

The background is an abstract composition of warm, textured brushstrokes in shades of yellow, orange, and white. A vertical strip of lighter, more uniform yellow is on the left side. The overall effect is one of vibrant, organic energy.

All
of them
were filled
with the
**Holy
Spirit**

ACTS 2:4

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

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
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Pentecost
Sunday, June 8, 2025
Holy Communion 9:15 AM

PRELUDE

Come Down, O Love Divine

Mark Sedio

Stand

ENTRANCE HYMN

Holy Spirit Ever Dwelling (ELW 582)

1 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er dwell-ing in the ho-liest realms of light;
2 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er liv-ing as the church's ver-y life;
3 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er work-ing through the church's min-is-try;

Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er brood-ing o'er a world of gloom and night;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er striv-ing through us in a cease-less strife;
quick-n'ing, strength-n'ing, and ab-solv-ing, set-ting cap-tive sin-ners free;

Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er rais-ing those of earth to thrones on high;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er form-ing in the church the mind of Christ;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er bind-ing age to age and soul to soul

liv-ing, life-im-part-ing Spir-it, you we praise and mag-ni-fy.
you we praise with end-less wor-ship for your gifts and fruits un-priced.
in com-mu-nion nev-er end-ing, you we wor-ship and ex-tol.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

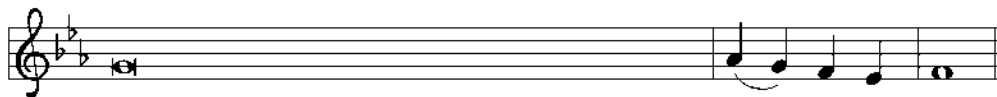
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



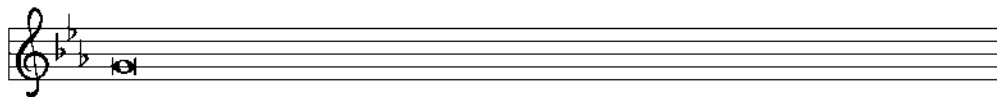
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



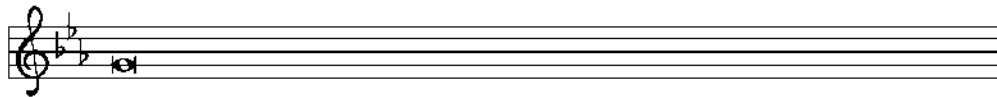
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

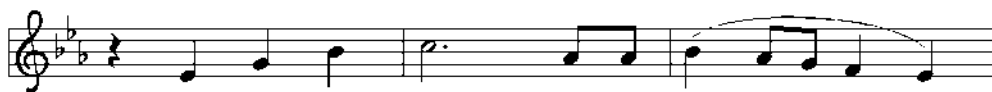


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God in the high -



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



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



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



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



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



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

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

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. . . God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, as you sent upon the disciples the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, look upon your Church and open our hearts to the power of the Spirit. Kindle in us the fire of your love, and strengthen our lives for service in your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

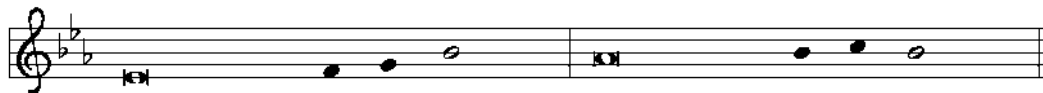
Sit

FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-21

(back cover)

PSALM Psalm 104:25-35 Sung Cantor/Congregation unaccompanied.



- 25 O LORD, how manifold | are your works!*
- In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full | of your creatures.
- 26 **Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too man- | y to number,***
creatures both | small and great.
- 27 There move the ships, and there is | that Leviathan,*
which you have made for the | sport of it.
- 28 **All of them | look to you***
to give them their food | in due season.
- 29 You give it to them; they | gather it;*
- you open your hand, and they are filled | with good things.
- 30 **You hide your face, and | they are terrified;***
you take away their breath, and they die and return | to their dust.
- 31 You send forth your Spirit, and they | are created;*
- and so you renew the face | of the earth.
- 32 **May the glory of the LORD en- | dure forever;***
may the LORD rejoice in | all his works.
- 33 He looks at the earth | and it trembles;*
- he touches the mountains | and they smoke.
- 34 **I will sing to the LORD as long | as I live;***
I will praise my God while I | have my being.
- 35 May these words | of mine please him;*
- I will rejoice | in the LORD.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:14-17

(back cover)

Stand

VERSE

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

HOLY GOSPEL**John 114:8-17****(back cover)**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

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

HANDBELL CHOIR*Praise God, Praise Him*

arr. Kevin McChesney

*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.

We pray for the church. Make our welcome expansive, intentional, and open as we reach out in love to our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our newly elected Bishop. Use us to support the life and mission of the Lower Susquehanna Synod through our collaborative efforts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for creation. Protect forests, prairies, and grasslands from destruction by natural forces or human misdeeds. Safeguard firefighters and rescuers in their dangerous work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for courts and legislatures. Unite judges, lawyers, and systems of justice in a desire for reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the sick in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Lift up all who have been bowed low by circumstances or internal strife. Bring to wholeness those who cry out to you in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our congregation. Help raise up in us a deep desire to live out our baptismal promises and to support those of all ages in our shared journey of faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the faithful departed who rest in you. Let their lives encourage our own daily living. Comfort us with the promise of eternal life. 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.

Sit

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Chancel Choir

Gracious Spirit Dwell with Me

K. Lee Scott

Stand

OFFERTORY

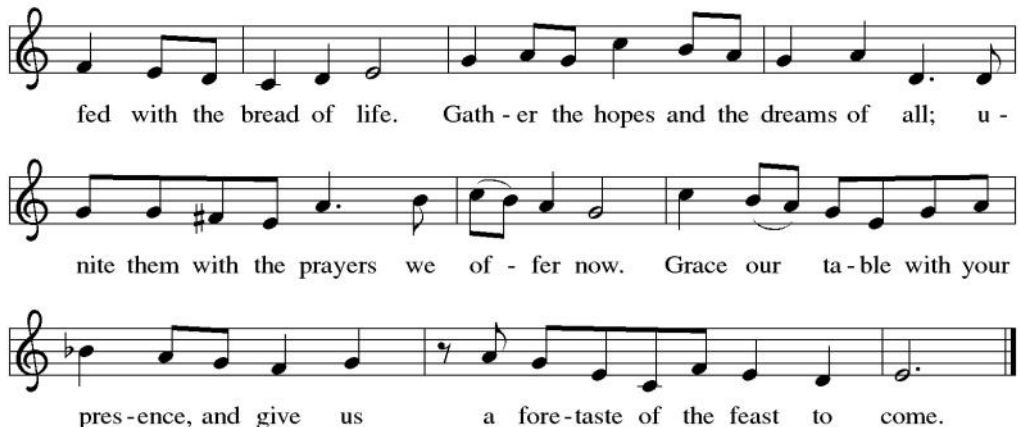
Let the Vineyards be Fruitful (ELW 182)



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



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -

nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your

pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

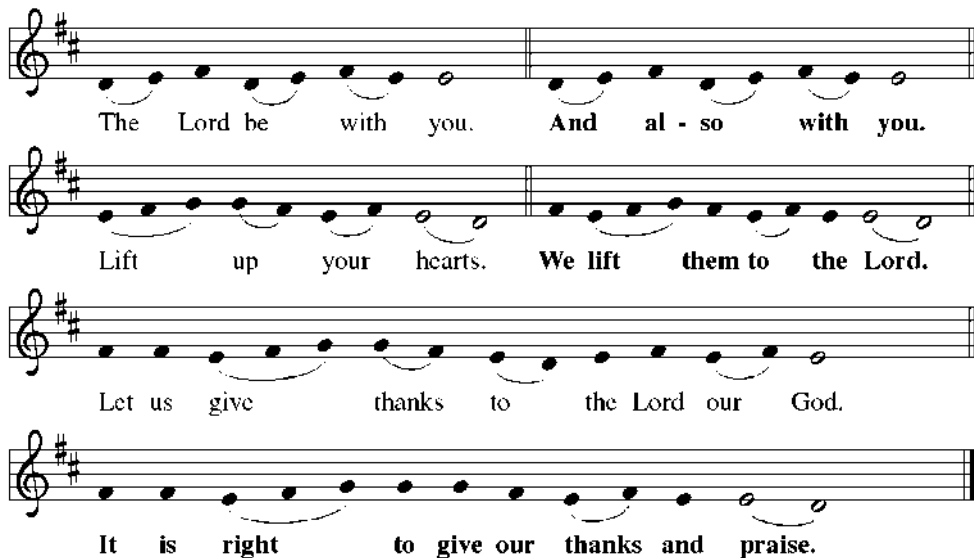
OFFERTORY PRAYER

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



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 *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.

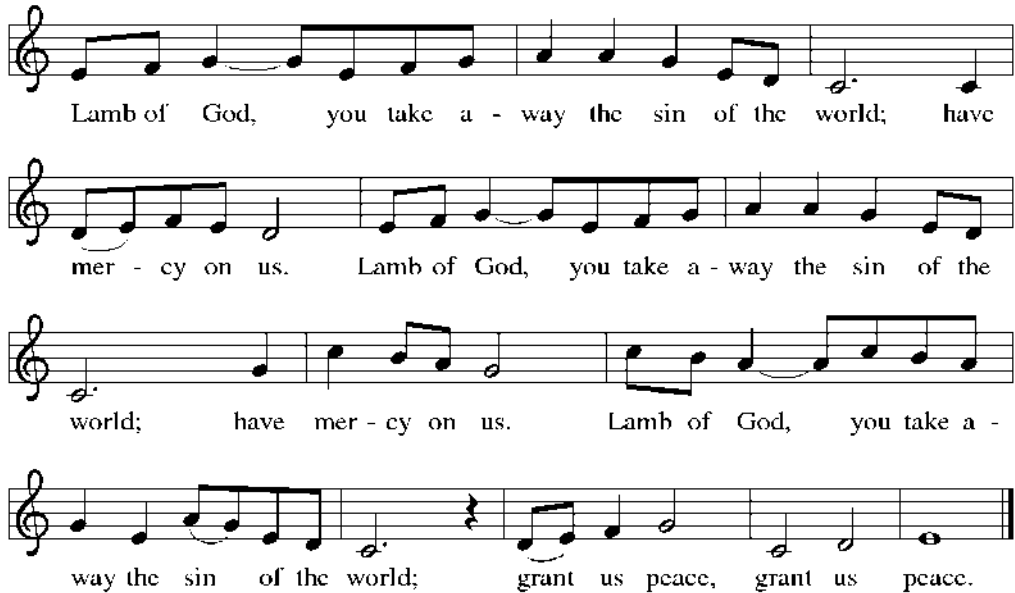
THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

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



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

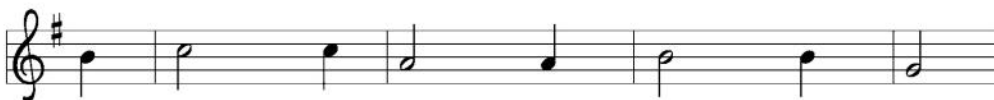
O Spirit of Life (ELW 405)



1 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,
 2 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,
 3 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,
 4 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,



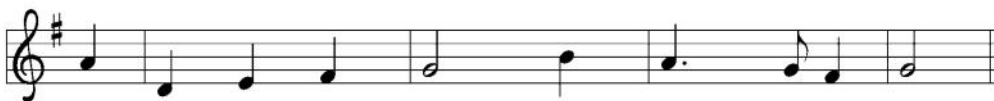
in ev - 'ry need you bring us aid,
 in - crease our faith in our dear Lord;
 make us to love your sa - cred word;
 en - light - en us by that same word;



pro - ceed - ing forth from heav - en's throne,
 un - less your grace the pow'r should give,
 the ho - ly flame of love im - part,
 teach us to know God's ra - diant love,



from God, the Fa - ther and the Son;
 none can be - lieve in Christ and live;
 that char - i - ty may warm each heart;
 lead us to Christ who reigns a - bove;



O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.
 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.
 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.
 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.

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. God our Father, may the Spirit you sent on your Church to begin the teaching of the Gospel continue to work in the world through all who have received this heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

BLESSING

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

Amen

HYMN

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart (ELW 800) next page
sung 4 part harmony unaccompanied

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sit

POSTLUDE

Come Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire

Flor Peeters

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***The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
In memory of my Dad, Don Harmon, by Carolyn Kapoun and family
And in honor of the 60th Anniversary of the Ordination of Alan Wysocki***

All versus sung 4 part harmony . Verses 3 & 4 are sung unaccompanied.

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay;
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling,
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

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 8 PENTECOST

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

Monday, June 9

7:00 pm Finance Committee

Tuesday, June 10

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

Wednesday June 11

9:30 AM Preschool Playdate

Sunday, June 15 Holy Trinity

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist—Life Stream
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
6/8	9:15 AM	Jennifer Ports	Jacklyn Kinkella	Kathy Monk	Cindy Vaught	John & Kathy Monk, Bob & Connie Reed	Team 1E: Jeff Riese, John Monk, Alex Bastian	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 12 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!

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 using the special white envelopes in the pews. Your gift to the Discretionary Fund will appear on your giving statement.

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.

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.

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

St. Paul's Book Club meets once a month at church on the third or fourth Thursday from 3:00-4:00 PM. Come join us anytime. If you have a book you've been waiting to read and discuss with others, call the church office to share your ideas. Our summer books and dates are...

Thursday June 19th – When We Had Wings, by Ariel Lawhon

Thursday, July 24 – The Midnight Library, by Matt Haig

Thursday, August 21 – The Four Winds, by Kristin Hannah

Thank you to the Men of St. Paul's for providing the BBQ cookout, games and time for fellowship last Sunday afternoon.

Thank you!

Pentecost C, 2025 Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:14-17 John 14:8-17

Western PA Goodbyes

Kimberly's red letter KJV

Paraclete; the Sequel

Western PA Goodbyes

In Western PA there is choreography associated with saying goodbye. It is not officially learned, it is passed down from generation to generation. It is not like the choreography that you may have learned in a dance class, but it is choreography just the same. This is especially true at large gatherings of friends or relatives or at special reunions.

First someone in the party announces that they need to get going. It takes about 30 minutes for them to gather up their things, organize coats and food containers. Then while compressed together at the door, people begin to embrace and give farewell kisses, and lament about how they shouldn't wait so long to get together again. After a half hour or so the door opens. People stream through and move toward the driveway or street. There the procession stalls.

Another 30 minutes on the clock while sharing moments of the most recent fun being had, who had the best joke, the biggest laugh, and the silliest story. Finally the coats and food containers are stowed in the trunk or piled in the back seat, the windows of the vehicle are down, it doesn't matter if it is the dead of winter and subzero is the temperature, the engine idles (adding to global warming) and then hands poking in the window waving to anyone in the backseat, kisses on the cheeks of those sitting in front, the horn is beeped a couple of light happy honks, and you are off. It is now nearly two hours since the first indications that it was time to go.

Departures are never easy, simple or rushed. That is the case in the gospel of St. John. Jesus is saying goodbye to his disciples. They have been together, they have come to new understandings about life and living, and they can't imagine what it will be like when Jesus is gone from them. In the moment, they can't imagine anything that he is talking about. He simply reassures them that the Father has their backs, and he will make certain that they have another Paraclete, one that will never say goodbye.

Kimberly's Red Letter KJV

Kimberly arrived at youth group with a brand new red letter edition of the King James Version of the Bible. This was the deluxe leather bound gilt gold page edition. When she pulled it out of the special soft side carrying case the aroma of genuine Corinthian leather filled the room. It was as though the Apostle Paul had just carried it back from his most recent missionary visit across the Aegean Sea.

Kimberly was proud, not in a boastful way, proud that she held in her hands a Bible somehow fit for a king, and yet she a teenager had access to it. The golden edges of each page glistened as she flipped through opening it in the New Testament to the Gospel of St. John. "There" she said pointing to the pages dripping with bright red ink. "This is one of my favorite parts of the Bible."

Her peers huddled around taking it all in.

Now I will stop the story right here for the disclaimer. Kimberly lived in a primitive time in the United States of America. Microwave ovens were the latest technology in

cooking, Telephones all had cords, cable TV boasted 24 stations with a premium add on for HBO, and youth group was the only option to get out of the house on Sunday evening. Back to Kimberly and the huddle of youth group friends around her red letter KJV.

“Look! Really look at this section. From chapters 13 to 17 Jesus seems to be talking nonstop” exclaimed Kimberly.

Bruce, the Pastor’s son, put his hand up to the side of his ear and making a snarky remark “I don’t hear Jesus saying anything.”

The group giggled a little.

Kimberly gently turned the next few pages pretending Bruce hadn’t interrupted.

“Jesus is talking to his disciples at their last supper together, you know, on the night before he is going to die. And then he talks to them about doing humbling things and telling them that life with him will be about service to others, and he washes their feet.”

“A good thing they didn’t wear smelly tube socks” quipped Bruce, while pinching his nose.

“And then Jesus prays. And he prays some more, and he keeps on praying,”

Kimberly turns several pages and continues

“And we are all really glad that Pastor doesn’t know about this part of the Bible or prayers during church would be a whole lot longer than they are now!”

Bruce piped in again,

“Ah, we can’t let him see this, quick close it up, I think he is coming!”

Kimberly turned one more page and finally the red letters gave way to good old fashioned black ink on paper.

“Now they are in the garden and bunches of other people start talking” said Kimberly.

“Yep, the only red letter part here is when they came after Jesus with lanterns and torches and weapons and he asks ‘Whom are you looking for?’ There it is in bright red.

The group with the lanterns and torches and weapons answer ‘Jesus of Nazareth.’”

“Then it is a bit blotchy with red sprinkled in.”

Kimberly went silent.

Lois looked up from the pages of Kimberly’s red letter KJV

“It makes it all so vivid.”

There was a brief moment of awkward youth group silence, the kind when youth directors globally think that this is the moment when kids come to a new understanding of God’s love in Christ Jesus and that this will be a turning point for the group.

Then Bruce’s friend Brian asked Kimberly to turn to chapter 19 verse 34.

None of the group considered Brian to be a Biblical scholar, let alone know anything by chapter and verse.

“Why, Brian, why should I turn to that passage?” asked Kimberly.

“That’s the place where they run a spear through Jesus’ side and blood and water come out!

Is the page red there?” Brian asked.

“Oh that’s gross” said Lois.

Jesus isn’t talking, it won’t be red” said Bruce.

“He dies” said Lois in a solemn tone.

“Because he had to” said Kimberly.

“Just like he had to go away.”

She shut the Bible. There was a gold flash as the overhead light reflected off the gilded pages.

Kimberly tenderly placed the red letter KJV in its case.

“Seriously” said Bruce and Brian in unison.

“That’s a pretty cool Bible.”

Paraclete, the Sequel

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Paraclete/Advocate, to be with you forever.” You guessed it that is the part printed in bright red ink in Kimberly’s KJV. It sounds a lot more ethereal in the King James Version. King James wanted the masses attending worship to be elevated, to be enveloped with something other than the horrific vulgar language bantered in the London Streets during his reign. But in the translation before us this morning there is honesty here, that Jesus has been the disciples Paraclete. He has been with them, by their side. He has lived each day with them since he called them to come and follow. Now Jesus, their Paraclete/Advocate, is breaking the news to them that he is going away from them. They cannot bear it. But the Father, understanding the importance of being present with his people, assures them that he is sending “another” Paraclete. This is the Spirit, the Spirit of all truth. This is the one we celebrate this morning. This is the one who is with us each day, whose presence sustains us, and is with us forever.

The Spirit will be for us the comfort, the help, the counsel, the companion that Jesus had been for the disciples. These are the kind of things stated in the gospels about Jesus. They are now gifted to us by the Spirit. There is of course one difference between Jesus the Paraclete and the Paraclete, the Spirit. While Jesus departs from the disciples (says that long Western PA sort of goodbye) the Spirit will not go away. The Spirit will be with the disciples and with us forever. This is an intimate and enduring presence. It is the one bestowed on us, recorded in the gospel of John, highlighted in red ink in Kimberly’s KJV, made known to followers though a very long goodbye embracing and cherishing all that has been shared, and alerting those who love him, that “another” Paraclete will come to them, will comfort them, help them, counsel them, and be a companion to them. This one will not leave them, but will remain with them forever. This one will not leave us, but remains with us forever.

Western PA Goodbyes, Kimberly’s red letter KJV, and Paraclete the sequel; all make known the work of the Father sending another Paraclete. God the Father of our Lord Jesus does not want anyone of us, or anyone anywhere to be orphaned, alone, abandoned or lost. Pentecost is gift, a gift that is with us forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and
glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
shall be saved."

or Genesis 11:1-9 [not printed]

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**SECOND READING: Romans 8:14-17**

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

or Acts 2:1-21 [see First Reading]

GOSPEL: John 14:8-17 [25-27]

Philip said to [Jesus,] "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

[²⁵"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."]

Next Sunday's Readings: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15.

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