A photograph of a brown hen with her chicks. The hen is the central focus, shown in profile facing left. She has reddish-brown feathers on her head and neck, and lighter brown feathers on her body. Several small, fluffy chicks are huddled around her, some under her wings. The background is a blurred green landscape with hills under a blue sky. On the left side of the image, there is a vertical wooden plank with a natural wood grain texture.

**How often  
have I desired  
to gather  
your children  
together  
as a hen gathers her  
brood under her wings**

**LUKE 13:34**

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)

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

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

**WELCOME** Thank you for being with us.

**We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition** (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 188 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Offerings** Offerings are received during the liturgy. They are presented along with gifts of bread and wine at the altar. You may also donate via our website at [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org) or use the QR Code provided.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery which is accessed through the double doors front right.

**The Nursery** is accessed through the front right double doors. The liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Quiet activities are also available in the Narthex for infant through preschool children to use with an adult.

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

*We extend our sincere thanks to the members and staff of the  
Lebanon Valley College Concert Choir  
for providing the additional choral music for this liturgy.*

## STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	<a href="mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net">st.paulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	<a href="mailto:kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	<a href="mailto:vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Children's Music Director	Julianna Jones	<a href="mailto:Jjones.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">Jjones.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	<a href="mailto:lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	<a href="mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net">st.paulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Sexton	Ted Weikert	<a href="mailto:tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	<a href="mailto:director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com">director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com</a>

**March 16, 2025**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**Holy Communion 10:30 A.M.**

*Musical setting #9 Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

*Lebanon Valley College Concert Choir*  
*Dr. Kyle Zeuch, Conductor*

**CHORAL PRELUDE**

*Light Beyond Shadow*

Dan Forrest

*Stand turning to face the Baptismal Font.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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**

**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.**

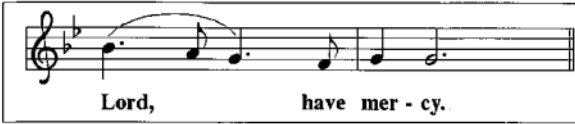


# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

## RESPONSE

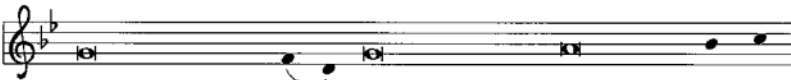


Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

## RESPONSE

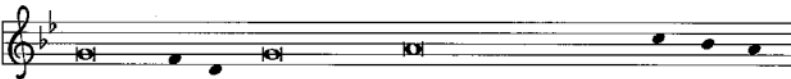


For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

## RESPONSE

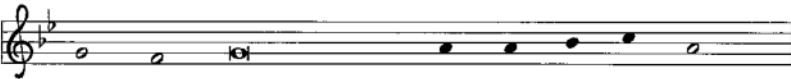


For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.

## RESPONSE



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



A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray....Heavenly Father, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

*Sit*

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

*Let There Be Light*

*Craig Courtney*

**FIRST READING**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

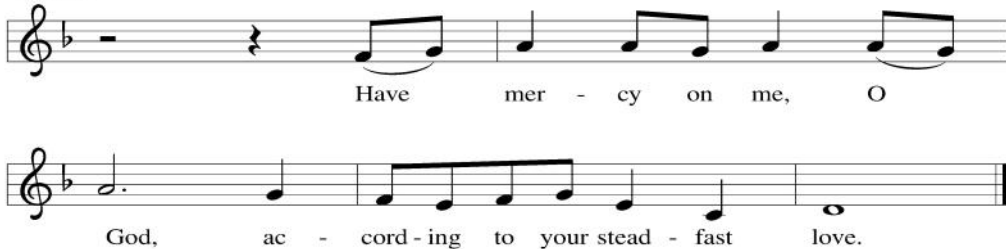
*(back cover)*

**SECOND READING**

Romans 10:8b-13 *(back cover)*

*Stand*

**VERSE**



Have mer - cy on me, O  
God, ac - cord - ing to your stead - fast love.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 13:31-35 *(back cover)*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the Gospel.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**SERMON**

Pastor Reep

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

*Earth Song*

Frank Ticheli

*Stand*

**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.*

Holy God, bless the churches of the Middle East and all persecuted churches. Support your people so that they may stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Guide today's leaders to work for justice and to safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need (*especially*). May all know that they are not alone. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us (*especially*). Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of 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*

**CHORAL OFFERING** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Gilbert Martin

Stand  
OFFERTORY

*Create in Me a Clean Heart (ELW 188)*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both are in the key of B-flat major (two flats). The melody is written in the upper staff, and the accompaniment is in the lower staff. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

The fourth system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

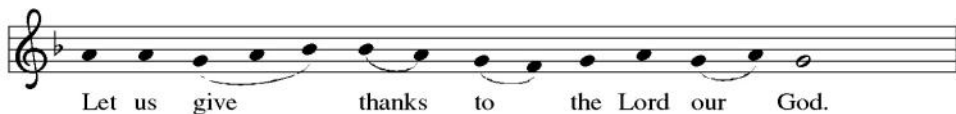
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The fifth system of music concludes the hymn. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

## 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

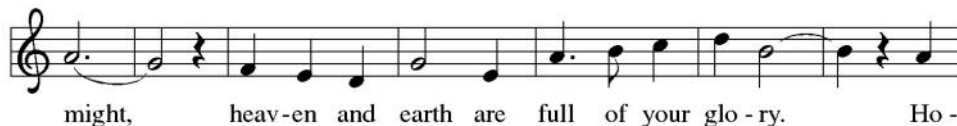
## DIALOGUE



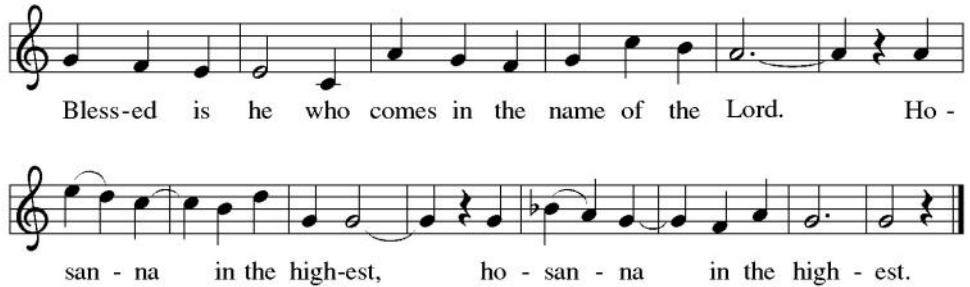
## PREFACE

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. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS







## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all honor and glory is 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

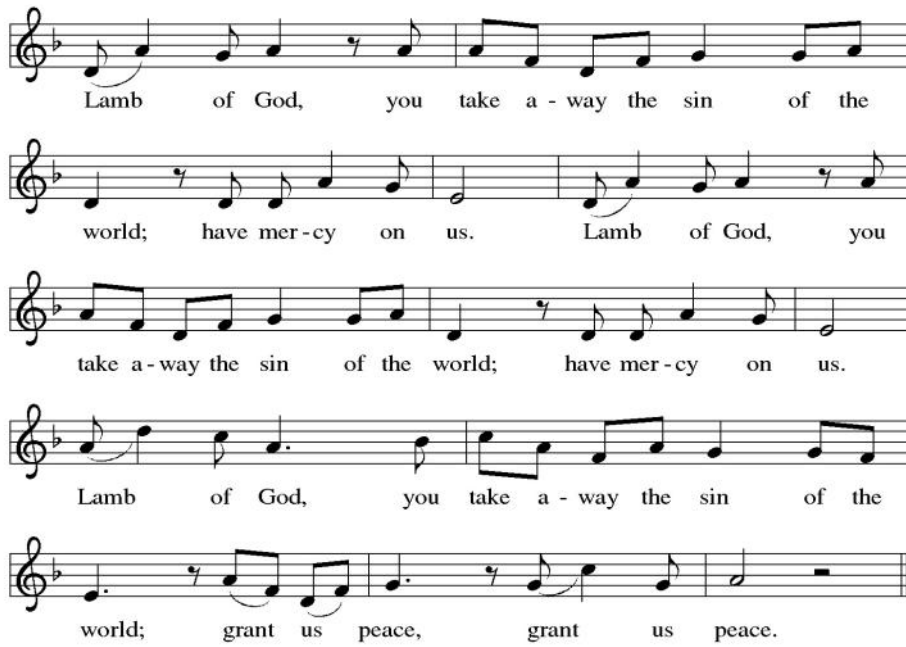
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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** *A brief silence is kept.*

**AGNUS DEI**



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.

**COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL** *Sit*

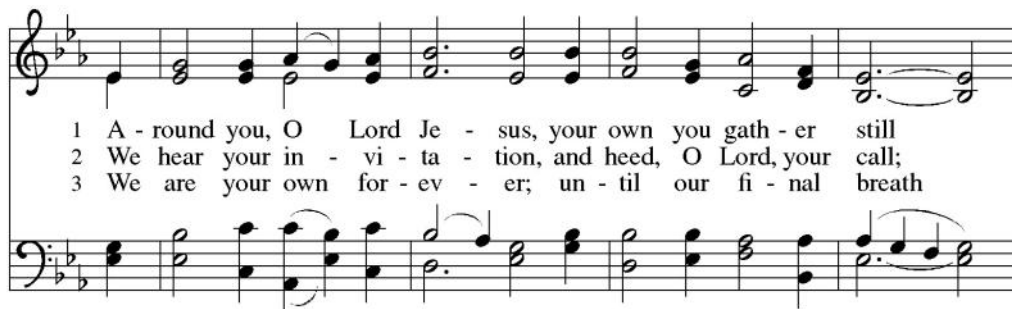
Holy Communion at St. Paul's Church is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

*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**

*Around You Lord Jesus (ELW 468)*



1 A - round you, O Lord Je - sus, your own you gath - er still  
2 We hear your in - vi - ta - tion, and heed, O Lord, your call;  
3 We are your own for - ev - er; un - til our fi - nal breath

to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill.  
 your word of con - so - la - tion is spo - ken here to all.  
 we will be true and nev - er— in joy, in grief, in death—

You say to us so lov - ing - ly, "Take, eat! This is my  
 It draws us to your lov - ing heart; it brings to us your  
 de - part from you, for you are still a - mong your peo - ple

bod - y! Take, drink! This is my blood!"  
 bless - ing, which nev - er will de - part.  
 dwell - ing, as you have said you will.

*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. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

Peter Lutkin

## BLESSING

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

## HYMN

### *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer (ELW 618)*

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more. feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm. shield me with your might - y arm.  
I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more. I will raise for - ev - er - more.

# DISMISSAL

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

*The congregation remains standing until the ministers and servers have left the chancel.*

*Sit*

## POSTLUDE

*Toccata on "Kingsfold"*

Ralph Hastings

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### This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open Mon—Thurs, 8:00 AM—4:00 PM, Friday 8:00 AM—11:30 AM

#### Sunday, March 16

##### Newsletter Deadline

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
- 9:15 AM Church Tour—Christ Hall
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist— Live-Stream
- 11:30 AM Women's Group—Christ Hall
- 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Room

#### Monday, March 17

- Preschool Spring Break
- 6:30 PM Council Meeting
- 7:00 PM Spring Garden Band Rehearsal

#### Tuesday, March 18

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

#### Wednesday, March 19

- 10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor—Nave
- 10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall
- 6:00 PM Lenten Supper
- 7:00 PM Lenten Vespers

#### Thursday, March 20

- 10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor—Nave
- 3:00 PM Book Club 6:00 PM
- 6:00 PM English Class— Community Rm
- 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

#### Sunday, March 23

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
- 9:14 AM Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Pennsylvania (LAMPA) - Christ Hall
- 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	Lent Bread Bakers	Greeters	Ushers -	Altar Early: Set-up Late: Clean -up
3/16	8:00 AM	Harrison Palmer	Ken Hinkle	Jennifer Ports	Norma Shue	Dale & Betsy Smith	Team 1E: Jeff Riese, John Monk, Alex Bastian	Pat Scarborough, Kat Lemke
3/16	10:30 AM	Tom Gibson	Allison Lehr	Janet Fitch	Cindy Vaught	Deb & Larry Becker	Team 1L: Dave Kopp, Christian Kopp, Darren Smith, Kass Keleta	Deb Becker, Isabella Lehr

**Call for Benevolence Applications**—Please have applications to the office by April 30. You can request the online application from Patee in the office or use the green application form available in the Springettsbury Entrance. The application has a place for the year the funding is requested. Remember, you may support local, regional, national, or international ministry opportunities. Each applicant should have a connection to the project or ministry. Join the exciting ministry of showing the world that God is love. Pick up an application today. Feel free to call Pastor Snyder with any questions, 717-880-0350.

**About being sick**—We are in the season of colds and flu and other forms of sickness. Please, when you do not feel well, or when you know that you have been exposed to someone extremely contagious, please stay home from church and utilize the live stream accessed from our web site [stpaulsnyork.org](http://stpaulsnyork.org). This summer we added an additional camera to enhance the viewing experience. While we love to have a full church nave, we want nothing more for anyone who is ill to stay home, rest, take care of themselves and not put others of the faith community at risk. Thank you.

**Communion Bread Bakers**—Please check the up-coming server schedule to see if you are designated to bake bread for Holy Communion. Questions should be directed to Pastor Reep

**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, 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.

**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.

**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.





## EASTER FLOWER ORDER

Indicate the total number of flowers desired:

\_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth      \_\_\_\_\_ Lilies  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tulips      \_\_\_\_\_ Daffodils

Flowers are \$15.00

Please make check payable to St. Paul's  
Lutheran Church

I desire that my plant(s) be listed: (please print clearly)

Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ in Honor of:

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---

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Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ in Loving Memory of:

---

---

---

Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ Dedicated to the Glory of God

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---

---

From \_\_\_\_\_

---

Amount Paid: Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_

*Orders are due Sunday, March 30, 2025*

Plants may be picked up after the  
Easter Service on April 20

Lent 2C, 2022

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

Family road trips are a part of life. When I was kid it was securing a bright red canoe to the top of a 20 foot long midnight blue Mercury, piling into the back seat and heading to the river to spend time with cousins. It was beneficial if someone remembered to pack the paddles as well as the life jackets and picnic supplies! As an adult it was driving to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The first few years my wife and I made the trip without the joy of children, and then later with the joy of children. What I remember most are the kids laughing in the back of the minivan as they were mesmerized by the Pixar movie *The Incredibles!* For nearly a decade I had never seen the movie only new it from the sound track. Whatever the reason or occasion a road trip brings out the best in us and the worst in us. And right now you may be caught up in the sheer joy of remembering a trip of your own or its looming downward spiral remembering unfortunate events that led to conflict and angst. But either way, you are aware of road trips and how they can quickly change from delight to conflict. “Dad, he’s poking me again.” “She keeps putting her smelly socks in my face!” and so the journey continues on.

Jesus is on a road trip. He is heading to Jerusalem. He has been teaching the disciples and crowds who have assembled along the way. And at certain intervals the religious leaders meet up with him too. He has sent people out in mission. He told stories about a being a good neighbor, a foolish rich man and a mustard seed. He took time to visit Martha and Mary in their home and taught the Disciples how to pray. People were thrilled when he cast out unclean spirits and a bit perplexed when he denounced the elite. He encouraged his followers not to be fearful and let them know that by following him there was bound to be divisions. He admonished those on the road trip with him to strive to enter through the narrow door.

As he draws closer to Jerusalem the potential for conflict increases; a conflict of wills greater than children taunting one another in the back of a minivan; the will of the Pharisees and the religious elite, the will of the government officials, the will of the Messiah, and the will of Jerusalem. The Pharisees want to maintain their status and their authority. The governmental officials are concerned that a new king would bring sweeping changes and they might be on the outs. The Messiah has been promised by the prophets of old and signals a new era and a reckoning with past unfaithfulness. And Jerusalem has a checkered past. “***Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!*** This is a city that needs a good dose of repentance, confession, and renewing. Even if you aren’t aware of the long running history surrounding the city, the word on the street is that it needs redemption.

Anna the prophet said as much when Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple for presentation. Anna praised God when she saw the Christ child; she knew that he was the one to redeem Jerusalem. And if you need to be redeemed, then somehow or other you haven’t made it through the narrow door or you have been in a looming downward spiral leading toward conflict and angst. Jesus is on his way to rectify the situation. He has work to do. In the movie sound track of *The Incredibles*, this is where the music changes and Mr. Incredible starts working out, lifting heavy objects, running and miraculously transformed his body image, one that will look swell in his super hero red spandex costume! There is work to do.

The Pharisees pull Jesus aside and clue him to the fact that the political leader Herod wants him killed! A conflict of wills ensues. The political leadership is fearful. Herod has been afraid since the word about a new born king made its way to the palace. Now that the baby has become a man, the threat to his power is magnified. And this threat is making his way toward the city. Jesus delivers a message to the Pharisees ***“go tell that fox”*** Herod (that is biblical language for words you aren’t allowed to say in church) that he has work to do. Jesus won’t be pulled away from his mission. He knows too well the history of Jerusalem. And he acknowledges his desire to redeem, save, rescue, gather its inhabitants into God’s protection and acknowledges their unwillingness to do so. ***How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and yet you were not willing!***”

Helen Ann must have been about 12 years of age when she began to raise chickens. Eggs weren’t anywhere near a dollar a piece then. And the avian flu was not in the headlines. It was her first experience as an entrepreneur. She made a business plan, calculated the startup costs and the reoccurring expenses. Because of her rural location she permitted her hens to have full run of the property by day and she secured them in the coop at night. Such consistent care was part of the business plan. During the days when the chickens roamed freely she would keep a watchful eye over them. When she would see a mother hen hopping frantically across the field attempting to gather her chicks, she knew that a predator was soaring overhead, or craftily waiting in the taller grass. She was aware of the cost if she lost even one chick.

Jesus is aware of the cost. God’s desire is that we are all gathered under God’s protective wing; God’s loving embrace. Jerusalem’s unwillingness to be gathered under the wing of a protective hen spoke volumes. The time would come when they would recognize the Messiah riding into the city on a donkey. Then they proclaim ***“Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”*** We shout it on Palm Sunday and sing it in the *Sanctus* each week ***“Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord”*** proclaiming the arrival of the long awaited one, the one who will and does redeem us from all that separates us from God and from one another.

Those of us who have been on the Lenten road trip before know full well where we are heading. We know the sound track. We know the annoying behaviors of siblings along the way. We know that the cross looms. Outside of Jerusalem on cross Jesus’ arms will be outstretched in love for you and me and all humanity. The costliness of his sacrifice brings us forgiveness, renewal, and a reorientation striving toward the narrow door. We state as much in the confession of sins; ***“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.”***

Delighting in God’s will is a bit like a family road trip; there are fabulous moments and conflictual ones, “Dad, he’s poking me again.” “She keeps putting her smelly socks in my face!” Delight comes from the assurance that God is with us, like a mothering hen, gathering us together especially in times of danger and uncertainty. Delight, like road trips, isn’t synonymous with happy, blissful, ecstatic. Delighting in God’s will means that we are aware of our own will, and have checked at the narrow door, as we pass through into his joyful presence. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup>But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup>He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

**Psalm 27****SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1**

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

<sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

**GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup>He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9.

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