

Whoever  
is faithful in  
a very little  
is faithful  
also in  
much

LUKE 16:10

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

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

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

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

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

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

**We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition** (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 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](http://www.stpaulsyork.org) or use the QR Code provided.



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

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

**Restrooms** are located 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. The restrooms are independent units. Please remember to latch the door.

**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.

**We ask parents to accompany their children** to the restroom during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God  
in loving memory of Richard W. Haugh by loving wife Shirley and Family*

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	<a href="mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net">st.paulsyork@comcast.net</a>
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**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sunday, September 21, 2025**  
**Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM**  
*Evangelical Lutheran Worship musical setting 3*

**PRELUDE**

*Let Justice Flow like Streams*

Emma Lou Diemer

*Stand turning to face the font*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Beloved of the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins.

Let us pray. 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,

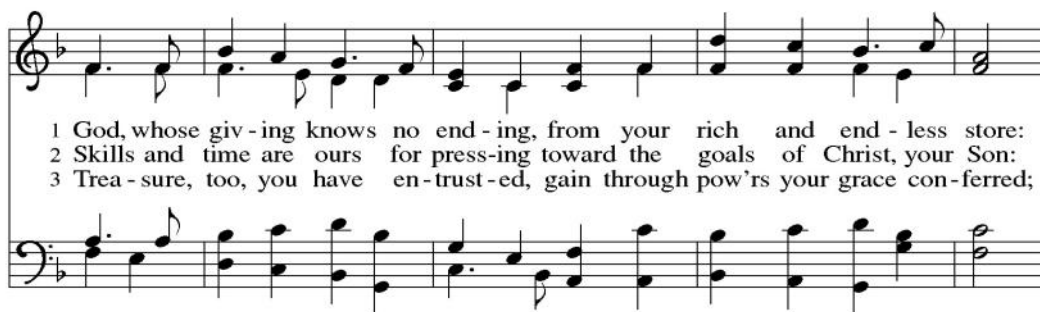
**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus 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.

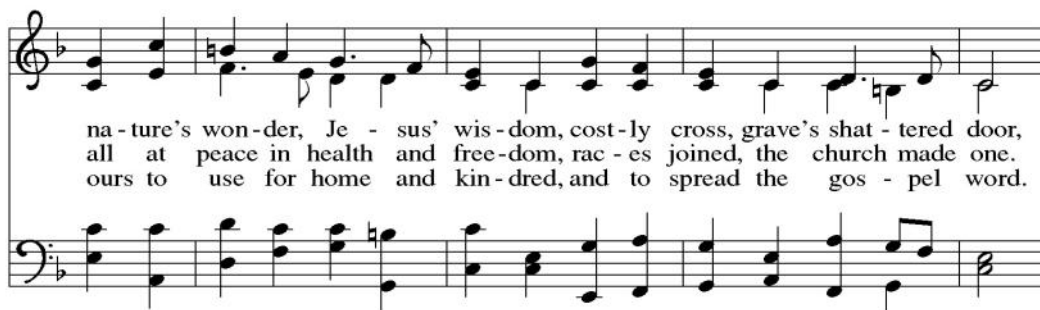
**Amen**

## ENTRANCE HYMN

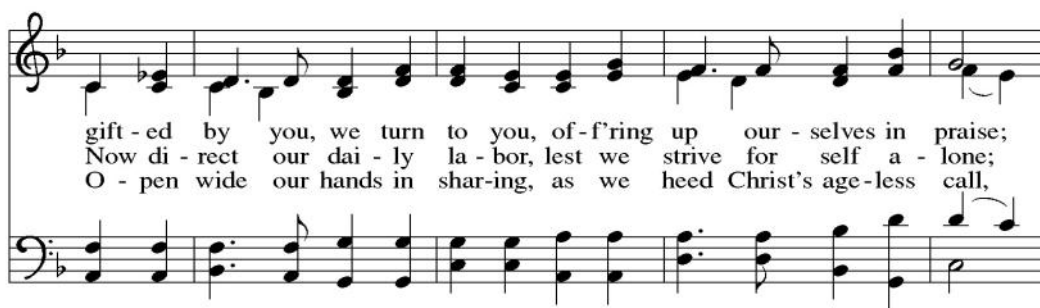
### *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending (ELW 678)*



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:  
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,  
all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.  
ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;  
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;  
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

## 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.**



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . Lord God, you call us to work in your vineyard and leave no one standing idle. Set us to our tasks in the work of your kingdom, and help us to order our lives by your wisdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Sit*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### FIRST READING

**Amos 8:4-7**

*(back cover)*

### PSALM Psalm 113

Sung Cantor/**Congregation** unaccompanied.



- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD;\*  
praise the name | of the LORD.
- <sup>2</sup> **Let the name of the | LORD be blessed,\***  
**from this time forth for- | evermore.**
- <sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its | going down\*  
let the name of the | LORD be praised.
- <sup>4</sup> **The LORD is high a- | bove all nations,\***  
**and his glory a- | bove the heavens.**
- <sup>5</sup> Who is like the LORD our God, who sits en- | throned on high,\*  
but stoops to behold the heavens | and the earth?
- <sup>6</sup> **He takes up the weak out | of the dust\***  
**and lifts up the poor | from the ashes.**
- <sup>7</sup> He sets them | with the princes,\*  
with the princes | of his people.
- <sup>8</sup> **He makes the woman of a | childless house\***  
**to be a joyful moth- | er of children**

### SECOND READING

**1 Timothy 2:1-7**

*(back cover)*

*Stand*

## VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

**Luke 16:1-13 (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

*Stand*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\* On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.*

O God, teach us to act in solidarity with the poor. Frustrate the efforts of those who trample on the needy. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

End to the misuse of the earth and its resources so that all people may benefit from your abundant gift of creation. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Make elected leaders pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all. We remember today those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Grant comfort and strength for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones (*especially*). Use us to surround them with your healing care.

God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the saints (*especially Matthew and all*) who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

*Sit*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

8:00 AM Organ

*Be Thou My Vision*

John Rutter

10:30 AM Chancel Choir

*Love Your Enemies*

George A. Macfarren

*Stand*

## OFFERTORY

*Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow (ELW 884)*

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, with the Bass clef providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;

praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

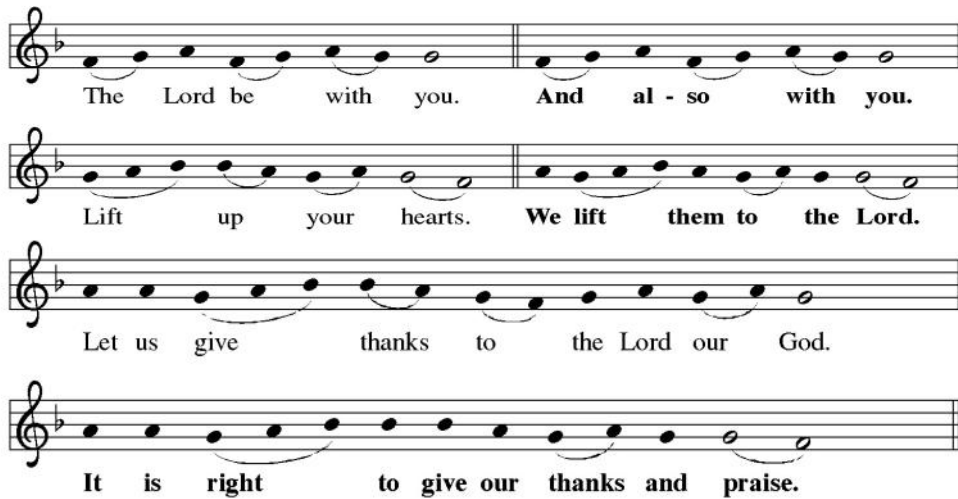
## OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

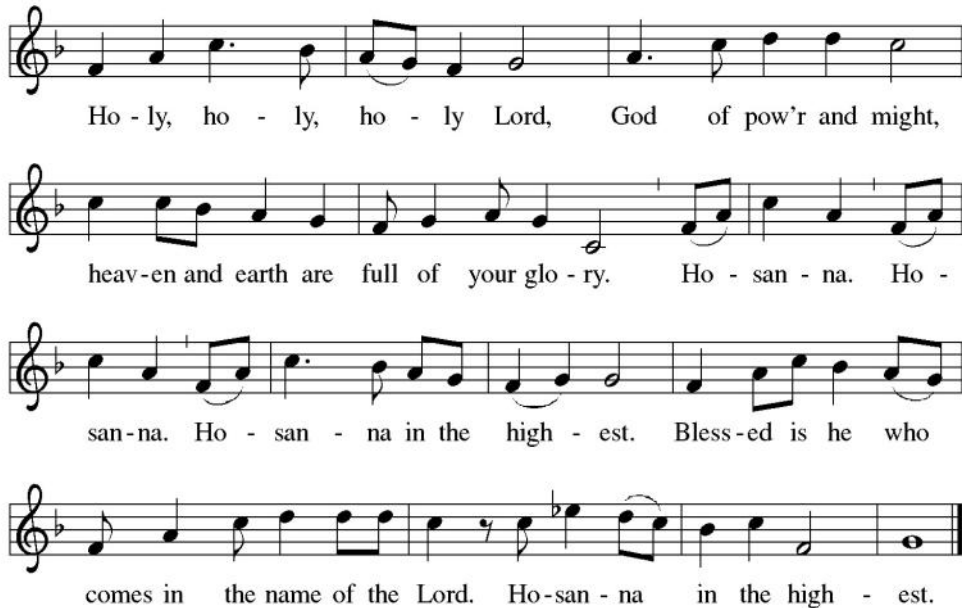
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, 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'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



## THANKSGIVING

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray in confidence in the words our Savior gave us.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. 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

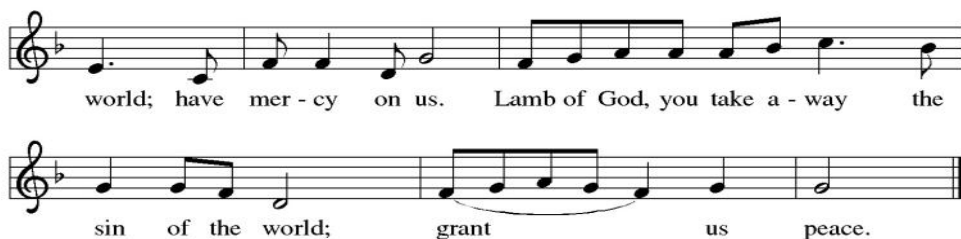


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

*Continued on next page...*



*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 HYMN

*Be Thou My Vision (ELW 793)*

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*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. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

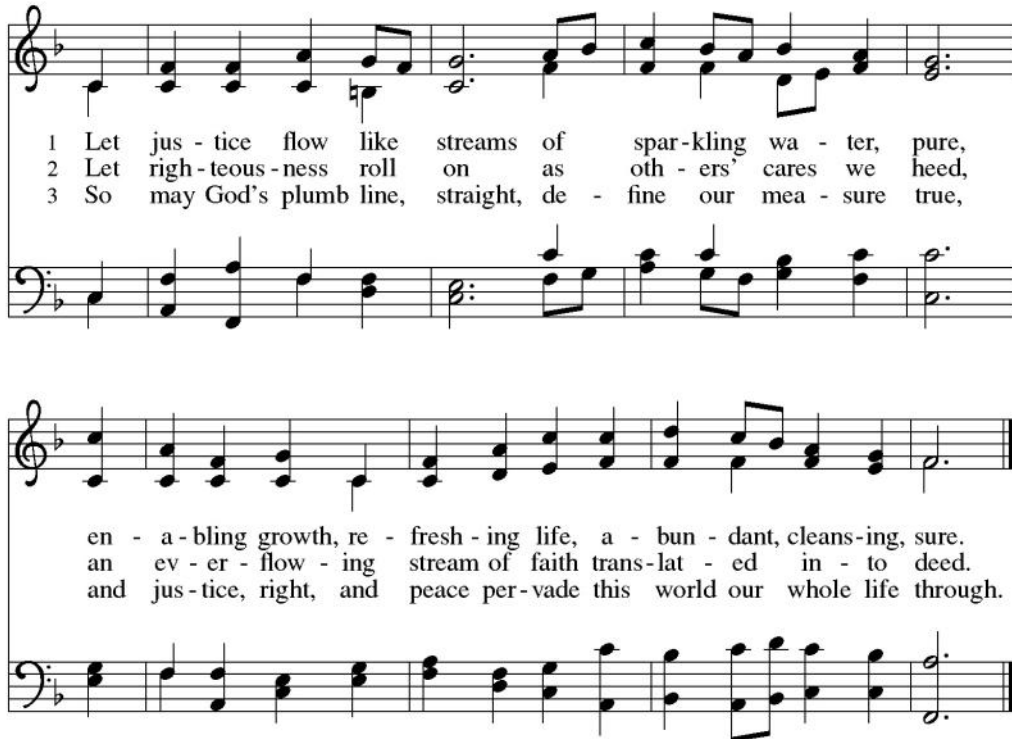
**Amen**

## BLESSING

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

## HYMN

### *Let Justice Flow Like Streams (ELW 717)*



1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,  
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,  
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.  
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.  
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Sit*

## POSTLUDE

*Praise Him*

Charles Ore

## 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, September 21

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
 9:15 AM Sunday School for all  
 9:15 AM New Members Class  
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream  
 6:00 PM Youth Group—Youth Room  
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

### Monday, September 22 Door Installation

6:00 PM Christian Ed Mtg—Youth Room

### Tuesday, September 23 Door Installation

9:30 AM Pantry  
 6:00 PM Property Committee  
 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study  
 6:00 PM CREATE Preschool thru Grade 6

### Wednesday, September 24 Door Installation

10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor  
 10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall

### Thursday, September 25

10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor  
 5:30 PM Worship & Music Mtg—Music Rm  
 6:30 PM Handbell Choir  
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

### Sunday, September 28—Presentation of Bibles

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
 9:15 AM Sunday School for all  
 9:15 AM New Members Class  
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream  
 Baptism/New Members/Handbells  
 11:30 AM New Members Reception  
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

## Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Greeters	Ushers -	Altar Guild
9/21	8:00 AM	James Palmer	Lois Ann Schroeder	Dale Smith	Claudia Deitreich, Mike & Linda Hanson	Team 1E: Jeff Riese, John Monk, Alex Bastian	Pat Scarborough, Kathleen Lemke
	10:30 AM	Carolyn Kapoun	Anna Herdson	Chris Waddail	Becky & Mike Bingham, Sharon Diaczun	Team 1L: Dave Kopp, Darren Smith, Kass Keleta	Deb Becker, Isabella Lehr

**New Members Class** continues through September 28.

**Tuesday night Bible Study** 6-7 PM begins September 23.

**Wednesday Bible Study** at 10:30 AM in Christ Hall has resumed.

**Music and Create**, Age 3 through Grade 6, Tuesday evenings 6pm through 7:15pm

**Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir rehearsals** are on Thursdays at 6:30 & 7:30 PM.

**If you have sponsored altar flowers** please remember to give the church secretary the sentiment you want printed in the bulletin by the Tuesday before the flower date.

**October 17 Theater Outing:** In October, the Women's Group will be attending The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe at TAFE. This event will take place on the weekend of October 17. *If you have interest in attending this event, please contact the church office.*

**Consecration Sunday, October 26**, dinner reservation cards will be provided by the ushers. Please complete one per household and return to the offering plate. Thank you.



**Springettsbury Door Installation Monday, September 22 thru Wednesday, September 24.** If you must conduct business through the office, please phone. If you must enter the building please do so from the Cleveland Alley door stair tower closest to Springettsbury Ave. There is a buzzer. Please be patient as it is a long walk to reach the door. Thank you.

**NEW! Tuesday Scripture Study, 6:00—7:00 PM**—Pastor Reep will be leading a study of the up-coming Sunday Bible Readings. His hope is that some parents who bring children for Create will participate along with other people for whom this time works better than Wednesday mornings. The Wednesday morning study continues as usual.

**It is time for a new church photo directory.** Our dates for photography are November 3 & 4. We need volunteers to help with the process. Please contact Pastor Reep this week if you can help. Directions for online registration are included in October's newsletter, *Our Church*.



**Food Pantry Needs:** 2 pound bags of Rice, Pinto Beans in cans, Peanut Butter. Monetary donations can be placed in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry".

**Music and Create**  
**Age 3 through Grade 6**  
**Tuesday evenings 6pm through 7:15pm**

Music and Create began last week. We provide this opportunity for our families with young children to engage in music and art. The program is designed for children ages 3 through grade 6.



During Create time the children will hear bible stories and work on creative art projects about Isaac, Moses, Aaron, Children of Israel, Joshua, Naomi and Ruth. These stories correspond with the Sunday school lessons each week, helping to strengthen their understanding of the story.

During Music time the children will sing and play instruments as we build musical skills, create relationships with one another, and create music together. We will plan to share some of what we learn and create on Sundays throughout the fall season (October 19th, November 16, December 14th, and December 24th).

Four against seven. It doesn't seem fair. With odds like that how do the four stand a chance against the seven. I am referring to the Seven Deadly Sins: Anger, Envy, Gluttony, Greed, Lust, Pride, and Sloth. And they are up against the Four Cardinal Virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Now the seven deadly sins don't appear as a list in holy scripture, but folks often attempt to proof-text them relying heavily on the book of Proverbs. Nor are the four cardinal virtues: Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperance. This morning, we hear Jesus commending a dishonest manager because he acted with prudence. Our translation uses *shrewd*. In our American culture the word *shrewd* is not necessarily viewed in the best light. Prudence is the preferable word for me as Jesus is calling upon each of us to act and live with prudence.

Back to those cardinal virtues. Thomas Aquinas, 13<sup>th</sup> century church scholar, writes about the four cardinal virtues. The word "cardinal" is not because he was a baseball fan or was thinking about leadership in the church wearing red hats. Cardinal derives from the Latin word "cardo" meaning hinge, or what holds things together. For Aquinas what holds life together are those four virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. For Aquinas these are needed for human life to flourish. Aquinas thought them to be natural virtues, acquired through practice, that perfect the individual and guide them toward living a good and flourishing life. When Martin Luther comes along in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, he has some difference in theological thinking from that of Thomas Aquinas. Grace and faith, not "good works," will play a prominent role for Luther. But then prudence, it remains part of the parable of Jesus. And for me prudence helps us make sense of the text in our 21<sup>st</sup> century world.

Prudence tops the list of those four. Prudence is up against those seven deadly sins. Prudence is what is needed to make or discern what is true or good in any given situation. Pastor Paul Drees gives an example of this in a short video clip. He says, suppose there is a person in the village who has a button and every time the person gets angry, he pushes the button and someone in the village dies. The people in the village try not to make that individual angry but the individual is persistently angry. So, the button gets pushed with greater regularity. More villagers die. Now all human life is valued. But the one pushing the button continues to do so. More villagers die. What is the prudent thing to do so that justice, courage and temperance can flourish in the village? The prudent thing to do is to remove the individual and not permit him to have access to the button. This can take on many different forms. But the prudent thing to do is to act now, today, so that more villagers may live.

The dishonest manager acts with prudence. It is what is needed to choose and take the appropriate action. Prudence, according to Thomas Aquinas' way of thinking, occupies the driver's seat in the vehicle of life steering and directing and leading the other three passengers: justice, fortitude and temperance. Without prudence, the other three are less likely to come to fruition. They may take their place in the three available seats in the vehicle, but if the driver doesn't get in, or start the journey, or head in the right direction, then the other three remain stuck. Without the driver, injustice, cowardice, and excess, are freewheeling it. They are on the loose. This gets to the heart of, why I believe, our Lord Jesus commends the dishonest manager in the parable.



We are all dishonest in one way or another. That is part of our human condition. Commending the prudence of an individual makes me think about how I live now knowing about what is coming. In the case of the manager who was discharged for squandering his master's property, he knew that he needed some sort of support system to make it through until he could land another job. He knows that he is not strong enough to dig, and that he is ashamed to beg. So, he summons his master's debtors, and each one gets a reduction in the amount owed. One hundred becomes fifty. Another who owes the same amount makes the bill eighty. In this way, he has made a few friends who will no doubt be willing to help him in the future, they may even vouch for him in the future.

In the case of us gathering here this morning, we know what is coming. We confess in the creed, we hear in the scriptures, that there is a day of judgment. A day when we will be called upon to give an account. Our awareness of what God promises is the very thing that shapes the way we live now. The question we ask ourselves has to do with how we steward all that has been entrusted to us. Or to use the word from the parable are we being prudent? And more importantly are we being prudent, today?

The prophet Amos calls upon the faith community of his time to stop cheating on those who are poor and folks shopping in the marketplace. To relish their time together in worship rather than being eager to get on with what's next. To live lives that permit justice and courage and temperance to flourish. Amos is calling for God's people to be prudent at a time when living for self was promoted as the way to get ahead. Amos knew that life is to be lived knowing that God holds the future and that what God promises for his people is tantamount to that of current cultural practice.

In the Apostle Paul's first letter to Timothy the faith community is encouraged to pray for those in authority, for civil authorities: magistrates and kings, and in our time for presidents, governors and mayors. We pray for them because they have greater power to shape or distort the subjects or their constituents' lives. The prayer is anchored in prudence so that justice, fortitude and temperance may flourish. Paul continues in the letter reminding his readers that it is the work of one God made known in Christ Jesus who gives himself a ransom for all.

Christ is the one who holds everything together. It is the work of Christ Jesus that holds us together. It is his promise made sure to us in Holy Baptism that our sins are forgiven, that sin death and devil do not have the last word, that through him with him and in him we have life now and for eternity. Aware of God's great promise to us in Christ Jesus we live prudent lives. We live now knowing what is to come. We lean into life with the assurance of Christ that our future is secure freeing us up to live life now not for self, but for love of God and neighbor. This is a prudent thing to do. It is what is commended in the parable spoken by Jesus to his beloved disciples. It is spoken to us, the Lord's beloved this morning.

Christ Jesus provides the true riches. Trusting his promise, we shy away from the team comprised of the seven and befriend the team of four. Prudence: it is what is both commended and needed for a life lived claimed through the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus. For Christ alone holds us together and promises us a future. That is the future we live into. It is a prudent thing to do. Amen.

# **FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7**

Hear this, you that trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,  
<sup>5</sup>saying, "When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain;  
and the sabbath,  
so that we may offer wheat for sale?  
We will make the ephah small and the shekel  
great,  
and practice deceit with false balances,  
<sup>6</sup>buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals,  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

<sup>7</sup>The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

## **Psalm 113**

# **SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

First of all, then, I urge that supplications,  
prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be  
made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are  
in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet  
and peaceable life in all godliness and digni-  
ty. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight  
of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to  
be saved and to come to the knowledge of the  
truth. <sup>5</sup>For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God  
and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup>For this  
I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am  
telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of  
the Gentiles in faith and truth.

# **GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13**

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a  
rich man who had a manager, and charges were  
brought to him that this man was squandering  
his property. <sup>2</sup>So he summoned him and said to  
him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give  
me an accounting of your management, be-  
cause you cannot be my manager any longer.'  
<sup>3</sup>Then the manager said to himself, 'What will  
I do, now that my master is taking the position  
away from me? I am not strong enough to dig,  
and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what  
to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager,  
people may welcome me into their homes.' <sup>5</sup>So,  
summoning his master's debtors one by one,  
he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my  
master?' <sup>6</sup>He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive  
oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down  
quickly, and make it fifty.' <sup>7</sup>Then he asked an-  
other, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied,  
'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to  
him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' <sup>8</sup>And  
his master commended the dishonest manager  
because he had acted shrewdly; for the chil-  
dren of this age are more shrewd in dealing  
with their own generation than are the chil-  
dren of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for  
yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that  
when it is gone, they may welcome you into the  
eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup>"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faith-  
ful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in  
a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup>If then  
you have not been faithful with the dishonest  
wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?  
<sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful with what  
belongs to another, who will give you what is  
your own? <sup>13</sup>No slave can serve two masters;  
for a slave will either hate the one and love the  
other, or be devoted to the one and despise the  
other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31.

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