



MY KINGDOM IS NOT FROM THIS WORLD

JOHN 18:36

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.

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.



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

stpaulsyork.org

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
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Christ the King
November 24, 2024
Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Musical Setting #1 Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Tim Fields

ENTRANCE HYMN

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending (ELW 435)



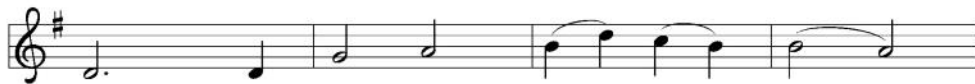
1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once comes for our sal - va - tion slain;
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
all the saints this world re - ject - ed
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



join to sing the glad re - frain:
thrill to the trum - pet sound to hear:
claim the king - dom as thine own.



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



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign. and thou a - lone!

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.**

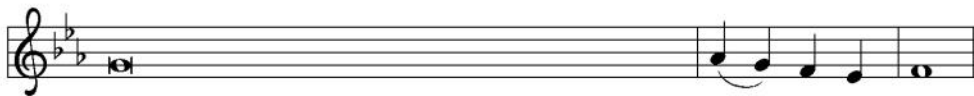
KYRIE



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.



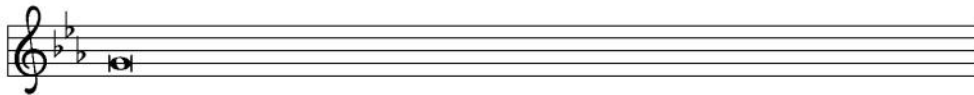
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



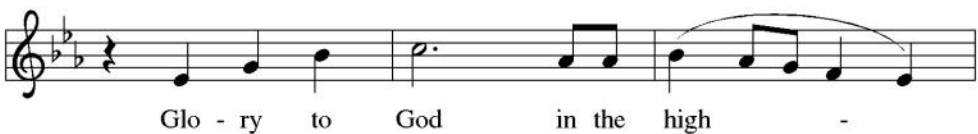
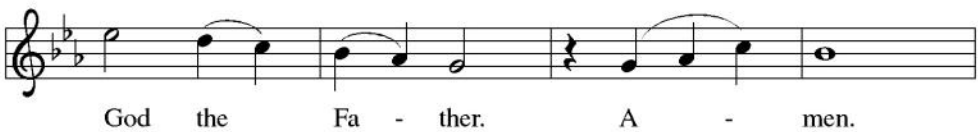
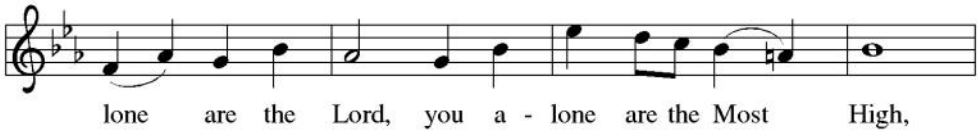
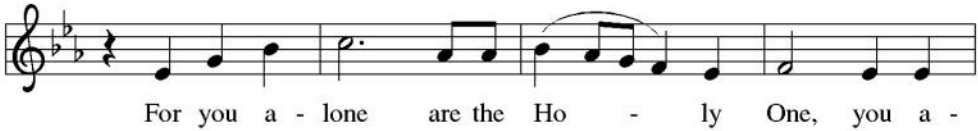
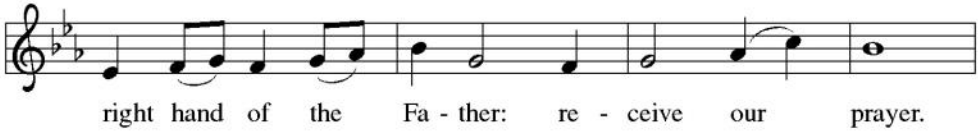
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



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. . . Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things to your beloved Son, whom you anointed priest forever and king of all creation: Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united under the glorious and gentle rule of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

back page

PSALM

Psalm 93

spoken antiphonally men odd verses, women even verses

- ¹ The LORD is king; he has put on splen- | did apparel;*
the LORD has put on his apparel and girded him- | self with strength.
- ² **He has made the whole | world so sure***
that it can- | not be moved;
- ³ ever since the world began, your throne has | been established;*
you are from | everlasting.
- ⁴ **The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted | up their voice;***
the waters have lifted up their | pounding waves.
- ⁵ Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers | of the sea,*
mightier is the LORD who | dwells on high.
- ⁶ **Your testimonies are | very sure,***
and holiness adorns your house, O LORD, forever and for- | evermore.

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4b-8

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

John 18:33-37

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.
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

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of
the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was
made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen

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.

Revive our congregations, synods, and national church body to reflect the forgiveness, mercy, and love of your kingdom. Raise up church leaders who teach and serve your people. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Nourish parched lands and bring relief to flooded places. Protect wildlife habitats and endangered species. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Grant wisdom to the leaders who govern, legislate, and deliberate on our behalf (*local officials may be named*). Advance your nonviolent reign of love through their work. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Draw near to those who are detained, on trial, or incarcerated. Transform systems of retribution into systems of reconciliation and restoration.

receive our prayer.

Remind us of your enduring love in all seasons. Guide the planning efforts of worship leaders and volunteers who usher our congregation into a meaningful Advent (*worship ministries may be named*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In your eternal presence the saints now joined by the Reverend Judy McKee sing of your majesty. Join our voices with theirs in praise to the one who loves us and frees us from sin and at the last, gather us all into his heavenly courts. 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>Crown Him with Many Crowns</i>	Charles Callahan
10:30 AM	Chancel Choir	<i>He Whom Angels Worship</i>	arr. Alan Bullard

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 is for the first line of lyrics, and the second system is for the second line. The lyrics are: "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." The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass line.

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

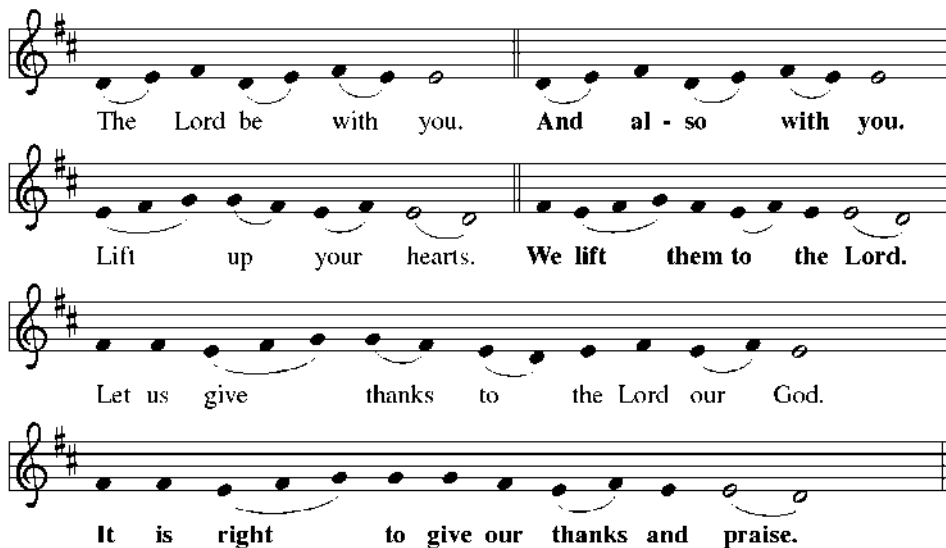
Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost! A-men.

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



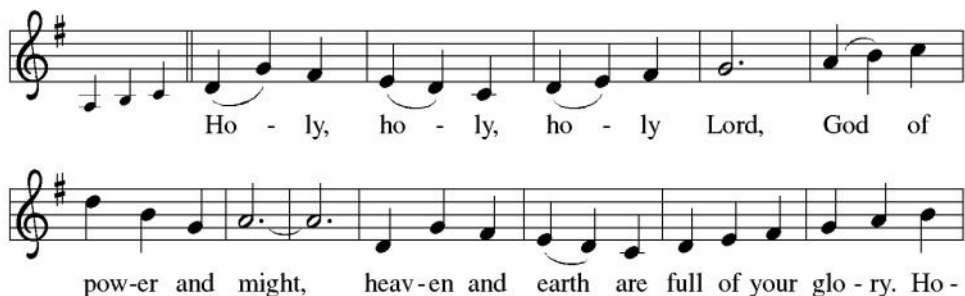
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

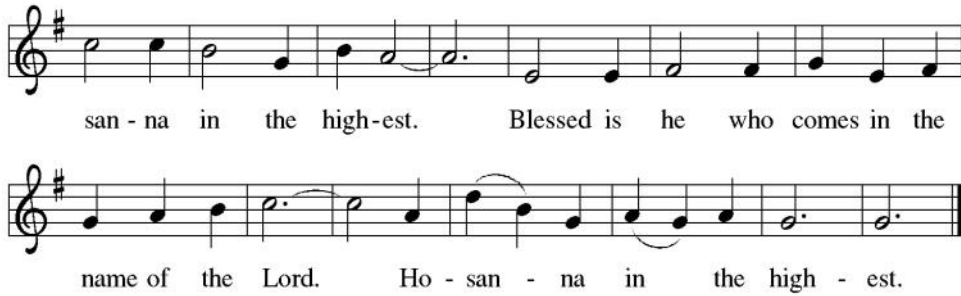
It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Sung by all.



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



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

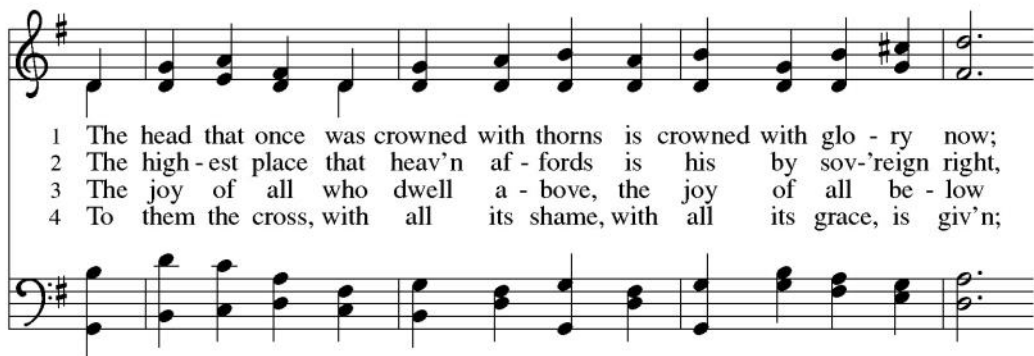
COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

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.

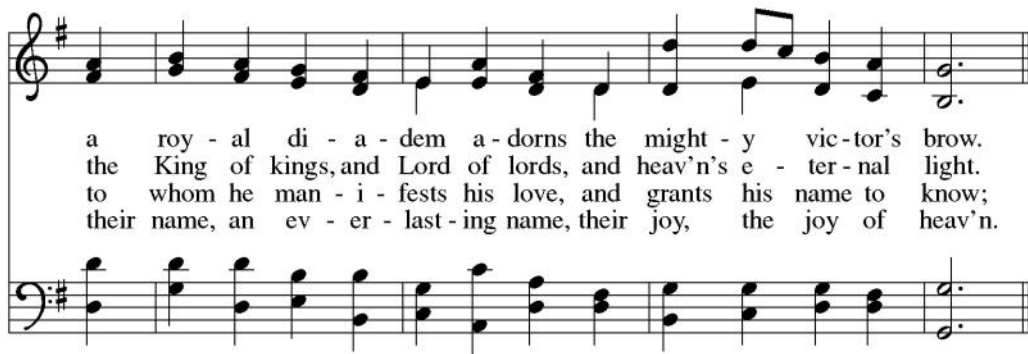
Procedure for receiving Communion:

- 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 *The Head That Once Was Crowned (ELW 432)*



1 The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glo - ry now;
2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords is his by sov'-reign right,
3 The joy of all who dwell a - bove, the joy of all be - low
4 To them the cross, with all its shame, with all its grace, is giv'n;



5 They suffer with their Lord below;
they reign with him above;
their profit and their joy to know
the myst'ry of his love.

6 The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme!

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. Lord, in this Most Holy Sacrament you have given Christ, the King of all creation, as food for eternal life. Give us the grace to live by His Gospel, and bring us to the joy of His Kingdom, where He lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

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

HYMN

Crown Him With Many Crown (ELW 855) (next page)

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Alleluyas

Simon Preston

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*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
In loving memory of my son, Neil E. Shue, and our brother by Norma
Shue and family*

Crown Him with Many Crowns

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them draws all mu - sic but its own.
whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
ere - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - cf - fab - ly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

This Week at St. Paul's

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

Monday, November 25

6:00 PM Christian Ed Mtg—Youth Rm

Tuesday, November 26

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

Wednesday, November 27

Preschool Thanksgiving Break
 10:30 AM NO Bible Study

Thursday, November 28 Thanksgiving—Office Closed

Friday, November 29—Office Closed

Sunday, December 1, Advent 1

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for children/ No Adult class
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live-Stream—with the
 Sacrament of Holy Baptism
 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
11/24	8:00 AM	Ken Hinkle	James Palmer	Jennifer Ports		Norma Shue, Jim Mummert	Team 1E: Jeff Riese, John Monk, Alex Bastian	Pat Scarborough, Kat Lemke	James & Harrison Palmer
	10:30 AM	Tonya Cave	Larry Moore	George Fitch	Allen Reep	Peter & Nancy O'Connor	Team 1L: Dave Kopp, Darren Smith	Ann Anstadt, Jill Streibig	Isabella Lehr, Cecilia Lauer



Wednesday, Advent Vespers

December 4, 11, & 18

6:00 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Vespers

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



Christmas Worship Schedule

Please note the alternate service times throughout the Christmas Season

Sunday December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM

Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

Joy to the World

The Ringing in of Christmas

Organ, Chancel Choir, Violin

Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve - The Nativity of Our Lord

4:00 PM

The Holy Eucharist

Lighting of Hand Candles

Children's Choir & Bells, Cello Duet, Violin

7:00 PM

The Holy Eucharist

Lighting of Hand Candles

Handbells, Organ, Chancel Choir, Piano Duet, Violin, Brass

Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day

10:30 AM

The Holy Eucharist

Sunday December 29, First Sunday after Christmas

10:30 AM

The Holy Eucharist with Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Sunday January 5, Second Sunday after Christmas

9:15 AM

Pancake Breakfast (Men's Group Cooking)

10:30 AM

The Holy Eucharist

Jazz Quartet leading the liturgy

Christ the King B, 2024

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

Cumulus, stratus, altocumulus, cirrus, cumulonimbus – these identify cloud types. Weather forecasters and aviators deal with clouds on a daily basis. As a kid I liked to gaze at cloud formations, mostly in the summer time, and identify in them shapes; animals, faces, or other earthly objects. As an adult I am more aware of storm clouds gathering.

This June, while in Tanzania, I was struck by the sheer beauty of the sky and of the cloud formations. The sky seemed vast, reminiscent of trips in the southwest part of the USA. But there was a difference. In Tanzania the clouds were large fluffy configurations almost stationary overhead. They were not threatening or ominous. They actually seemed more like an extension of the landscape.

Upon our return I completed a series of paintings based on our time in that gorgeous landscape and what were pronounced in the picture plain of each painting were the cloud formations. The Tanzanian clouds seemed to hover effortlessly above the terrain, reflected golden rays of sunlight, bathed areas of the plains in purple shadows and made distant mountains velvety soft. These elements revealed themselves to me as I painted from sketches and photos and before the memory of them evaporated from my mind.

Clouds are featured in the readings from Daniel and Revelation. For both Daniel and John the seer, storm clouds have rolled in dominating daily life for God's beloved people. For Daniel it was foreign rule leading God's people away from their covenantal relationship. For John it was persecution for the struggling young church in the days after Jesus' resurrection. In both readings depicted by the biblical writers, clouds are signs of hope for the people of God who are suffering persecution for the faith. Announced by the prophet and seer are not storm clouds, but clouds from heaven. Heaven here is not so much directionally speaking as up, but rather from the Ancient One, the Alpha and Omega, the Almighty. Such cloud formations from God depict hope for the future. Judgement is coming, and for those who are righteous, for those whose names are recorded in the book, for those who believe in the covenant that God made for and with God's people, there is nothing to fear.

The text of the entrance hymn this morning by Charles Wesley draws deeply from the biblical witness. The image and theological hope set down with pen and paper in the early days of the 18th century remind us of a different kind of cloud, descending clouds. And with them, with the descending clouds come the Christ, the Lord returning to reign. This time when he appears it will be different from when he came as a child born of Mary in a Bethlehem stable. This time every eye shall behold him. He shall not wear bands of cloth but majestic robes. He will bear the

marks of those that nailed him to the cross, and we will wail because this time, we know what we have done. We know that this time it was for our sinful self-centered ways that he was pierced through and we shall wail in sorrow and remorse. Lo, when he comes we shall all adore him, be glad to have him rule and reign. And with him we will know that we are made whole, sins forgiven, wrongs righted, welcomed into his holy courts with thousands upon thousands singing and praise to the Almighty God.

This kingship is one that shall never be destroyed. It doesn't matter how many dark storm clouds may come our way, trying to cloud our vision, or veil our hope. With Christ, we know that his is an everlasting dominion, it will not pass away. He is the ruler of the kings of the earth. He is above earthly rulers who continually seek ways that run counter to his. Through him we are made a kingdom of priests to serve God the Father, and to give glory to Christ our King.

Christ the King Sunday brings to a close the liturgical year. It brings us full circle, back to Advent's hope, Christmas' joy, Epiphany's guidance, Lent's penance, Holy Week's passion, Easter's resurrection, and Pentecost's empowerment. On this Sunday we acknowledge as the baptized community of faith the grace that has been lovingly given. King Jesus comes among us today in the Eucharistic bread and wine of Holy Communion. We hold out our hands making a throne to welcome him, to receive him, acknowledging that he alone provides what is needed when skies are bright and sunny and when storm clouds gather; "The body of Christ given for you for the forgiveness of your sins."

Nearly one hundred years ago, in 1925, Pope Pius the XI established this feast day, placing it on the liturgical calendar boldly stating that earthly kings and leaders will not win the day. The Pope thought it fitting to crown the last Sunday of the church year with a festival celebrating the royal, kingly visions of both Daniel the prophet and John the seer. And to remind worshipers then and now that the ideologies being put forth by humankind cannot supersede the Ancient One, the Alpha and Omega, the Almighty Lord God and Father. Nazism, communism, Marxism, capitalism, consumerism and whatever else are lurking in the hearts and imaginations of humankind will all be brought to nothing when Christ comes in the fullness of time.

So when the storm clouds of life gathers, and they do, and when the sunny days don't seem to last long enough, and they don't, take comfort in the words of the prophet Daniel and the seer John. "Look! He is coming with the clouds; everyone will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen."

FIRST READING: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne,
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.
¹⁰A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand
stood attending him.
The court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.
¹³As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.
¹⁴To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

Psalms 93**SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4b-8**

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the
earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

GOSPEL: John 18:33-37

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."