



*One of them turned back,
praising God*

LUKE 17:15

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 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.



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

stpaulsyork.org

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
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Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 12, 2025
Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Evangelical Lutheran Worship musical setting 3

PRELUDE

Wash O God, Our Sons and Daughters *Anne Krentz Organ*
8:00 am *Harrison Palmer, Bassoon*
10:30 am *Andrew Jones, Violin*

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

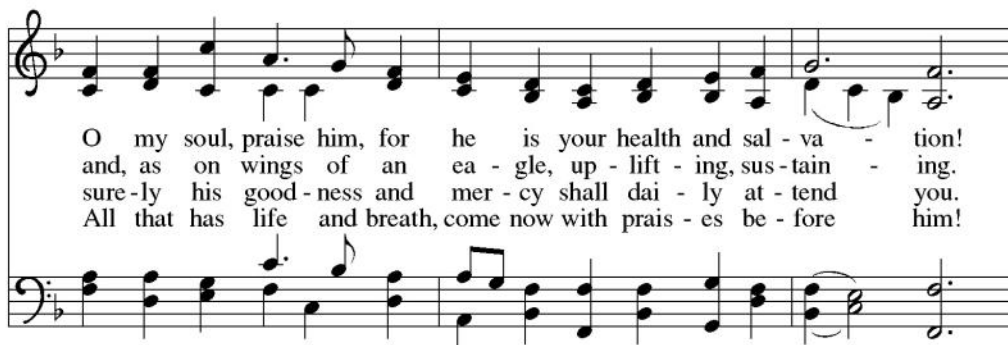
Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

ENTRANCE HYMN

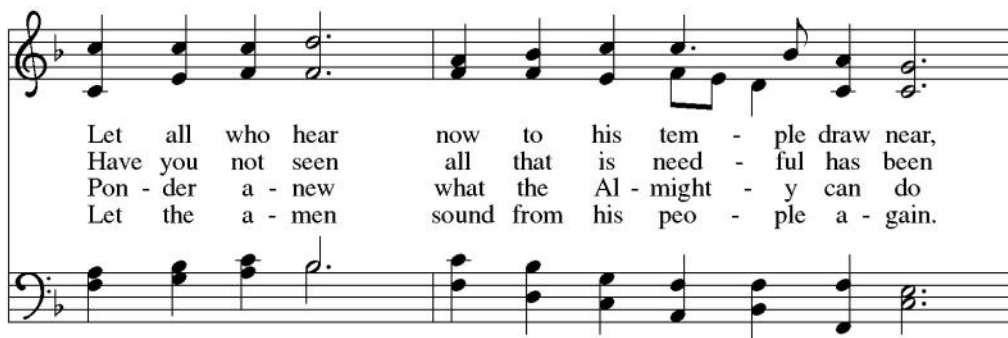
Praise to the Lord the Almighty (ELW 858)



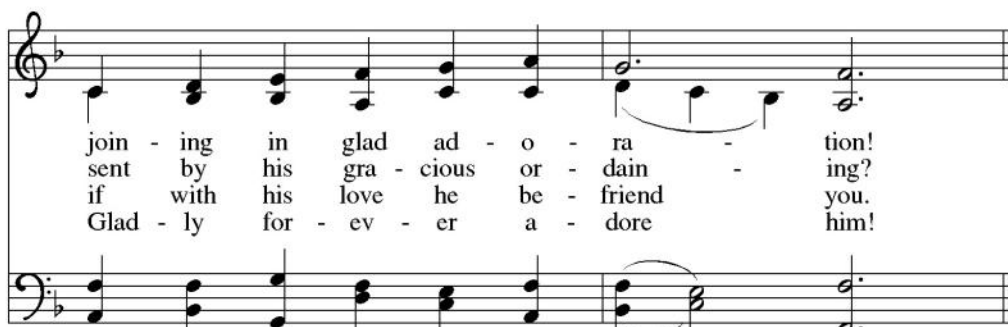
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

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 God, source of every blessing, your generous goodness comes to us anew every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S STEWARDSHIP SERMON

Alexis Heistand

FIRST READING

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

(back cover)

PSALM Psalm 111

Sung Cantor/**Congregation** unaccompanied.



- ¹ Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,*
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.
- ² **Great are the deeds | of the LORD!***
They are studied by all who de- | light in them.
- ³ His work is full of majes- | ty and splendor,*
and his righteousness en- | dures forever.
- ⁴ **He makes his marvelous works to | be remembered;***
the LORD is gracious and full | of compassion.
- ⁵ He gives food to | those who fear him;*
he is ever mindful | of his covenant.
- ⁶ **He has shown his people the power | of his works***
in giving them the lands | of the nations.
- ⁷ The works of his hands are faithful- | ness and justice;*
all his command- | ments are sure.
- ⁸ **They stand fast forev- | er and ever,***
because they are done in | truth and equity.
- ⁹ He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his cove- | nant forever;*
holy and awesome | is his name.
- ¹⁰ **The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;***
those who act accordingly have a good understanding.
His praise en- | dures forever.

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 2:8-15 (back cover)

Stand

VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 17:11-19 (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

The Reverend Stanley 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 give thanks for the communion of the church. Infuse a spirit of generosity in your people. Bless relationships among differing denominations and faiths as signs of unity and hope. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for abundant harvests and the many gifts of your good creation. Make us faithful caretakers of land, water, soil, and air, that all life might flourish. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for local and global peace efforts. Uplift the voices of all who proclaim peace that their voices may be heard throughout the land. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for your tender care. Accompany all who travel; comfort all for whom this is a lonely season, and assure all weary hearts and bodies of your healing love (*We pray especially for . . .*) God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for ministries working to end food and housing insecurity especially our Food Pantry and those throughout our country and state. Open our hearts to your abundance and our minds to new ways of sharing that abundance for the good of all. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the witness of all the faithful departed. Empower us, by their example, to serve you with courage, hope, and joy in the promises of the gospel. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, 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

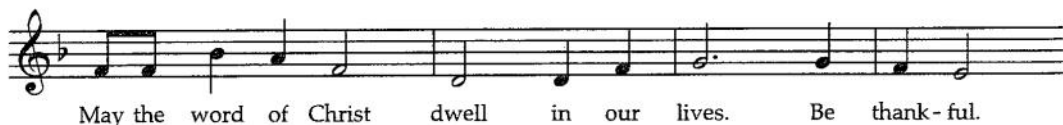
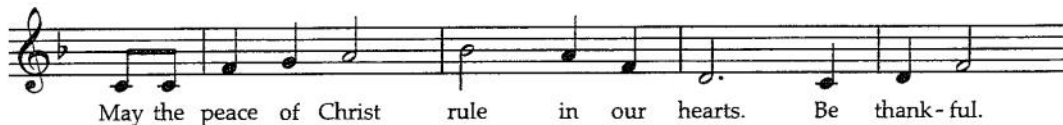
8:00 AM Piano *Wash O God, Our Sons and Daughters* Aaron David Miller
10:30 AM Chancel Choir *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* Maurice Bevin

Stand

OFFERTORY

Be Thankful

Anne Krentz Organ



Continued on next page...



May we sing with joy, giv-ing thanks to God. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!



May we sing with joy, giv-ing thanks to God. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

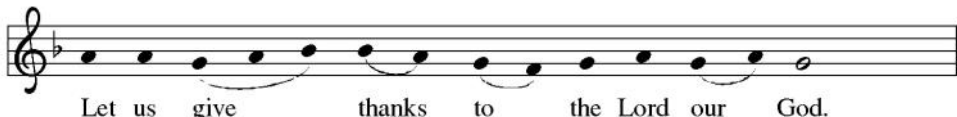
Sung by Pastor and congregation



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
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

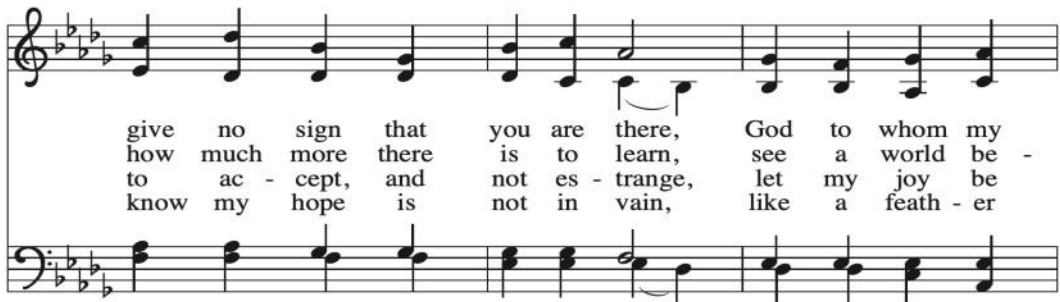
COMMUNION HYMN *Let My Spirit Always Sing (ACS 1020)*



1 Let my spir - it al - ways sing, though my heart be
2 Though my bod - y be con - fined, let your word en -
3 Let your wis - dom grace my years, choose my words and
4 Let my spir - it al - ways sing, to your Spir - it



win - ter - ing, though the sea - son of de - spair
gaze my mind, let the in - ner eye dis - cern
chase my fears, give me wit to wel - come change,
an - swer - ing, through the si - lence, through the pain



give no sign that you are there, God to whom my
how much more there is to learn, see a world be -
to ac - cept, and not es - trange, let my joy be
know my hope is not in vain, like a feath - er



days be - long, let there al - ways be a song.
com - ing whole through the win - dow of the soul.
full and deep in the knowl - edge that I keep.
on your breath trust your love, through life and death.

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

Now Thank We All Our God (ELW 840) next page

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

POSTLUDE

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

Craig Phillips

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*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
In loving memory of Floyd W. Egger, Jr. by Teresa Rohrbaugh and family
and in honor of our daughter, Sophia Zart's, 21st birthday
with love by Matt and Jill Striebig*

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Greeters	Ushers -	Altar Guild
10-12	8:00 AM	Lois Ann Schroeder	Denise Rider	James Palmer	Michael & Kristin McKee, John & Kathy Monk	Team 1E: Jeff Riese, John Monk, Alex Bastian	Lois Ann Schroeder, Kathy Monk
	10:30 AM	Larry Moore	Larry Becker	Dan Garber	Dan & Kathryn Garber, Joe & Jen Guarriello	Team 1L: Dave Kopp, Darren Smith, Kass Keleta, Scott Donaldson	Sandy Dickensheets, Janet Fitch

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voice - es,
 2 Oh, may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joice - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open Tues–Thurs 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 12

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 9:15 AM Sunday School for all
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
- 11:45 AM Second Sunday Sandwiches
- 3:00 PM Conversation & Coffee with Konde
- 4:00 PM Signing of the Renewal of
Companion Congregation
- 4:30 PM Vespers—Nave
- 6:00 PM Confirmation Class
- 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Monday, October 13 Office Closed Columbus Day

- 6:00 PM Finance Committee—Good Shepherd Rm

Tuesday, October 14

Council Reports due to church secretary

- 9:30 AM Pantry
- 6:00 PM Create—Preschool thru Grade 6
- 6:00 PM Bible Study—Christ Hall

Wednesday, October 15 Newsletter Deadline

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

Thursday, October 16

- 10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor
- 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Friday, October 17

Women's Group TAFE Show

Sunday, October 19

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 9:15 AM Sunday School for all
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
- 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

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.



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 Dinner Groups- A time for fellowship, food, and fun- Dinner groups will be gathering in January and February. They are comprised of about 6-8 people who gather at the homes of church members and share appetizers, main course, and dessert. The focus is getting better acquainted with people of St. Paul's. The sign-up sheet will be posted in the Good Shepherd room. Last day of sign-up in November 16th.

Appointments are being scheduled now. For families who may want a Christmas Card, you can order them when you review your photos. And remember that the 8 X 10 family portrait is free!



ONLINE SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHURCH DIRECTORY

1. Go to the Universal Church Directories website (www.ucdir.com)
2. Click on the box on the right side of the homepage entitled "photography appointment scheduling login"
3. Enter your church code [pa1207](#)
4. Enter your church password [photos](#)
5. Click on the Enter button
6. Click on the desired photography date
7. Click on the Reserve Time button beside the desired photography appointment time
8. Enter the appropriate information in all required fields (indicated by the asterisk)
9. Click on the Schedule Appointment button at the bottom of the screen to reserve the photography appointment time in your family's name
10. If you have more than six family members being photographed, please reserve two appointments consecutively (such as 6:00 and 6:10)
11. Print the next screen to use as a reminder of your family's photography appointment
12. Contact your church's online scheduling administrator to change or cancel your photography appointment
13. If for some reason you cannot be photographed on November 3rd or 4th please let the church office know so that we can arrange for another option. Thank you.

Tuesday night Bible Study 6-7 PM in Christ Hall.

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

Confirmation Class Sundays, 6:00 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.*

Proper 23 C, 2025 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19

Sunday school classes were held in the basement of the church. It was there that Mrs. Schmidt presented her weekly lesson. She presented most lessons integrating current trends in technology. In that time period she relied heavily on a flannel graph. It was the Tick Tock of the early nineteen sixties! There was no power point, no YouTube, no Instagram, no streaming videos, Mrs. Schmidt simply relied on a board covered with flannel, positioned on an easel, with a half dozen little chairs all pulled around close. She had an array of figures and accessories and used them to present the weekly Bible story.

Each week someone was on a quest. There was always someone seeking something, searching, trying to find or figure out, someone with need, great need. And Mrs. Schmidt would lead us on the quest with her array of felt characters, animals, and natural habitat (we had a burning bush and a sycamore tree). She had a donkey that was used in the Old Testament story of Balaam when the angel of the Lord tells him to go another way. That same donkey would carry Mary to Bethlehem, be positioned at the Christmas manger, it would carry Mary and baby Jesus to Egypt escaping King Harrods's murderous decree, and it would carry Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. That sure was a busy donkey!

Two childhood favorites were Naaman the leper from the Old Testament reading from 2 Kings and the Ten Lepers from the gospel of Luke. I remember them because she used the same figure, the same man who played the role of Naaman the leper was the Samaritan who returned to give thanks in the gospel story. She changed out their outfits a bit, but the base figure was one and the same.

Mrs. Schmidt was tricky; the blue horizontal piece of felt was deemed the Jordan River. And the leader of the army, Naaman, was covered with boils, and blotches to signify the dreaded skin disease leprosy. But tucked away under that blue band of river water was the other Naaman, the one whose skin was disease free, pure and unblemished. So down under the Jordan River that leper Naaman would go, seven times. Mrs. Schmidt would have us count to make sure that we remembered what the prophet Elisha had said. One, two, three... and then on the seventh go, out came Naaman completely healed of his dreaded disease.

The story of the ten lepers who are cleansed was embedded in my memory because Mrs. Schmidt had taken the figure used to portray Naaman and traced him out nine times, and then clipped them out with her pinking shears. They all had zig-zagged edges and were made from felt scraps of all differing colors. She drew on them with markers to make them look like they had leprosy. Secretly we knew they were the nine who didn't return, didn't come back to give thanks. And it was that same character Naaman that came up out of the Jordan River when our voices shouted out the number SEVEN that she used in the gospel story portraying, the foreigner, the Samaritan who returned to give thanks.

Mrs. Schmidt taught about being; thankful, grateful, and appreciative. She stressed the importance of healing in our lives. As kids we didn't spend much time thinking about healing; we thought we would always be young and healthy. At the time my classmates and I didn't know that our Sunday school teacher had cancer, probably didn't always have the energy to teach. But one Sunday after another she arrived prepared to teach. Heaven knows that my classmates and I weren't the easiest bunch to teach nor were we the most appreciative. But that woman could tell a story. And somehow she could make it stick. Just like those felt images to the flannel covered board.

We have begun our fall stewardship emphasis ***Servants of Christ and Stewards of the Mysteries of God.*** Mrs. Schmidt was indeed a servant of Christ. She was a steward of the mysteries of God as she shaped lives through proclaiming the good news of Christ Jesus. Last week, and

again today we were asked to complete a Time and Ability Form committing to work needed as we carry out our shared mission and ministry. We may not have the gift and skill of a teacher like Mrs. Schmidt, but each of us contributes to the whole of the story. We steward what God has given us in Christ Jesus. Daily we encounter people on a quest: healing, acceptance, restoration to community life, and in some sense, to be made free. In Christ Jesus we are made free.

This morning, I don't have a flannel graph to portray the stories for you. You have heard them read. You maybe have your own recollections of these healing stories, of these stories of thanks, gratitude, and appreciation. I am drawn to the words of Jesus; Jesus tells the Samaritan who returns and gives thanks, "*get up and go, your way faith has made you well.*" To go on his way, this time not to show himself to the priests at the temple, but to simply go. In Christ Jesus, in the word proclaimed to him, he is made free, set free to go. No strings attached. No particular task to perform (Leviticus 14:1-32). No seven of anything. He is addressed simply in the word of Christ Jesus to "go."

I don't have a wide blue felt strip to depict the Jordan River, but we do have the baptismal font present and in our midst. We didn't go down into the water seven times, but three times the water with the word commanded by Christ was washed over us to take away sin, what separates us from God. For some of us it has been a few years or several decades since we felt that water and heard those words for the first time. Gathering in worship we remember that we are on a quest for some type of healing: physical, emotional, spiritual; in our lives, for our families, for the community, for the nation, and for the world. We come to communion as people who God welcomes; accepts and forgives, embraces and loves. The simple gifts of bread and wine may not seem grandiose. But they are the gifts given to us so that we are made free to go.

Naaman expected great incantations. The 10 lepers sought mercy. The power at work today is God's power made known through his Son, Christ Jesus. The biblical narrative reveals the remarkable power of Jesus to heal and restore. The examples this morning are of oppressed and excluded people coming to God: a centurion is commended for great faith; a Samaritan is commended for giving praise; and later in the gospel of Luke we will hear of a dying thief on a cross, receiving the gift of eternal life. Jesus acts. Jesus speaks. And lives are transformed, changed, healed, and turned around. With each one something new becomes possible as they "go." Something new is possible for you too through the generosity of God's love made known through Christ Jesus.

We don't use the language of quest to refer to our journey through life. The fact that we have gathered together this morning bears witness to our belief that Christ Jesus has something to do with our quest. Jesus has a word for us as he did for those who encountered him on the way to Jerusalem. "Come to me," Jesus says, 'whoever you are, whatever your background, however excluded you may have felt in your life. Bring me your aches of body, mind and heart. Come to me. I have a word for you. I heal the sick. I welcome the outcast. I give eternal life to people who may be breathing their last earthly breath. I will turn your life around so that you can go. To all who believe in me I have these simple words: 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

Mrs. Schmidt spoke those words at the end of the Sunday school lesson "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well." Then she would pray that all would be made well. She would carefully take down the felted figures from the flannel covered board and pack them away for another Sunday, another quest, another story about being set free to "go." Amen.

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean."

¹¹But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean?'" ¹⁴So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

¹⁵Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel."

Psalm 111

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

¹⁴Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

GOSPEL: Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14–4:5; Luke 18:1-8.

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