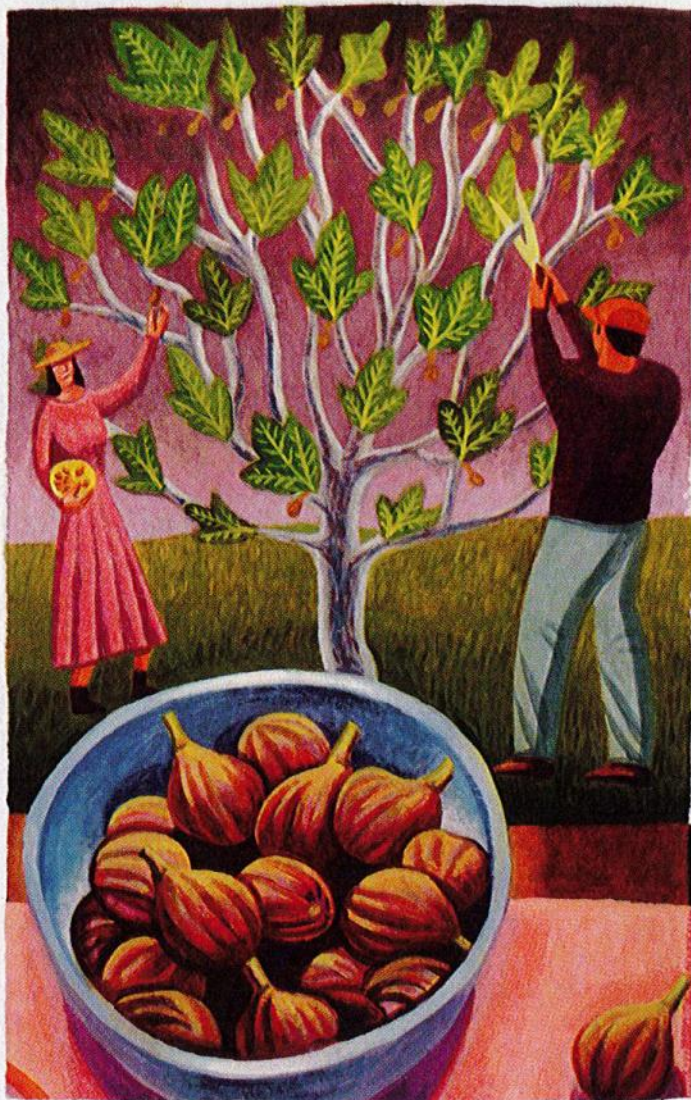


I have come looking for fruit

LUKE 13:7



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.

This morning we welcome Terrell Neal into membership at St. Paul's Church. We are delighted that she has united with our family of faith. A reception in her honor (her birthday was yesterday) follows the 8:00 AM liturgy in the Good Shepherd Room.



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
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Children's Music Director	Julianna Jones	Jjones.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
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

March 23, 2025
Third Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.
Musical setting #9 Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	<i>Jerusalem, My Happy Home</i> <i>Lord Jesus Think on Me</i> Harrison Mabon, Violin	Andrew Moore Anne Krentz <i>Organ</i>
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Stand

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

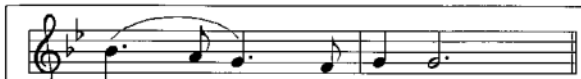
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

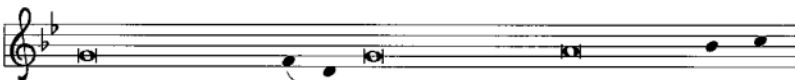


Lord, have mer - cy.



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....Eternal Lord, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

(back cover)

PSALMODY

Psalm 63:1-8 *Sung Cantor/Congregation*

The Organ introduces the tone, then it is sung unaccompanied.



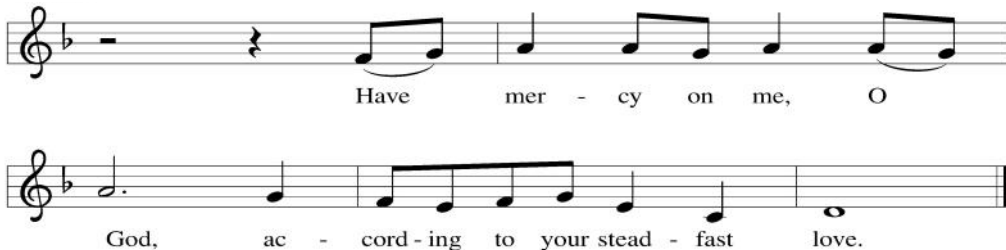
- ¹ O God, you are my God; eager- | ly I seek you;*
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there | is no water.
- ² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,***
that I might behold your power | and your glory.
- ³ For your lovingkindness is better than | life itself;*
my lips shall | give you praise.
- ⁴ **So will I bless you as long | as I live***
and lift up my hands | in your name.
- ⁵ My soul is content, as with mar- | row and fatness,*
and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,
- ⁶ **when I remember you up- | on my bed,***
and meditate on you in | the night watches.
- ⁷ For you have | been my helper,*
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.
- ⁸ **My soul | clings to you;***
your right hand | holds me fast.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 *(back cover)*

Stand

VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

(back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Reep

10:30 AM CHOIR

A Lenten Reflection

Zebulon Highben

String Quartet:

Andrew Jones, violin

Cheryl Reifsteck, viola

Harrison Mabon, violin

Mona Ledbetter-French, cello

For Lent, 1966

By Madeleine L'Engle

*It is my Lent to break my Lent,
To eat when I would fast,
To know when slender strength is spent,
Take shelter from the blast
When I would run with wind and rain,
To sleep when I would watch.
It is my Lent to smile at pain
But not ignore its touch.
It is my Lent to listen well
When I would be alone,
To talk when I would rather dwell
In silence, turn from none
Who call on me, to try to see
That what is truly meant
Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be
It's thus I'll keep my Lent.*

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.

We pray for the church. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, as they make decisions regarding mission and outreach. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth. Teach us the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish here on Earth. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries so that all the world may have enough to sustain human life. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need. Grant healing to (*especially*). Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict (*especially*). Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly as we strive to be neighbors. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended (*especially*). May their witness inspire our own until that day when we are all gathered together around your heavenly table. 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

OFFERING 8:00 AM *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*
10:30 AM Handbell Choir *Lamentation*

Lynn Petersen
J. D. Frizzel

Stand

OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart (ELW 188)

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

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

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

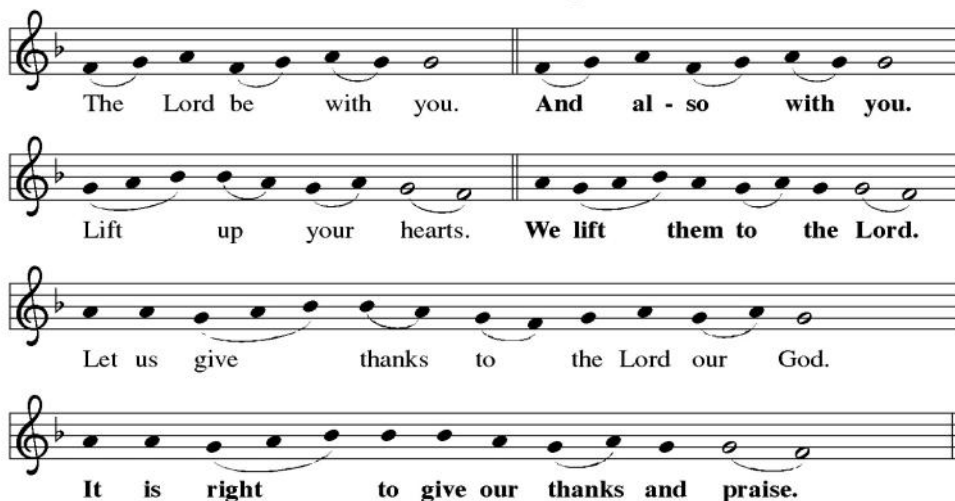
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

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

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



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

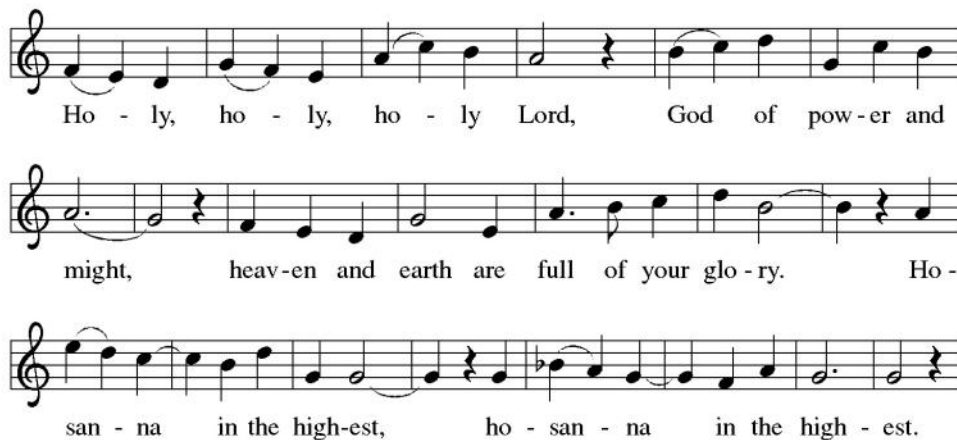
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. 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

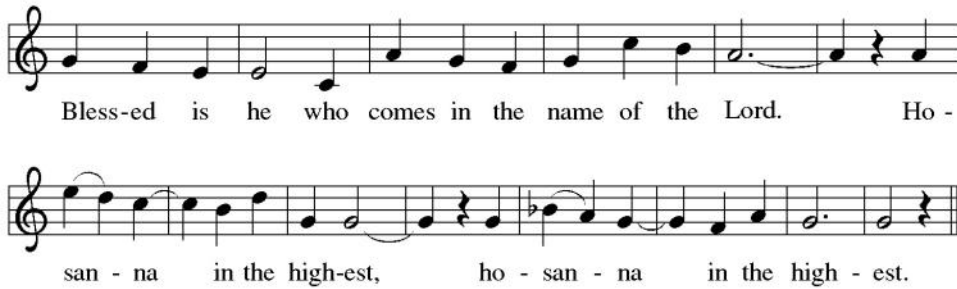


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

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

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Continued on next page...



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

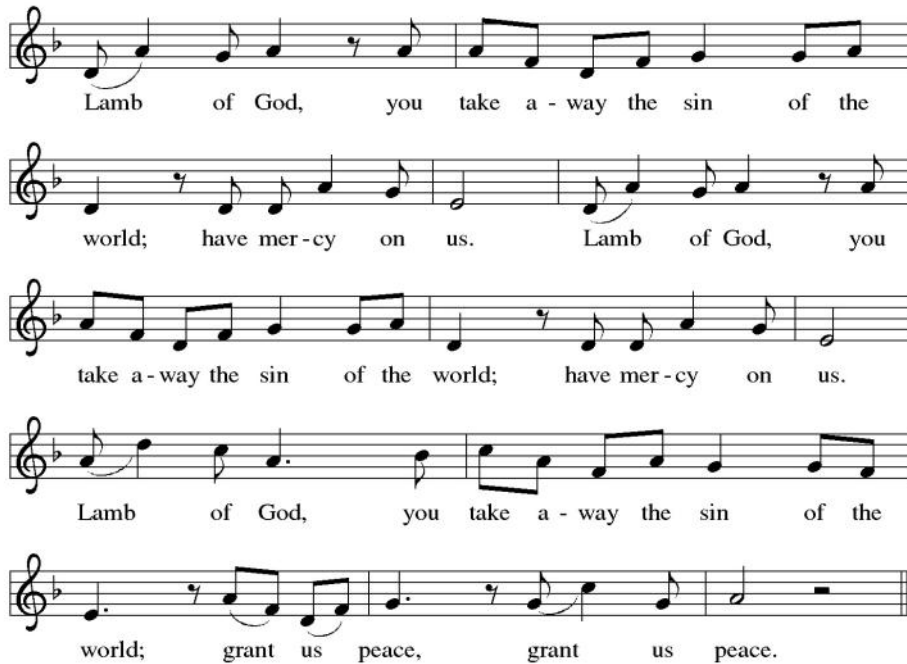
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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



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*

8:00 AM Piano and Flute

10:30 AM Leah McComas, Flute

1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.

come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.

Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,

our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

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**

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

HYMN

O Living Bread from Heaven (ELW 542)

1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
 2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
 4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here

The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.
 and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;
 And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.
 my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;

O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!
 for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,
 My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,
 and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,

My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!
 the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.
 and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.
 where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

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 *Out of the Depths I Cry to You* **Bernard Blitsch**
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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 23

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
9:15 AM Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of
 Pennsylvania (LAMPA) - Christ Hall
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist– Live-Stream
6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Room

Monday, March 24

6:00 PM Christian Ed Mtg—Youth Rm & ZOOM
7:00 PM Mutual Ministry
7:00 PM Spring Garden Band Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 25

9:30 AM Pantry
6:00 PM Create for Preschool thru Grade 6
6:00 PM Property Committee—Christ Hall

Wednesday, March 26

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 27

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

Sunday, March 30

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
9:15 AM The 1,700 Anniversary of the Nicene
 Creed - Christ Hall
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist– Live-Stream
3:00 PM Spring Garden Band Concert
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
3/23	8:00 AM	James Palmer	Jennifer Ports	Ken Hinkle	Ann Ulrich	Ann & Axel Unrich	Team 2E: Ron Riese, Kathy Monk, Ken Hinkle, Alex Bastian	Kirsten & Sammy Barnes
3/23	10:30 AM	Tristan Ericson	Larry Becker	Patty Snyder	Pat Rudacille	Jim & Nancy Bennett	Team 2L: Kem Vaught, Gail Kerchner, Sandy Dickensheets	Sandy Dickensheets, Tonya Cave

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 stpaulsyork.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.

From every indication the telephone call between national leaders this past week did not bear fruit. At least not the kind of fruit hoped for by all parties associated directly or indirectly with the continuing aggression on Ukraine. Tornados ripped through lower southern Gulf States leaving people homeless, and others dead. These are among recent stories that head the week's news. Add to them reports of local catastrophes and you can easily be left numb. Are they worse sinners than all the rest? "No" said Jesus, *"but unless you repent you will perish as they did."*

Now the people were not thinking about repentance that day. *"At that very time there were some present who told (Jesus) about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices."* Jesus asked them if this had happened because they were worse sinners than all other Galileans. They grew up with an understanding that God rewarded good behavior and God punished bad behavior. I suspect they were leaning toward punishment for this horrible situation that had arisen, because they somehow believed those Galileans had it coming. Jesus was adamant in his response, no. No, *"but unless you repent, you will perish as they did."* Then Jesus brings up another horrific situation, *"Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?"* No, *"but unless you repent, you will perish as they did."*

Repentance is life giving. And with repentance the life that springs forth is manifest in fruit bearing. Bearing fruit and repentance are connected. They are grace filled. They put those of us who function with a good behavior rewarded bad behavior punished theological framework into a bit of a conundrum. It is so much easier to think that those Galileans were worse sinners and that those killed by the tower falling had it coming. But at that very time Jesus said no to their theological system. He offers another. Good behavior rewarded. Bad behavior punished. This is not what Jesus is saying. And then in the way of Jesus, he tells a story, a parable, and those who were present listened. The vineyard owner came looking for fruit. As a matter of fact this is the third year for the owner to come seeking fruit. Jesus, through story, advocates time. It takes time. Jesus provides time. But the moment in which to act, to respond, is now, today. Christ the Vinedresser argues our case before God. *"Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it."*

Looking for fruit was part of summer childhood activity. Berry buckets placed on the back porch bench indicated the arrival of blackberry season. Not everyone enjoyed berry picking. It was hard work. Walking into the shaded wood was cool and refreshing then out through a clearing into the hot summer sun. Wild blackberry bushes were plentiful. And they produced an abundance of berries. The berries were free for the picking. The sound of the first few plump berries hitting the bottom of the pale made a distinctive plunk with a tiny echo. As more berries were dropped into the metal pale the sound changed. Soon the bucket was on its way to being filled. Grandma Gertie would be pleased with the buckets of berries. Jam would be made. On winter mornings blackberry jam would ooze over warm toast.

Looking for fruit is one thing. Bearing fruit is quite another. Repentance is about bearing fruit. We first heard of this through John the Baptizer who earlier in the gospel of Luke shouted out in the wilderness “*Bear fruits worthy of repentance.*” John was preparing the way for Jesus. Now Jesus has arrived on the scene. He has been teaching and healing and calling people to follow. And Jesus, he too calls for repentance. He calls for fruit bearing in our lives. Grandma Gertie desired that the berry buckets were brim full when the pales returned from the summer expedition. Jesus is looking for fruit worthy of repentance.

What is Christ the Vinedresser doing at that very time for those who were seeking answers for the troubling situations surrounding them? He will work with them and on them and around them and among them so that they have another year, opportunity to bear fruit. And what is Christ the Vinedresser doing at this very time for us, we who are seeking answers for the troubling situations surrounding us? Jesus works with us and on us and around us and among us and through us so that we have another year, opportunity to bear fruit. So that when the owner of the vineyard comes looking next year, that old stubborn fig tree rooted so deeply in its own ways, will through the gracious embrace of Christ produce fruit. The kind of fruit that John announced and that Jesus brings about through his suffering, death and resurrection. His gracious love makes bearing fruit not just possible, but the sign of his life and kingdom.

St. Paul writes about it in the letter to the Galatians. There is no law against the fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The fruit is one with all of these many different aspects of it. There are nine things mentioned, but I suspect they are provided to help give shape to what fruitful living is about. The fruit is born out of repentance. Repentance is possible through the forgiveness of sin. Jesus forgives our sins. Sins forgiven permits life to be lived for others; living for others brings with it fruit. It, like berry picking is hard work in the sense that there is a limited amount of time in which to do it. The metal pales on the back porch bench were a sign that today is the day. Jesus announces to you today “*Your sins are forgiven.*”

Jesus’ request for *one more year* of life, one more cycle of life is made for you and for me. Actually, it is made for all people: those caught in the bombing in Ukraine, those wrestling with the aftermath of tornados in the south, those dealing with shock and trauma from violent acts of aggression here in our own community. *This is my body given for you, this is my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.* Jesus said this in the upper room with his disciples and he says it this morning to us gathered in this place. On the hard wood of the cross Jesus is crucified. He gives himself as the sacrifice for all time, for our nourishment and for our gentle prodding to keep our roots growing deeply into the self-giving soil of his forgiveness and love so that we bear fruit. Amen.



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:

Number of plants _____ in Loving Memory of:

Number of plants _____ Dedicated to the Glory of God

From _____

Amount Paid: Cash _____ Check _____

Orders are due Sunday, March 30, 2025

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
 and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
 Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
²Why do you spend your money for that which is
 not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
³Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
 I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run
 to you,
 because of the LORD your God, the Holy One
 of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
 let them return to the LORD, that he may have
 mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalms 63:1-8**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,
 that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all
 passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into
 Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the

same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual
 drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that fol-
 lowed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless,
 God was not pleased with most of them, and they
 were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us,
 so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not
 become idolaters as some of them did; as it is writ-
 ten, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and
 they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual
 immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three
 thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ
 to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed
 by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them
 did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These
 things happened to them to serve as an example,
 and they were written down to instruct us, on whom
 the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you
 are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No
 testing has overtaken you that is not common to ev-
 eryone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be
 tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he
 will also provide the way out so that you may be able
 to endure it.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told
 him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had
 mingled with their sacrifices. ²[Jesus] asked them,
 "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered
 in this way they were worse sinners than all other
 Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you
 will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who
 were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—
 do you think that they were worse offenders than all
 the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but un-
 less you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree
 planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for
 fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gar-
 dener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking
 for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut
 it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He re-
 plied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig
 around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next
 year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Next Sunday's Readings: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

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