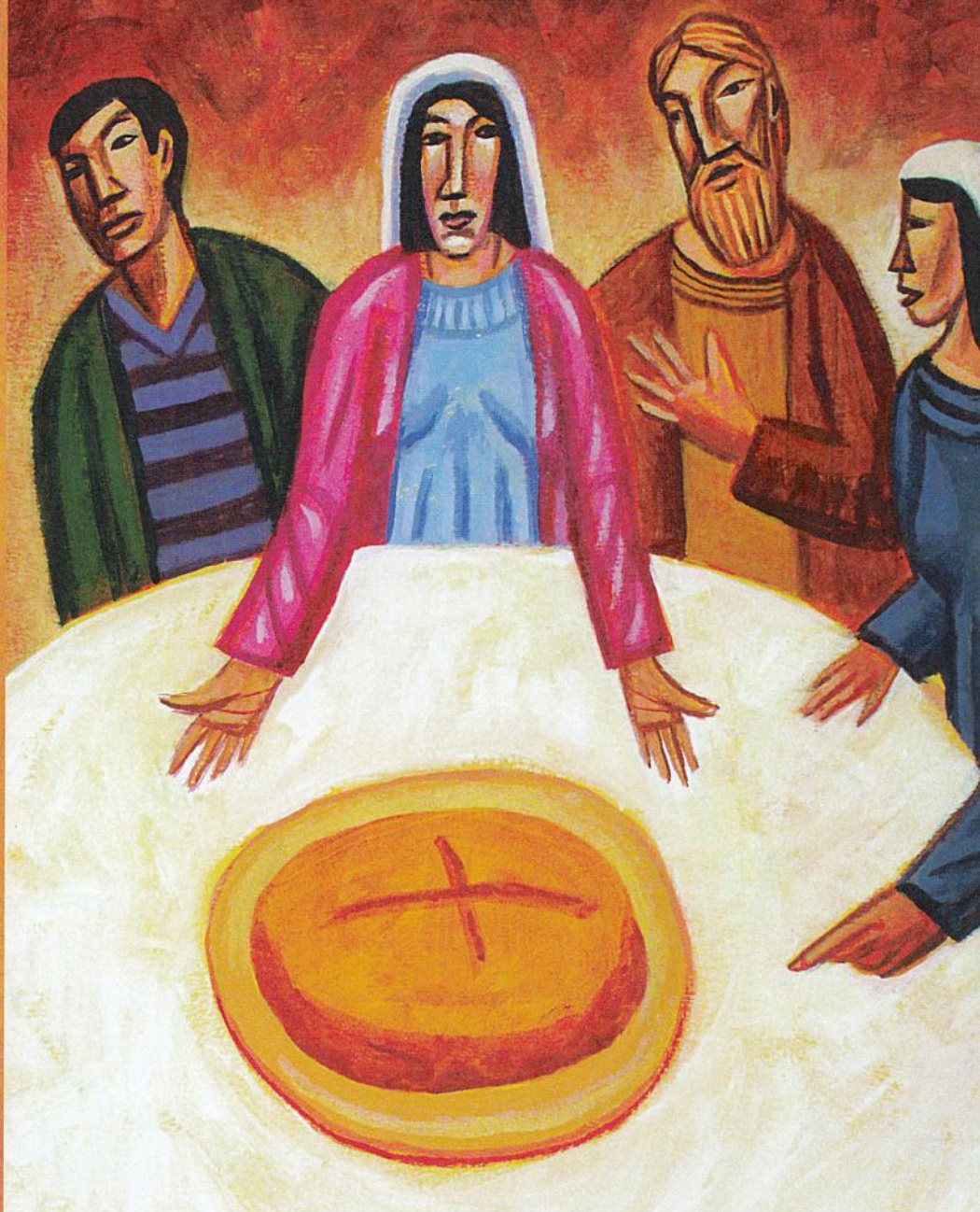


MAY THEY BE ONE,
AS WE ARE ONE

JOHN 17:22



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 189 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.

An AED/Defibrillator unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.

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.

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

Seventh Sunday of Easter Sunday, June 1 , 2025 Holy Communion 9:15 AM

PRELUDE

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Charles Ore

Stand

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

ENTRANCE HYMN

Thine the Amen (ELW 826)



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee

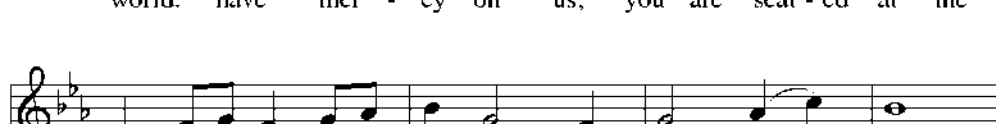
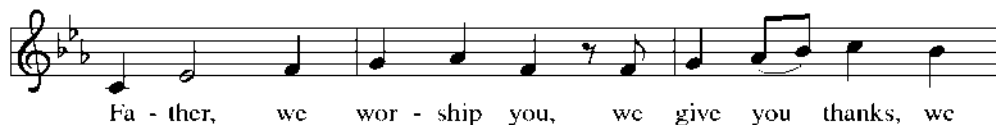
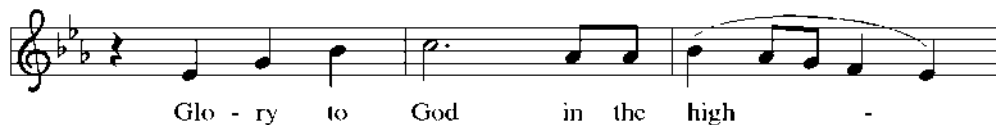


thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . Almighty and eternal God, your Son our Savior is with you in eternal glory. Give us faith to see that, true to his promise, he is among us still, and will be with us to the end of time; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Acts 16:16-34

(back cover)

PSALM Psalm 97 Sung Cantor/Congregation unaccompanied.



- ¹ The LORD is king; let the | earth rejoice;*
let the multitude of the | isles be glad.
- ² **Clouds and darkness are | round about him,***
righteousness and justice are the foundations | of his throne.
- ³ A fire | goes before him*
and burns up his enemies on | every side.
- ⁴ **His lightnings light | up the world;***
the earth sees it and | is afraid.
- ⁵ The mountains melt like wax at the presence | of the LORD,*
at the presence of the Lord of | the whole earth.
- ⁶ **The heavens de- | clare his righteousness,***
and all the peoples | see his glory.
- ⁷ Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight | in false gods!*
- Bow down before him, | all you gods.
- ⁸ **Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- | dah rejoice,***
because of your judg- | ments, O LORD.
- ⁹ For you are the LORD, most high over | all the earth;*
- you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.
- ¹⁰ **The LORD loves those | who hate evil;***
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand | of the wicked.
- ¹¹ Light has sprung up | for the righteous,*
and joyful gladness for those who | are truehearted.
- ¹² **Rejoice in the | LORD, you righteous,***
and give thanks to his | holy name.

SECOND READING

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

(back cover)

Stand

VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:20-26

(back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

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

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

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world,
and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Continued on next page...

Heavenly Father, give your church open hearts and minds to embrace all who seek your presence. Increase the capacity for cooperation between denominations and congregations. Be with the voting members of the Lower Susquehanna Synod as they discern the next pastor to serve as Bishop of the Synod. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Where drought threatens, bring rain. Where waters flood, ease them back. Where fire, earthquake, hurricane, or tornado destroy, shelter your people and restore your land. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Call the nations of this world to tables of peace and collaboration. Encourage governments to seek avenues of collective benefit and joy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Accompany survivors of abuse, trauma, and exploitation. Strengthen our resolve to listen and advocate on behalf of all who are unnoticed. Hear our prayers for those close to our heart (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Be with our congregation as summer begins. Keep travelers safe. Keep the vulnerable cool. Invigorate summer ministry efforts in our community, and support the well-being of children and young people (*VBS, camp, summer series or other programs may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In gratitude for the saints who have died (*especially Justin, martyr*), we look toward your coming again among us in the fullness of time. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen 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.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Chancel Choir

In My Heart

Alan Bullard

OFFERTORY

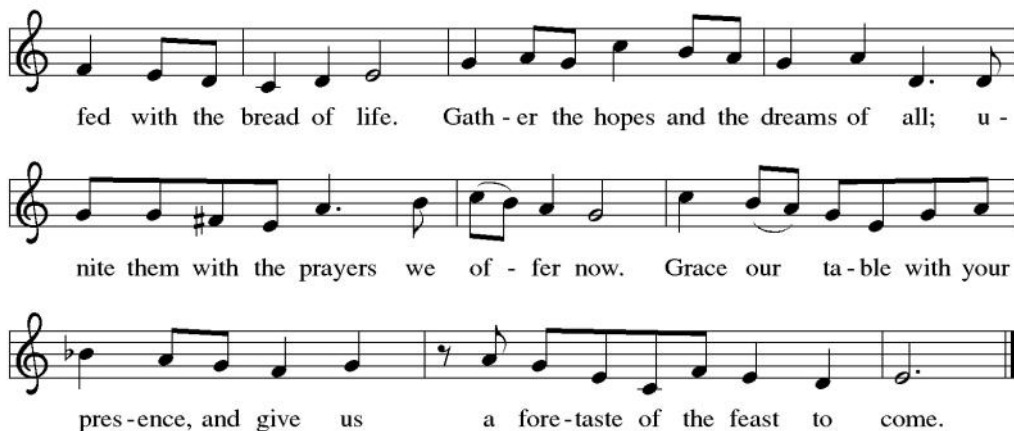
Let the Vineyards be Fruitful (ELW 182)



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be

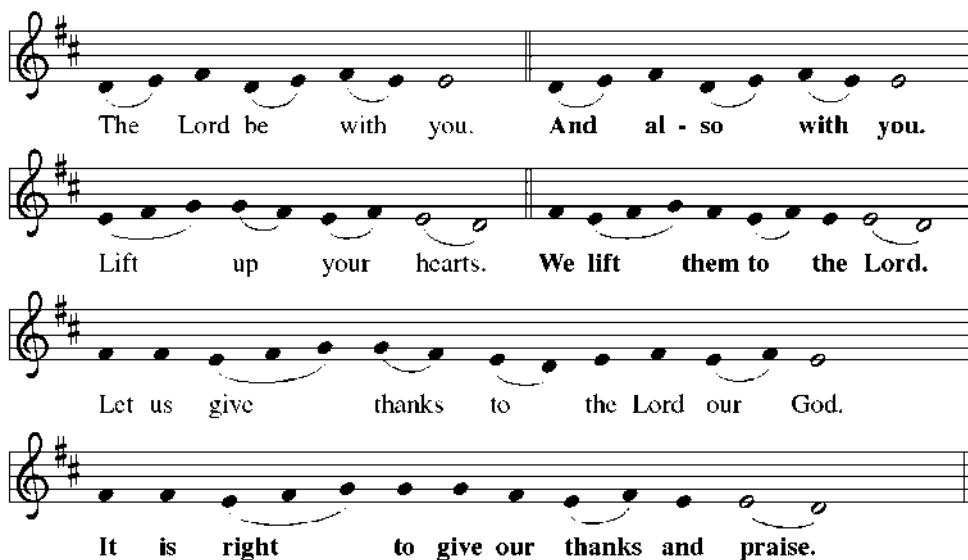


OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you,
O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DIALOGUE

Sung by Pastor and congregation



PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

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, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed

death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;
you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.
We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.
We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.
We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise:
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,
the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile,
and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.
In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son:
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life:

his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb,

his ascension to the seat of power,

and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in
beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the
kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he
comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor
and glory is yours, almighty Father, 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

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.

When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed
yourself to your disciples.**

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.

Sit

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

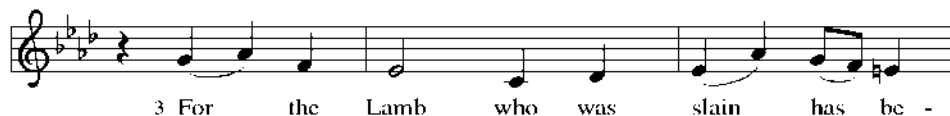
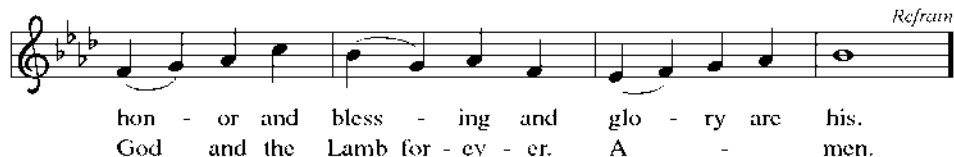
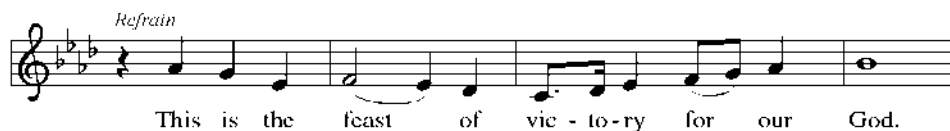
Our Communion is “open” to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

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 bread 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 CANTICLE

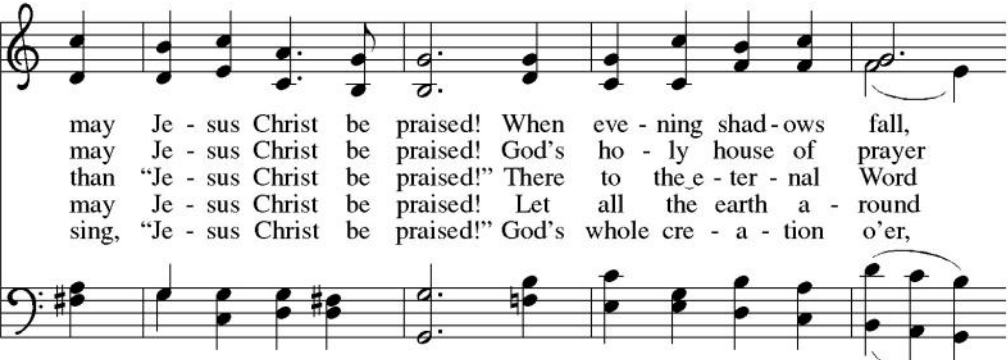
This is the Feast



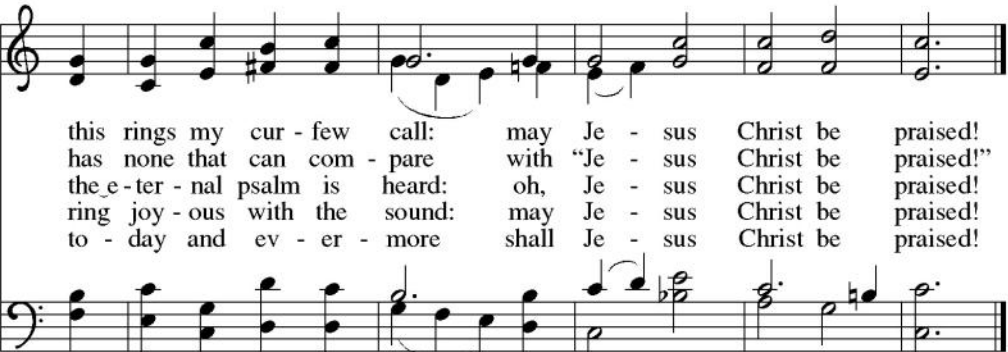
When Morning Gilds the Skies (ELW 853)



1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known
4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:
5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"
the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!
ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

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. All powerful and ever-living God, in the Eucharist we celebrate the Mystery of Faith. By this Easter Sacrament, renew in us the gift of faith in the New Life it promises. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. **Amen**

BLESSING

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

HYMN

Son of God, Eternal Savior (ELW 655)



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

Paul Manz

This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open Mon–Thurs 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Friday 8:00—11:30 AM

Sunday, June 1

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist—Life Stream
 10:30 AM Sunday Summer Fellowship
 10:30 AM Benevolence Committee Mtg—
 Pastor's office
 4:00 PM BBQ on the Lawn
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Monday, June 2

7:00 pm Mutual Ministry

Tuesday, June 3

9:30 AM Pantry
 6:00 PM Property Committee—Christ Hall

Thursday, June 5

SYNOD ASSEMBLY thru Saturday

6:30 PM Bell Choir Small Group Rehearsal

Sunday, June 8 PENTECOST

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist—Life Stream
 Handbell Choir rings
 10:30 AM Sunday Summer Fellowship
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm



Vacation Bible School is the week of July 20 -24. Registration forms are in the June/July issue of *Our Church* and at the entrances to the church nave.

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Bread Bakers	Greeters	Ushers -	Altar Guild
6/1	9:15 AM	Janet Fitch	Ephraim Lipp	Harrison Palmer	Pat Rudacille	Pat Rudicille, Jerry Briggs, Peter & Nancy O'Connor	Team 3L: Dan Garber, Joe Guarriello, Larry Becker	Pat Scarborough, Kathleen Lemke

The congregation approved the installation and of new doors for the Springettsbury Ave. entrance. Donations towards the expense can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a life event or in recognition of an accomplishment. Simply utilize a “Special” white color envelope in the pew rack, mark it “Doors” and include a desired sentiment. The list of contributors will be utilized when we have completed the project and have a dedication scheduled for mid-summer. As of this printing, we have received 9 designated gifts.

Fellowship Committee Needs Your Help for Summer Sunday Fellowship—We are looking for members who are willing to make a breakfast/brunch baked item or a vegetable or tray of fruit. The food should arrive between 8:45 and 9:00 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet on the stand by the office door in the Good Shepherd Room. Thanks to all for helping with the food for Summer Fellowship!



The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God

A BBQ Picnic Supper will be held TODAY June 1, 4-6 PM, on our South lawn. The men of the congregation are preparing the meal. Games and activities for the entire family! A goodwill offering will be used to support Lutheran World Relief.



SCAMS are on the rise. Please know that Pastor Reep has not and doesn't plan on ever asking for gift cards or money requests through email or text. The St. Paul's congregation provides the Pastor with a Discretionary Fund to use to help people in need. When the fund is depleted he will notify Church Council and they will discern how to best restore a balance. Know that you may make a contribution by the special white envelopes in the pews at anytime. Your gift to the Discretionary Fund will appear on your giving statement.

A St. Paul's Sign-up stand has been positioned in the Good Shepherd Room adjacent to the office door. Sign-up sheets for various activities and needs are available on the stand.

The St. Paul's Women's Group is calling all knitters, crocheters, and anyone who would like to learn these skills! On June 19 at 2:00, there will be a meeting for all those interested in crocheting scarves for the food pantry. We will use this time for planning and demonstrations. No experience needed! If you are planning on attending, please contact Alexis Heistand. If you are interested in helping with this initiative but are unable to attend the meeting, please reach out to Alexis.

Food Pantry needs spaghetti! 80% of shoppers ask for it each week. Central Penn Food Bank has reduced its inventory due to federal government reductions. Please bring a box or two with you next week, you will make someone very happy.



2025 Flower Chart—Many Sundays are available throughout the summer
Altar flowers add beauty to the chancel each Sunday morning. There are many "open" flower dates available throughout the summer. Contact the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers. The vases are \$35 each.



Please remember to notify Pastor Reep of any life events, illnesses, hospitalizations, joys or concerns. Call the office 717-843-8155 or email st.paulsyork@comcast.net



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
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Children's Choir Director	Julianna Jones	jjones.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	presch.stpaulsyork@comcast.net

The church moves from resurrection morning when Peter and the Beloved Disciple try to outrun each other to the empty tomb, to the ascension when the men of Galilee stand looking up as Jesus departs from their midst, and ultimately to the pouring forth of the Spirit of God on Pentecost with wind and tongues of fire. That's a pretty jam-packed 50-day journey. The season is marked with disappointment, doubt, disbelief, joy, gladness and shouts of Alleluias. Historically we welcome members who have been instructed in the Christian faith. Baptisms are celebrated. New sisters and brothers are added to the congregation. New workers with whom to proclaim God's message of hope and salvation. Partners who share in the ministry of healing, praying, singing, teaching, freeing, baptizing, so that others come to believe in God. This has never been a subtle time for the church. This year the Western Church elected a new Pope and by week's end we will have elected a new Synodical Bishop for the Lower Susquehanna Synod. These are not subtle events or actions in the life of the Church. These are bold moves proclaiming Christ and his message of hope for all people!

The Baptismal images in this morning's texts are anything but subtle. Paul and Silas press on with their missionary activity in the name of Jesus Christ. Paul and Silas are healing, praying, singing, freeing, baptizing, so that others will become believers in God. The vision of the New Jerusalem in Revelation recognizes that those who wash their robes, who have come through the waters of baptism, are given the right to the tree of life and enter through the city gates. In the gospel reading, Jesus prays for his disciples, for those who believe through them, and for the church, that all will be one. Jesus' oneness does not equal sameness. Baptism brings and bestows oneness, but all who are washed in the waters of baptism are certainly not the same.

This is evident here this morning. Look around. We are not the same. We are not all from the same family, not all the same age, not all the same height, not all the same personality, not all the same gender. But in Holy Baptism we are all one in Christ. We are made members of one family, we are all children of the same heavenly Father, and we are workers in God's Kingdom.

In the gospel of John we listen in on Jesus praying. Eavesdropping is not generally viewed in a positive light and yet today we overhear Jesus praying for unity. We hear him praying for us. In his prayer we hear that the source of such unity rests with the Father. It is God to whom Jesus prays; and he speaks of the relationship of oneness and love that exists between them. Jesus prays for that kind of oneness and love for us too. It is foundational to any unity we claim. Jesus opens up his relationship with God to include us. He incorporates all who believe in him into this loving relationship.

In the Acts text it is the Philippian Jailer and his family who are clearly made part of Christ's unifying relationship with God the Father. Through baptism we too are brought into Christ's unifying relationship with God the Father. Oh it didn't all happen all at once; it happened in other places and at other times as each one of us was made part of this relationship. It should be obvious that the jailer and his family, and that you and I, in the waters of Baptism are welcomed and grafted onto the tree of life, Christ himself, as different as we may be, our differences don't preclude us from full participation in the Father's loving purpose for the world. Unity is not about sameness. It is about oneness.

To be “one” is not to say that we will be the same and that we will all agree, and that there will be no conflict. But as we listen to Jesus pray, we are reminded that the quality of our life together, our ability to make visible the unique relationship that exists by God’s grace among us, is our most convincing testimony to the truth and power of the gospel we proclaim. As the song from my youth group days reminds us, “They will know we are Christians by our love.”

We don’t really know what happened in the life of the Philippian Jailer and his family members after Paul and Silas took their leave and headed out for Thessalonica. We know that in Christ they were made one with God the Father and one with the Christian community residing in Philippi. We can only surmise that people recognized them as members of the Christian community by their love.

We are entrusted to make visible the unique relationship that exists by God’s grace among us. We show and model God’s love. By so doing, others will be made aware of the truth and power of the gospel we proclaim. Will others know that we are Christians by our love? Will the greater community learn from us God’s loving purpose for the world? Will our testimony be convincing, convincing enough to lead others to the font so that they will want to wash their robes in the Waters of Baptism and be counted among the children of God, heirs of his salvation? The chances for such a convincing testimony are strengthened each time someone new is brought to the font for Baptism. With each new face come new opportunities to share in God’s mission and work at home and abroad. Another sister or brother with whom to pray, teach, sing, free, learn, sharing in God’s unifying love in Christ.

We celebrated 7 baptisms in our congregation this liturgical year. Eight young people confirmed their faith in Christ Jesus and committed to taking a more active role in the community of faith. This is an outstanding time for us as we embrace another generation of believers in Christ Jesus. In 2017 we selected Psalm 78:4 as our theme Bible verse for our capital campaign to begin renovations for our ageing infrastructure “*We will tell to the coming generations the glorious deeds of the Lord and the wonder that God has done.*” And we adopted “Building in faith for future generations” as our campaign slogan. Now following the renovation, the font stands in our midst. We gather around it. It provides a central focus for us proclaiming God’s outpoured unifying love for all through the sacrament of Holy Baptism, for confession, and for renewal in faith and life. Like Paul and Silas, we press on with the mission that is our calling in Christ, proclaiming God’s hope and salvation for all. And along the way we are bound to encounter the question put to Paul and Silas by the Philippian Jailer, “What must I do to be saved?” Our response to such questions will lead others to wash their robes, receive the water of life and join our prayer “Amen. Come Lord Jesus.”

As we take our leave, as we go in peace to serve the Lord, let our serving through acts of loving kindness, make visible the unique relationship that is ours through Christ’s generosity, prayer, suffering, death and resurrection. Let Christ’s love bind us together in love, so that others will know Christ’s love by the love we share. And may such love be the catalyst for all mission, fellowship, and a vibrant testimony of our belief in the Risen One, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 16:16-34

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." ¹⁸She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." ²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³²They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Psalm 97

SECOND READING: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

¹⁶"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

²⁰The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

GOSPEL: John 17:20-26

[Jesus prayed:] "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me.

²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17 [25-27].

Cover: *Breaking Bread* by James B. Janknegt. Copyright © James B. Janknegt. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org.

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

Tracks 1 and 2
ITEM013722 ELCA-R