

NOT
ONE STONE
WILL BE LEFT
UPON
ANOTHER

MARK 13:2

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.

Children who participated in Holy Communion Instruction and who receive Communion today are: Ella & Easton McDonald, Hazel & Frederick Jones, Jack & Maddison Eaton.

Please extend words of congratulations and encouragement to them and their families.

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-sixth Sunday after Pentecost
November 17, 2024

Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Musical Setting #1 Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE	8:00 AM	Organ	<i>Gather Us In</i>	Jeffrey Honore
	10:30 AM	Handbell Choir	<i>Gather Us In</i>	Haugen

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

Gather Us In (ELW 532)

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

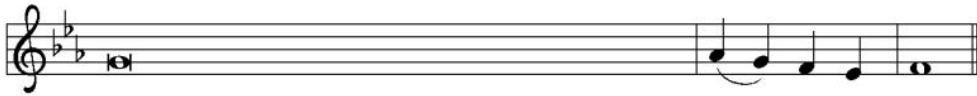
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



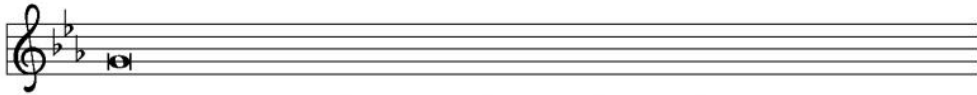
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



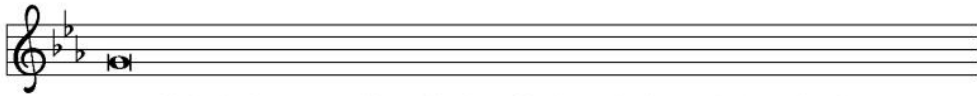
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God in the high -



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



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



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



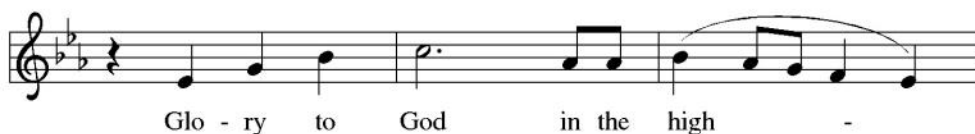
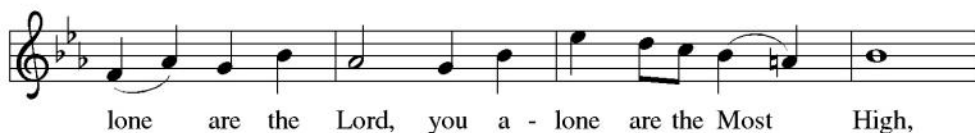
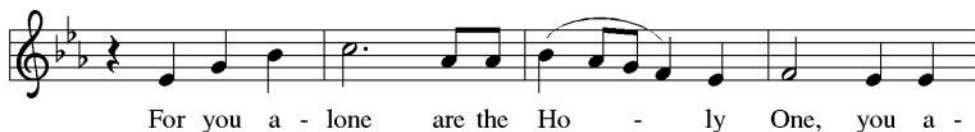
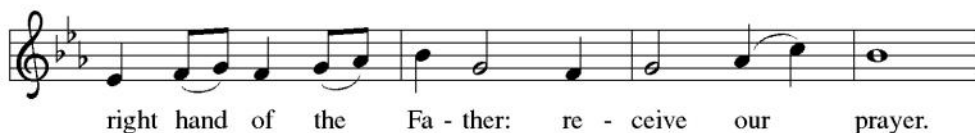
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



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



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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . Lord God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, always keeping in mind the end of all things and the day of judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of life here and may live with you forever in the world to come, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sit

10:30 AM CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Daniel 12:1-3

back page

PSALM

Psalm 16

*spoken antiphonally men odd verses, **women even verses***

¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;*

I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

² **All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,*
upon those who are noble among the people.**

³ But those who run after other gods*
shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴ **Their libations of blood I will not offer,*
nor take the names of their gods up on my lips.**

⁵ O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;*
it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶ **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;*
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**

⁷ I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;*
my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸ **I have set the LORD al- ways before me;*
because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.**

⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;*
my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰ **For you will not abandon me to the grave,*
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹ You will show me the path of life;*
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

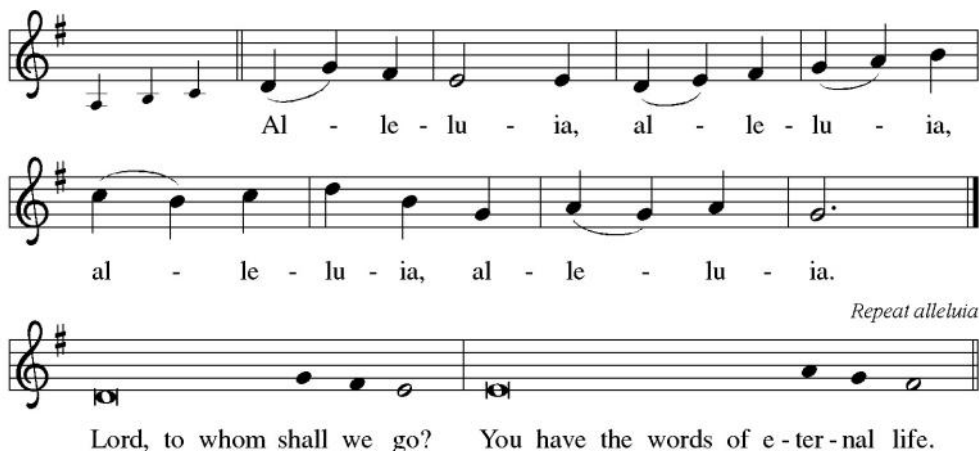
SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:11-25

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 13-1-8

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.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Reep

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.

O God, unite us, as we strive for your justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Stir us from complacency moving us to sustainable ways of life that protect and restore the earth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Defend all who are displaced or affected by war or violence (*especially*) and make all people and nations pursue peace. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Be present with persons experiencing depression, anxiety, addiction, or mental illness. Bring them healing and wholeness. Especially we pray for....Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving we remember saints and angels who delight in your everlasting presence. As their lives inspire ours, provoke us always to love, holding fast to the confession of our hope in you. 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 *Be Thou My Vision* David Cherwien

10:30 AM Chancel Choir *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Thomaas Keesecker

Stand

OFFERTORY

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system of music has the lyrics: "Praise God, from Whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be-low;". The second system of music has the lyrics: "Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost! A-men." The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with block chords in the bass line.

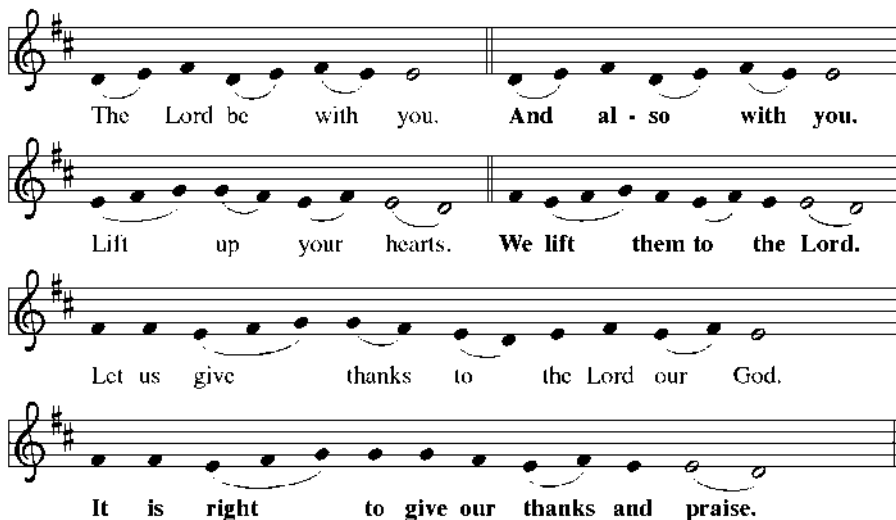
OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

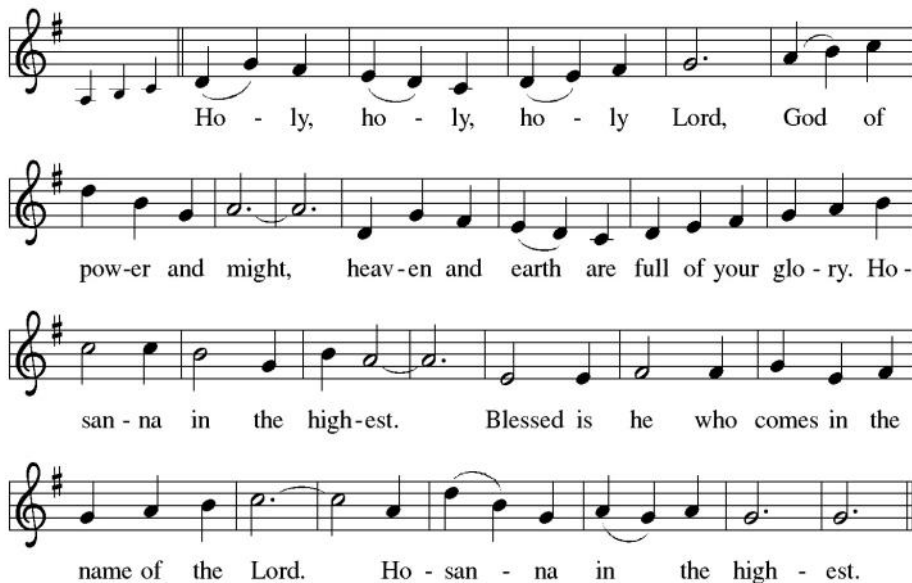
The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves end with a final double bar line.

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.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

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

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

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

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves end with a final double bar line.

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,

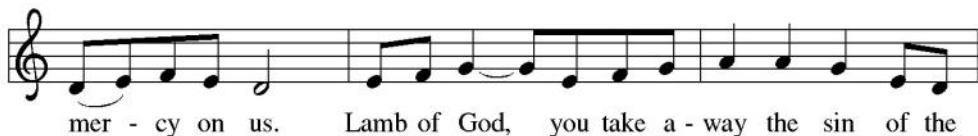
as we forgive those who trespass against us;

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.*





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 *On Eagle's Wings* (ELW 787)

Leader or All

1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,

say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain
All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Leader or All

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of four measures: Measure 1 starts with a whole rest followed by a quarter note G4; Measure 2 contains eighth notes A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4; Measure 3 contains eighth notes F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3; Measure 4 contains eighth notes G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2.[illegible]

The musical notation for the Refrain is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the following notes: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C#4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (half). The word "Refrain" is written above the staff.

[illegible][illegible]

bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Final refrain
All



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.
And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

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 *O Christ, Our Hope (ELW 604) (next page)*

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

The Feast is Ready

Aaron David Miller

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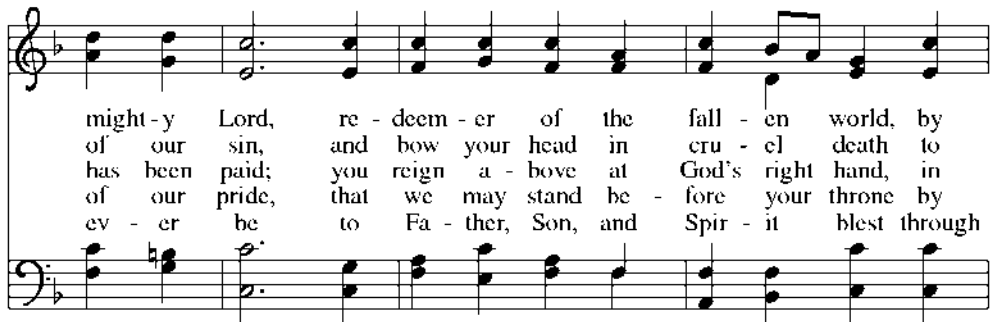


*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
In memory of Andrew Glessner*

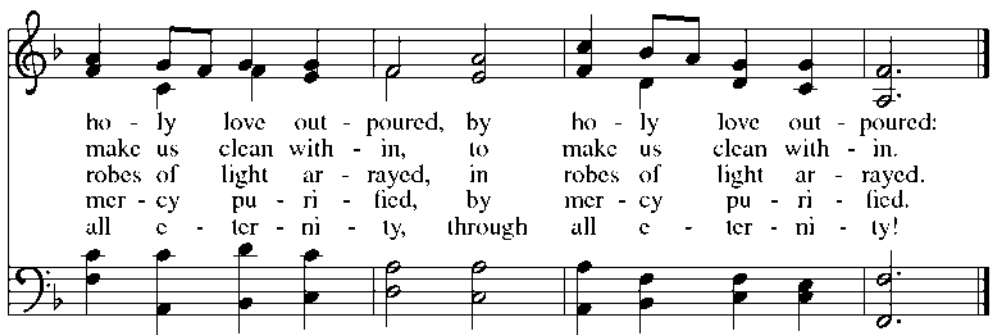
O Christ, Our Hope



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's
2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som
4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us
5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might - y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in
of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.
all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, adapt.
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

This Week at St. Paul's

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

Monday, November 18

6:30 PM Council Mtg—Christ Hall

Tuesday, November 19

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

Wednesday, November 20

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

Thursday, November 21

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

Sunday, November 24 Christ the King

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
 9:15 AM Jesse Tree Decorating
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live-Stream
 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
11/17	8:00 AM	Harold Sargeant	James Palmer	Kirsten Barnes		Dale & Betsy Smith	Team 3E: Sammy Barnes, Norma Shue, Cliff Beck, Sheridan Palmer	Pat Scarborough, Kat Lemke	
	10:30 AM	Tristan Ericson	Tom Gibson	Janet Fitch	Chris-tian Barnes	Sandy Dicken-sheets, Tonya Cave	Team 3L: Dan Garber, Joe Guarriello, Larry Becker	Ann Anstadt, Jill Streibig	

St. Nicholas Event

Friday, December 6, 5:30—7:00 PM

On December 6th we will have a celebration for St. Nicholas Day. Come join us for a holiday meal, entertainment from within the faith community, a visit from and photo opportunity with St. Nick, and an evening creating memories for children and adults of Good Christian fellowship. Please do sign up for this all ages event!



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. We are currently preparing for the Christmas Program to be presented December 8 at 10:30 AM

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 TODAY**

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.

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

Proper 28 B, 2024

Daniel 12:1-3, Hebrews 10:11-25, Mark 13:1-8

The nation was undergoing extremely difficult times. The ways of the greater society had taken root among the rank and file of God's elect. These were people with whom God had journeyed. These were people for whom God had provided. These were people whose faith, devotion, and commitment, were lived out in the daily, weekly, yearly cycles of life. Observances and rituals, holy days with fasts and feasts, everything that had come before was upended for God's people.

It is difficult to imagine the impact that foreign rule, foreign government, and religious plurality can have for a people steeped in a way of life shaped by God's promises. That is the arena in which Daniel the prophet lives. Daniel is enduring the time of exile in Babylon. The book of Daniel was written at a time when God's people were suffering great persecution under the ruler and king of Syria. The foreign king was responsible for the desecration of the Jerusalem Temple. This was a painful blow for Israel, especially for those who had remained faithful to God. The leadership started to ban aspects of religious faith and identity. The Sabbath was outlawed. Circumcision for male children was banished. With those two aspects of religious life cast away, why on earth would they need a priestly line of the Levites? Such decrees were greeted with joy by many. For the faithful, the devoted, the committed, such actions led to an uprising, the Maccabean revolt.

In our tradition of Bible readings each Sunday giving shape to our life together, the book of Daniel does not occupy a major spot. We occasionally hear the stories of Daniel being cast into a den of lions, and the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. We may even know the reference from Belshazzar's feast about the hand writing on the wall "*your days are numbered!*" In the book of Daniel the first half a dozen chapters provide God's people with heroic role models providing hope at a time when all seems hopeless. The next half dozen chapters place before God's struggling oppressed people stories of deliverance in a new kingdom of God for those who persevere. Faith, devotion, and commitment are needed for a people to endure such situations.

One summer at the Chautauqua Institute the key note speaker was a retired MI5 agent. The MI5 is the United Kingdom's domestic counter-intelligence security agency and they work alongside other institutions and agencies to protect British democracy. She spoke with eloquence. She spoke of the challenges of being neighbor, living adjacent to another country whose rule and law, language and religion, and their overarching way of life run counter to yours. She pointed out a benefit that our country has enjoyed for decades, simply based on geography. Two large areas of our nation are bordered by oceans. While the oceans had in a previous age provided protection, and didn't call on neighborly skills to maintain peace, she alerted the audience in that lecture that the days are coming when such natural protection will no longer hold. What then? Since that summer lecture I have thought about this often. How would we function if we were taken over by foreign rule? Daniel didn't have the option to think about what if such a situation arose. He was living the situation when neighbor acted aggressively, when religion was upended, when kingly leadership was morally bankrupt, when hope was nearly extinguished.

In the readings this morning, the end time confronts us. This may come as good news for some and not such good news for others. There is hope for Israel, at least for those whose names are written in the book. The disciples Peter, James, John and Andrew want to know when this will take place. Jesus tells them straight out to be on guard for those who come leading people astray. You will hear of all sorts of calamities facing humankind, but these are, Jesus says *“only the beginning of the birth pangs.”*

A few years ago when discussing these texts during our Wednesday morning Bible study I jotted down some notes made by the female participants as related to birth pangs as they experienced and remembered them. Birth Pangs: *“You forget all about it! That is after a lot of time passes.”* *“It’s not a picnic”* proclaimed another. *“When will it end”* interjected another. *“How did I ever get myself into this?”* The focus is not in the moment, not in the current pain and discomfort, but on the outcome. The outcome, their collective wisdom was to focus on the outcome: new life, new birth, fresh start, responsibility, expectation, joy, love, affection, patience, and encouragement. Focusing on the hope for the future is what gets you through the current moment and allows you to live into tomorrow. You simply can’t grow weary.

Many of us have grown weary. We are alert enough to look around and see that things are not at all what we desire or for what we hope. Rumors escalate as do tensions between nations and kingdoms. War, famine, earthquake, flood, and devastating fires sweep across the lands. We have grown tired; tired of anger, tired of mean-spiritedness, tired of one group being treated one way and another group treated with a different set of rules. Jesus’ words to his followers are not isolated to that day when the five of them sat down by the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus’ words are for us now. The cautionary word *“Beware”* and the honesty of the situation *“this is but the beginning of the birth pangs”* encourage us. We are encouraged; encouraged by the words of scripture, encouraged by the community of faith, encouraged through prayer, encouraged through the sacramental presence of the living Lord.

In the Old Testament reading we hear how the Archangel Michael brings deliverance for God’s people. There is deliverance for everyone who is found written in the book. The *“wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”* This is good news for those who have been enduring hardship, for those whose religious traditions have been jettisoned, and for whom earthly leadership is morally bankrupt. The book of Daniel provides hope. There is resurrection. For the faithful people of God, keepers of Sabbath and covenant, there is everlasting life.

In the gospel reading Jesus is being straightforward with his followers. They are able to look around, assess the situation see that things are not what one would hope for or desire. Jesus is encouraging them in the midst of a difficult time. He wants them to grasp the current situation, live in it and through it, getting to a new day. We know all too well what is going to happen to Jesus. What will be born out of his suffering and death? What will come from that horrific Good Friday? God raises Jesus from death to life, tramples hell underfoot, and opens the kingdom of heaven to all believers. His resurrection gives hope to us now in this life, now when we are undergoing extremely difficult times, and in the life to come. Such life is given through God’s promise to each of us in baptism. Your name is written in the Lamb’s book of life. 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:

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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: Daniel 12:1-3

"At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

Psalm 16

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25

Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," ¹³and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, ¹⁶"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," ¹⁷he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." ¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.]

¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:1-8

As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" ²Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." ³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴"Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs."