, a gift to God, it needed to be guided by the law of the tithe and a long tradition of how such an amount was to be figured.

That day Jesus pointed out to his followers the generosity of the widow who put in more than all of the others, because she gave her all. Many gave out of their abundance but out of her poverty she put in everything she had, nothing was held back. This act of great generosity would escape the Disciples until they witnessed Jesus giving his all on Calvary's Cross. When he was crucified it cost him everything. The Apostle Paul wrote about this in his second letter to the young vibrant church in Corinth *"Though he was rich, yet for our sake became poor so that by his poverty we might become rich."*

How on earth are we to be delivered from our oppressors? The people of Israel, God's chosen people, were convinced that the only way to be made free, the only way to get ahead, the only way to shake loose from the powers that oppressed and held them captive, was with the help of a strong man. They sought out a Messiah that was big and strong, and commanded military troops with force. They were convinced they needed a king with might, like in the glory days with King David. These are all archetypes that Jesus is not! Jesus comes among them and reveals his regal power and authority in simplicity and truth giving his life in total obedience to the rule of God.

He comes among us this morning speaking a word of truth. The truth is that with him there is release from the past, a way forward, a future, hope. There is life for you and for me because he gives all to save all from sin and death, and from all that separates us one from another. When he speaks to his disciples and says "beware" he speaks a word that shapes future. He illustrates what is false and what is true in his realm. This morning we receive him in the tangible word of Holy Communion. He comes to us knowing that we need relief from all that is oppressive in our corner of the world. He comes in simple forms of words and water, bread and wine, forms so common and ordinary that many don't recognize him. Amen.



Cost is \$13.00 per plant.
They will be RED in
color.

List plant(s) as shown below
(please print clearly)

Number of plants _____ in Honor of:

Number of plants _____ in Loving Memory of:

Number of plants _____ Dedicated to the Glory of God

Your Name:

Plants may be picked up anytime *after* the
10:30 a.m. service on Wednesday, December 25th.

Total # of Plants _____ @ \$13.00 each = \$ _____
Checks made payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

The completed order form with payment attached may be placed
in the offering plate or returned to the church office.

Orders due by Sunday, November 24th

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 17:8-16

Then the word of the LORD came to [Elijah], saying, ⁹“Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” ¹¹As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹²But she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” ¹³Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.” ¹⁵She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

Psalm 146

SECOND READING: Hebrews 9:24-28

Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one,

but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; ²⁶for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, ²⁸so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

GOSPEL: Mark 12:38-44

As [Jesus] taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

⁴¹He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

Next Sunday's Readings: Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25; Mark 13:1-8.

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