

Carry
the
cross and
follow
me

LUKE 14:27



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.

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.



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

stpaulsyork.org



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in
Celebration of 55 years at St. Paul's and our 55th Wedding Anniversary
By Earline and Frank Jones*

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
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Preschool Director	Deb Becker	presch.stpaulsyork@comcast.net

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 7, 2025
Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Evangelical Lutheran Worship musical setting 3

PRELUDE

Fantasy on “Ora Labora”

Robert Lind

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

Come, Thou Almighty King (ELW 408)



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;
2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful, might - y Lord;
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be



help us to praise; Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
in this glad hour! Thou who al - might - y art, rule now in
hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign maj - es - ty may we in



to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.
ev - 'ry heart, nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

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

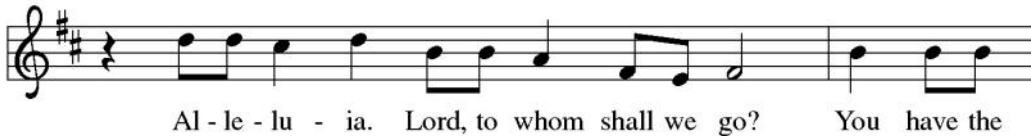
Let us pray. . . Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING**Deuteronomy 30:15-20***(back cover)***PSALM Psalm 1** Sung Cantor/Congregation unaccompanied.

- ¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,*
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!
- ² **Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,***
and they meditate on his law | day and night.
- ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither;*
everything they | do shall prosper.
- ⁴ **It is not so | with the wicked;***
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.
- ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,*
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.
- ⁶ **For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,***
but the way of the wick- | ed is doomed.

SECOND READING**Philemon 1-21***(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 14:25-33****(back cover)**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.*At the conclusion of the Gospel.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.*Sit***SERMON**

Pastor Reep

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.

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely (*especially*). May they find healing through your love and the care. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

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

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

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

Sit

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

8:00 AM

Organ

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

10:30 AM

Chancel Choir

Lead Me Lord

David Blackwell

Stand

OFFERTORY

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow (ELW 884)

Musical score for 'Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow (ELW 884)'. The score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.'

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you,

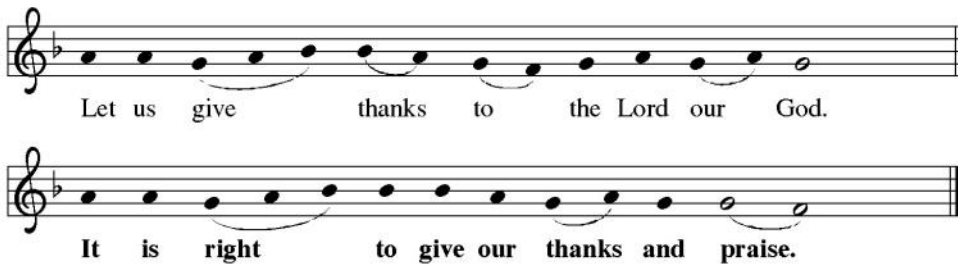
O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DIALOGUE

Sung by Pastor and congregation

Musical score for Dialogue. The score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.'

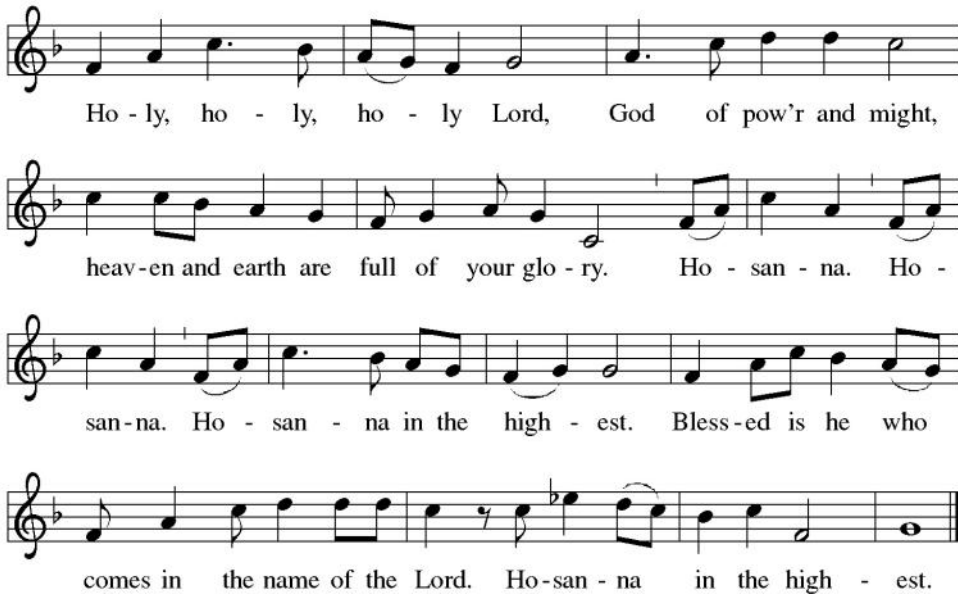
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PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

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



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.**

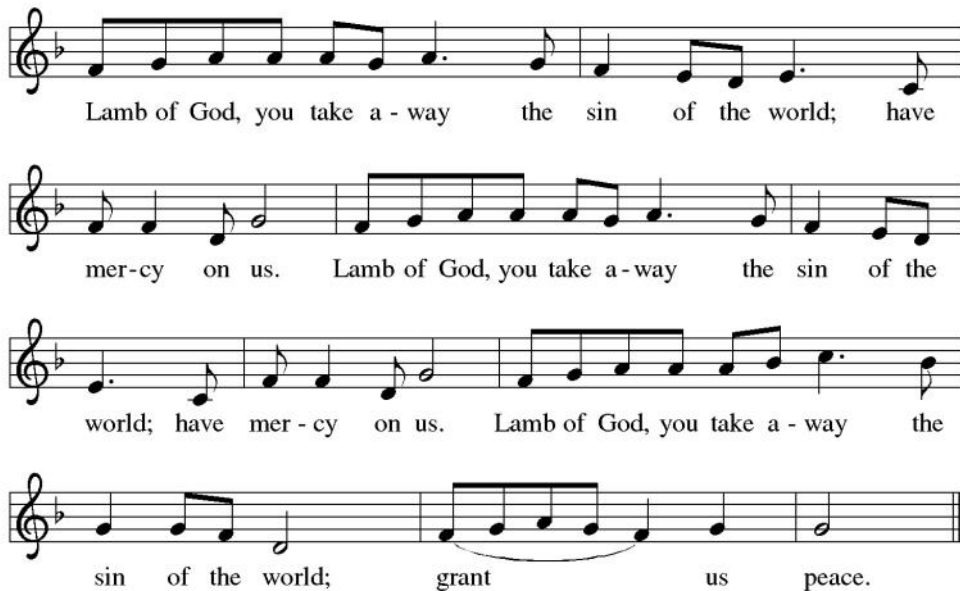
FRACTION RITE

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
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; 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 HYMN *How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord (ELW 580)*



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - fresh - ed, re - stored,
if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind,
whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,
in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

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

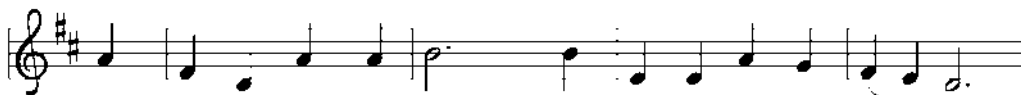
Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

BLESSING

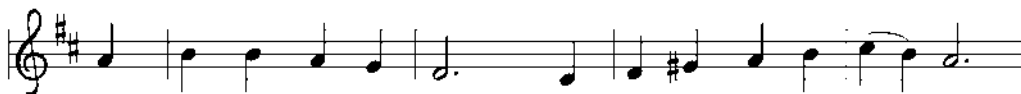
Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

HYMN

O God, My Faithful God (ELW 806)



1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 When dan-gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - feet gifts be - stow - ing;
what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
hut when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sit

POSTLUDE

Onward Christian Soldiers

George Burdett

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 7

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM LWR Care Kit Assembly
 9:15 AM New Members Class
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Monday, September 8

6:00 PM Finance Committee

Tuesday, September 9 Council Reports due

9:30 AM Pantry
 6:30 PM Women's Group—Christ Hall

Wednesday, September 10

10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall

Thursday, September 11

6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Saturday, September 13

All Day Women's Group—Terra Farms

Sunday, September 14

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
 11:45 AM Second Sunday Sandwiches
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Greeters	Ushers -	Altar Guild
9/7	8:00 AM	Harold Sargeant	Kathy Monk	John Monk	Nancy Banta, Tom Martin	Team 2E: Ron Riese, Kathy Monk, Ken Hinkle, Alex Bastian	Pat Scarborough, Kathleen Lemke
	10:30 AM	Kass Keleta	Larry Moore	Janet Moore	Larry & Deb Becker, Ann Anstadt	Team 2L: Kem Vaught, Gail Kerchner, Sandy Dickensheets	Ann Anstadt, Jill Striebig

Fall Worship times are at 8:00 & 10:30 AM.

Next week Pantry Volunteer Recognition Sunday, September 14.

Sunday School for all Ages begins next Sunday, September 14, at 9:15 AM.

New Members Class begins September 7 and continues through September 28.

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

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

Music and Create, Age 3 through Grade 6, Tuesday evenings beginning September 16th 6pm through 7:15pm

Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays at 6 & 7 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.

Senior Luncheon

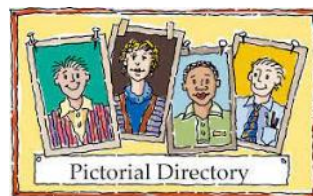
Wednesday 17 September 2025

The fall senior luncheon will be held in Christ Hall on Wednesday 17 September at 11:30 AM. The luncheon will be preceded with hymns and prayers and a look at the readings assigned for St. Matthew at 10:30 AM in the church nave. Pastor Reep will lead the hymns, study and prayers. Please contact the church office to reserve your place at the table. RSVP by September 10th.



Springettsbury Door Installation Monday, September 22 thru Wednesday, September 24. We will post how best to enter the building the week prior to the installation. Watch the Sunday, September 21 bulletin for details.

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.



Help us celebrate our Pantry volunteers next Sunday, September 14, by bringing in an item to donate to the food pantry!

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".

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Women's Retreat

Please remember to complete the survey to indicate your interest in a potential women's retreat in spring of 2026. We look forward to hearing your feedback so that we can create a retreat that meets the vision and needs of the women in our congregation.

Go to:

<https://forms.gle/UpcFMqZHyGkYFo8E7>

Or scan the QR code on the right.
Paper copies are also available at the nave doors.



Proper 18 C, 2025

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

It was a short week. With a holiday on Monday, most working folks, I suspect, had to work faster to squeeze five days of work into four. You may have been too busy this week to have read little or any of the Bible. If that is the case, take heart, because the second reading provides you with nearly the entire letter to Philemon. Add four more verses to the twenty-one that we just heard proclaimed, and you can tell your friends and family that you set aside time to read one entire book of the New Testament today! There, that was easy. Now you are well on your way to becoming Bible proficient.

The letter to Philemon is more like a note card than a letter. It is so short that it does not require chapters. It is simply twenty-five verses. The Apostle Paul sends the letter to Philemon. Paul, now advanced in years, is known as an Apostle, and has missionary journeys under his belt. He and Timothy have been bearing witness to Christ Jesus and along the way they encounter Onesimus. Paul is in prison when he writes to his Christian brother Philemon. Paul is taking it on the nose for bearing witness to Christ. He is not backing away from proclaiming the message of hope and salvation made known through Christ. This is a message that is offensive to political and religious authorities. He continues to proclaim that with Christ Jesus all things are possible. This was born out in his own life. And now, in the note sent off to Philemon, he sends greetings to the key leaders of the house church to which Philemon belongs.

The bulk of the note card is comprised of a request to take Onesimus, a runaway slave, back into his household, and to elevate his position and standing from slave to brother. Paul is cautious with his word choice. He does not want Philemon to think that he is telling him what to do. Onesimus was a slave. And as such he belonged to the household of Philemon. Philemon was incurring additional expense without his slave to do the work. In those days, if a slave were borrowed or detained or precluded from doing his or her labor, the person responsible for borrowing them, detaining them, or keeping them from their daily labor would owe the householder for the loss associated with the reduction of work. They would need to pay up to settle and make things right. In this case Paul refers to “charging his account.” But Paul’s real plea is too welcome Onesimus into the faith community as a fellow member, as brother in Christ. Onesimus would then no longer be a slave but would be free. Free from slave labor and ownership to being free in Christ Jesus. Onesimus could then be free to serve Christ and take his place with others, Apphia, Archippus, and Philemon in their local church community.

Paul appeals to Philemon to do this, trusting in the Lord that he will do the right thing. Paul knows the importance of being welcomed, of partnership in the gospel, and obedience to the will of God. Through a simple note card, Paul is advocating for Onesimus to become a servant of Christ.

“Servants of Christ,” these are the opening words from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. Being a servant was second nature to Onesimus. He had been serving others his entire life. Now, if the request is honored, Onesimus will receive a welcome into the faith community. He will be brother to those who gather in the house church. He will be a servant of Christ along with all the others who gather for prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Paul concludes his note with the hope that he too will visit and that they will make things ready for his arrival.

Ignatius, a church father, wrote letters to the early church in Ephesus. He wrote often. The Bible does not contain any of his writings. However, his writings do help give shape to a fuller understanding of what obstacles, challenges, and dissension confronted people of faith. Ignatius mentions the ex-slave Onesimus at least six times. Ignatius refers to him as “a man of inexpressible love and your bishop.” Imagine, Onesimus, once a slave a bishop? Some Bible scholars think it is a stretch to contemplate that the ex-slave Onesimus could become the bishop of Ephesus. They suggest that the elected bishop took the name Onesimus to honor the memory and work of a servant of Christ. The story of Onesimus mirrors the plight of all people, moving from being a slave to sin to being a servant of Christ.

That is what Christ Jesus does for us and for all people. He takes up the cross, suffers death, dies, and is raised up on the third day making a way for you and me and all people to serve the living Lord. Christ Jesus calls everyone to follow. He calls everyone to take up cross and follow. Jesus does this wanting all potential servants to enter the calling with eyes wide open. This is not easy work. Servants of Christ have work to do. This is not a comfortable life. This idea is expressed by our Lord when he tells followers that old alliances will be changed, family systems reenvisioned. Servants have decisions to make, obstacles to overcome, challenges that need confronting. This is our work. This is our call. This is what it means to be servant of Christ, to take up cross and follow.

We are entering into a season where stewardship becomes our focus. We comprise a faith community, one that has outgrown being able to meet in one of our homes. So, we meet here in this beautiful house of prayer. During this season of stewardship, we identify obstacles and challenges. Some of them are financial. Some of them are administrative. Some require encouragement as we make a way forward proclaiming Christ crucified, and the cross bearing associated with discipleship. This is a season when we work through dissension to make Christ’s loving purpose for all people known. As servants of Christ, we are stewards of the mysteries of God.

Those mysteries compel us with thoughts that lead to action in welcoming others, moving us from sinful ways to the way of Christ, in announcing forgiveness which opens the way for hope and provides a future. No longer are we slaves to old ways and thoughts, but we are welcomed into the joy and freedom of life lived in Christ, because Christ truly sets us free. This is the essence of the note card penned by Paul to Philemon. Paul wants for all people to be set free because of the loving embrace of God made known through Christ Jesus.

Now that you are on your way to becoming more Bible proficient you might ask yourself why this tiny little note card of a letter made its way into the canon of scripture. Why is it that this chapter-less book about a slave being set free, about a request made by a beloved apostle, about a faith community wrestling with whom to welcome, why it is positioned alongside sixty-five other books? It is there precisely because the early church did not want us to forget a story, where a person born a slave, could become bishop of the church or at least shape its future through forgiveness and welcome. It is a story for you. Born in whatever circumstance or situation, that in Christ, you are welcomed into the community of faith. You may even become bishop. But you are always a servant of Christ. Take up the cross and follow. Amen.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Psalms 1

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my

child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus]; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

Next Sunday's Readings: Holy Cross Day Numbers 21:4b-9; Psalm 98:1-4 or Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38; 1 Corinthians 1:18-24; John 3:13-17 **OR 14th Sunday after Pentecost** Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10.

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