



About that
day and hour
no one
knows

MATTHEW 24:36

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

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
In loving memory of Neil E. Shue by Norma, Mike, Brian Shue and Lynn
Pentecost and Family*

STAFF		
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First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025
Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Musical Setting #5 Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE *Sleeper's Wake, A Voice is Calling* J. S. Bach

Stand turning to face the font

ENTRANCE HYMN *Creator of the Stars of Night (ELW 245) stanzas 1 & 5*



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
from all as - saults of our dread foe.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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.

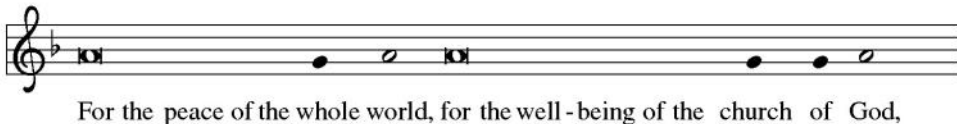
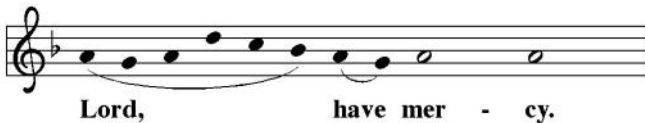
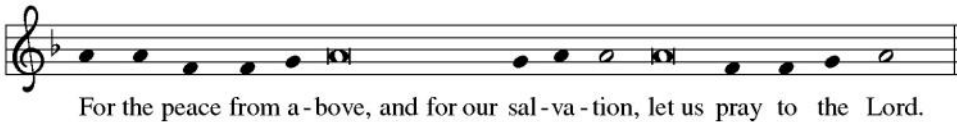
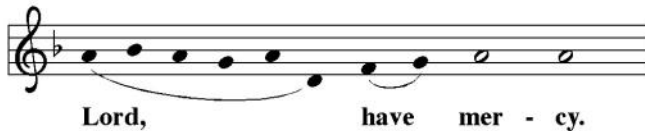
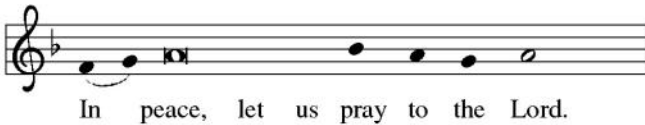
Most merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of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

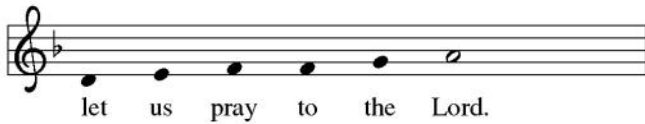
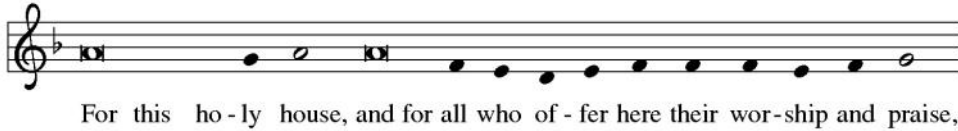
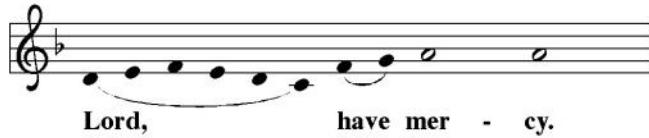
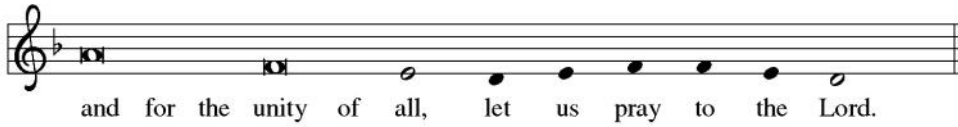
Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☐ Son, and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

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

KYRIE *During the singing of the Kyrie the procession moves to the Chancel.*





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sit

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

(back cover)

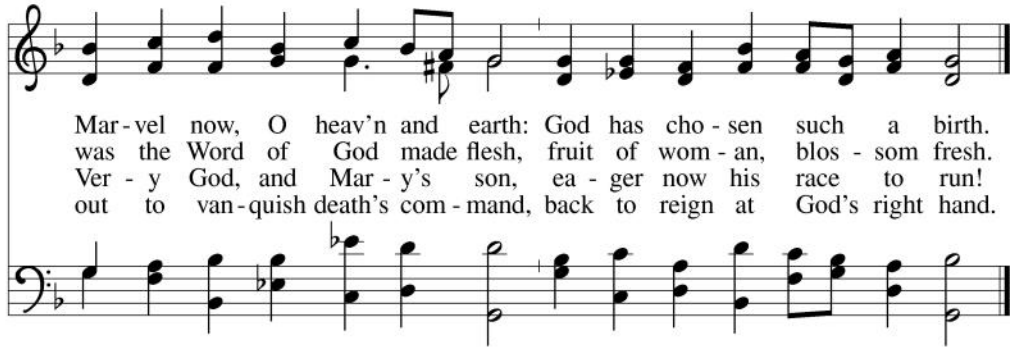
PSALM Psalm 122

Sung Cantor/Congregation

The antiphon is introduced by the Cantor and then sung by all at the appointed time.

- ¹ I was glad when they | said to me,*
"Let us go to the house | of the LORD."
² Now our | feet are standing*
within your gates, | O Jerusalem.
³ Jerusalem is built | as a city*
that is at unity | with itself;
⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD,*
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD.
⁵ For there are the | thrones of judgment,*
the thrones of the | house of David.
⁶ Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:*
"May they pros- | per who love you.
⁷ Peace be with- | in your walls*
and quietness with- | in your towers.
⁸ For my brethren and com- | panions' sake,*
I pray for | your prosperity.
⁹ Because of the house of the | LORD our God,*
I will seek to | do you good."

SECOND READING**Romans 13:11-14***(back cover)***Stand****HYMN*****Savior of the Nations (ELW 263)***



5 Now your manger, shining bright,
 hallows night with newborn light.
 Night cannot this light subdue;
 let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!
 To the holy Trinity
 praise we sing eternally!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44 (back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew
At the conclusion of the Gospel.
 The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

The Reverend Stanley Reep

Stand

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
 We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God
 from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
 Through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the
 Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the prophets.

Continued on next page...

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

O Lord, uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops.

Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Empower us to care for forests and oceans. Make us be good stewards of your creation.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bring comfort and strength to all who suffer sickness and adversity. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing (*especially . . . and those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day*). Surround us all with your care and consolation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Build up our lives in ways that would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints (especially) to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **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 *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

Rober Lau

10:30 AM Chancel Choir *Sleepers Wake, a Voice is Calling*

Felix Mendelssohn

Stand

OFFERTORY

What Feast of Love (ELW 487)



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!

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.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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 in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,

that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve
you as your priestly people.

And we ask you:

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;

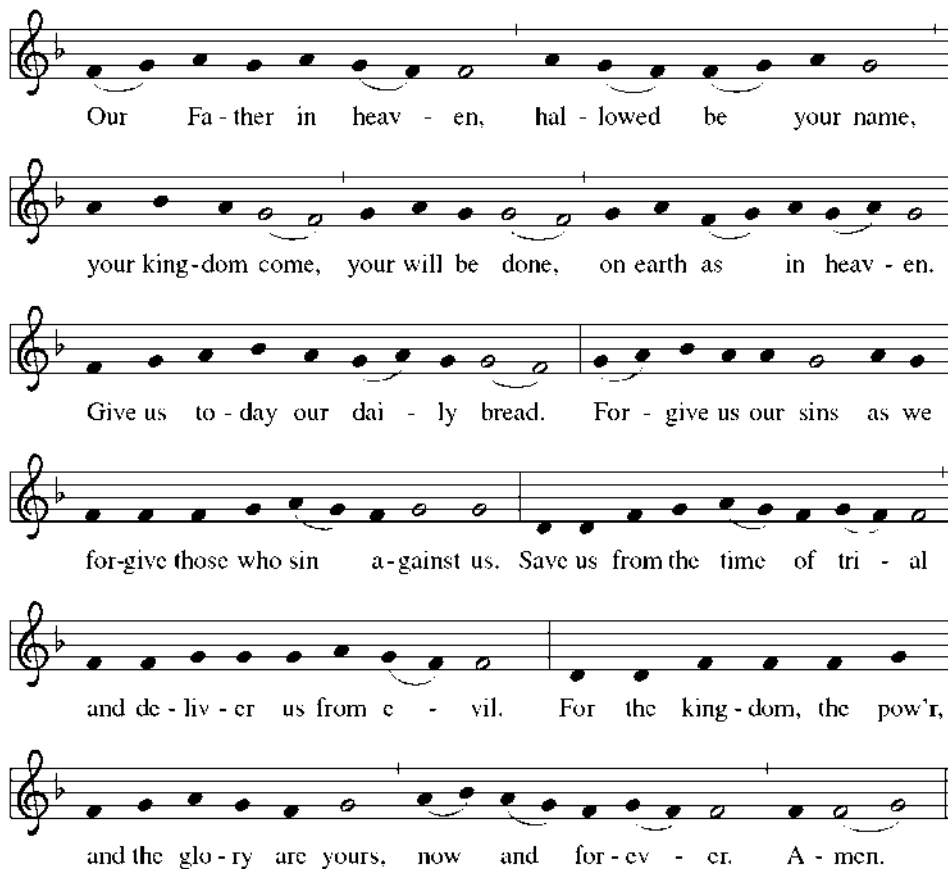
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;

fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,

that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church both now and forever. **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

FRACTION RITE *A brief silence is kept.*

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. A - men.

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

10:30 AM COMMUNION HYMN *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper (ACS 901)*

1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,

Continued on next page...



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with-in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

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. Almighty God, in the Eucharist you cleanse us from our sins and prepare us for the coming of your Son. Make us ready always to welcome Him into our hearts as we receive you Holy Sacrament; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

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

HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers (ELW 244) next page

DISMISSAL

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

Sit

POSTLUDE

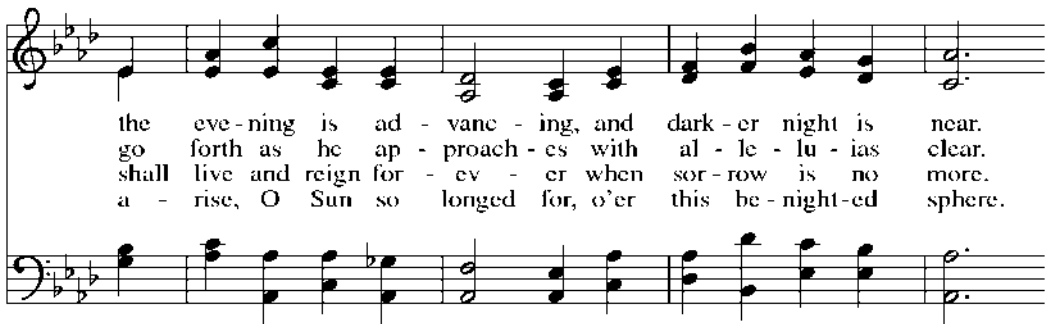
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Franklin D. Ashdown

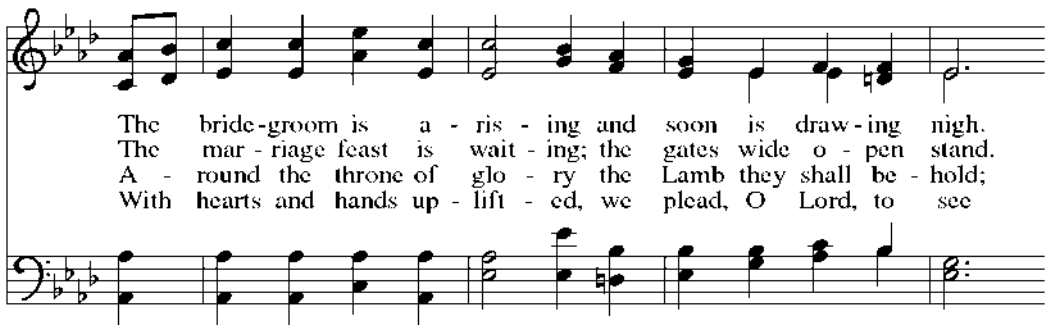
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



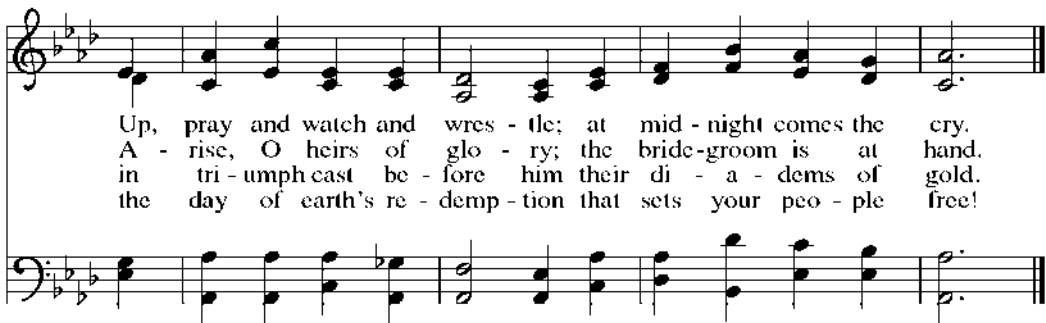
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - frings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Sunday, December 7 York College Chorale and Orchestra**3:00pm**

The York College Chorale under the direction of Dr. Erin Lippard and the York College Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Matthew Inkster will present a holiday concert featuring “Gloria” by Antonio Vivaldi plus other seasonal repertoire.

St. Nicholas Breakfast—Due to scheduling conflicts we will not hold a St. Nicholas Breakfast on December 6. Thank you to those who volunteered to help.



Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Greeters	Ushers -	Altar Guild
11-30	8:00 AM	Ken Hinkle	Jennifer Ports	Lois Ann Schroeder	Ann & Axel Ulrich, Cheryl Reifsteck, Denise Rider	Team 2E: Ron Riese, Kathy Monk, Ken Hinkle, Alex Bastian	Pat Scarborough, Kathleen Lemke
	10:30 AM	Tristan Ericson	Allison Lehr	Jessica Ericson	Allison & Dan Lehr, Chris & Amy Lipp	Team 2L: Kem Vaught, Gail Kerchner, Sandy Dickensheets	Deb Becker, Isabella Lehr

This Week at St. Paul's

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

Sunday, November 30 First Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Making Advent Wreaths—Community Rm
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Tuesday, December 2

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

Wednesday, December 3

10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor—Nave
 10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall
 6:00 PM Advent Dinner—Christ Hall
 7:00 PM Advent Vespers—Nave

Thursday, December 4

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

Sunday, December 7 Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
 3:00 PM York College Holiday Choral Concert
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Advent 1 C, 2025 Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44

A week ago a pocket watch belonging to a couple who died together on the Titanic sold for \$2.3 Million Dollars. This is the highest amount garnered for memorabilia recovered from the Titanic.

The story by Freddie Clayton was carried by NBC news last Sunday. The watch was recovered from the body of Isidor Straus, a First Class passenger. He and his wife Ida were traveling home to New York and boarded the doomed Titanic in Southampton. Mr. Straus was a major investor and partner in Macy's Department store. Yes the same Macy's Department store that brought us the Parade on Thanksgiving Day.

The watch auctioned last week is an 18 carat Jules Jurgensen watch. You may be surprised to know that you can currently purchase a Jules Jurgensen watch at Target or through your favorite online vendor. This one however, was engraved and given to Mr. Straus for his 43rd birthday. The watch was recovered from his body after the Titanic sank April 1912. Mr. Straus was 67 years old when he died. He was offered a seat on a lifeboat because of his advanced age, but Isidor insisted the other younger men should take the seats on the lifeboats. His wife Ida would not leave her husband or the ship. They went down together.

The pocket watch remained in the Straus family for more than a hundred years before it was sold at Henry Aldridge and Sons Auctioneers in a town in England last Sunday. The auctioneer, Andrew Aldridge was quoted "Every man, woman and child had a story, and we're retelling those stories 113 years later." The Straus's, in particular, "have been dramatized in every Titanic movie that's been made, theirs is an incredible love story." When asked about the whopping high price of \$2.3 Million offered to secure the bid, the auctioneer responded "Obviously you're looking at what the object is. But one of the most crucial elements to their value is who they belong to."

On this First Sunday in Advent we are confronted with time. Not necessarily a handsome gold timepiece, but time in the realm of God.

Isaiah the prophet casts a vision for God's scattered distraught people. Here we are reminded of God's time when all people will stream to the Mountain of God. Instead of being swept way in flood waters, people will find safety and security and will stream to the peaceful Mountain of God.

Paul writing to the inhabitants of the Roman Empire reminds God's beloved children what time it is. He states clearly that it is time to lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

And Jesus addresses his followers who ask questions about when all of these things will take place that he has just forth told. He tells them that only the Father in heaven knows. Jesus' words to those who listen "keep awake!" For the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

We don't need a \$2.3 Million Dollar time piece to aid us with time, liturgical time (one candle on the Advent wreath) or God's time, (the Son of Man's coming in glory). We are a people who have been drowned, not in the Icy waters of the North Atlantic, but in the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism. With God's word and the baptismal water what is former, our scattered distraught anxious lives like in the prophecy of Isaiah, or what the Apostle Paul would address as murky, dark, dishonorable, and what Jesus stated to his disciples is past, over, yesterday, all of that has been drowned and Christ Jesus has raised us up to new life. He claims us as his own. And now you belong to Christ.

The auctioneer, Mr. Aldridge stated that you need to look not at what something is, but to whom it belongs to grasp its worth, its value. You belong to Christ. Through him, with him, in him, you have value and worth that cannot be calculated with our monetary system. Because you have such worth the words of the Prophet Isaiah provide hope against a backdrop of despair. Because you have such worth the admonition of Paul moves you to live in the light of Christ. Because you have such worth readiness is not meant to instill fear but to sustain you while you live and work revealing something of God's way, God's will, God's kingdom.

This First Sunday in Advent sets the tone for the season. In this season of anticipation and hope, remember that your worth and value are based on to whom it is that you belong. You belong to Christ. This is an incredible love story. Jesus is the one who came first as the infant of Bethlehem. He is the one who grew up in a religious household, was shaped by religious community, and in time proclaimed a message that brought fear and trepidation to many. He is the one who was hailed king when he entered Jerusalem, and by the end of one week was sentence to death by crucifixion. But even death could not hold him or devalue him, or put an end to his message of hope and salvation. On the third day he is the one raised up by the Father, the one who appears to the women and who promises kingdom life for all people. Go he tells his disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Jesus is with us. He is with you; in moments or days of despair, in the darkest gloominess of nights, in the uncertainty of current time. Jesus says "keep awake" knowing you are my beloved child.

The pocket watch is a thing, ordinary, everyday, but the worth, the value, as Mr. Aldridge the auctioneer pointed out, is calculated by whom it belongs to. We are ordinary people with blemishes, aches, wrinkles and graying hair, but our worth is priceless, for we belong to Christ. Being claimed by the Triune God, we live each day hopeful, awake and ready. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the
mountains

and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain
of the LORD,

to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from
Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Psalms 122**SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14**

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12.

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Advent Mid-Week Suppers—Casseroles, Pot Luck, and Other Good Things is the theme for our Wednesday 6:00 PM suppers. Please sign up to make something to share. The clipboard is located by the church office door.

December Reading—

Marking time with devotion, prayer, activity, and reading

The days are quickly coming. Advent is here. Christmas is on its way. December, the last month of the calendar year, can easily evaporate. With invitations, holiday concerts, preparations for visits with family and friends and services at church the thirty-one days pass speedily. Mark this blessed season with time spent in devotion, prayer, advent activities, and reading. In the Good Shepherd Room an assortment of resources awaits, some are for use with children, some are daily devotions, others are provided to center your thought on the season, Christ Jesus, and God's out poured love.



The Children Need You in the New Year

Jackson Elementary School needs some adult volunteers for their kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms. They're asking for an hour or two per week, more if desired in order to read to/with children and assist teachers. This need is a result of the former "grandparent" program losing its funding. If you have any interest or questions, please contact Nancy Bennett

St Paul's is collecting clothing for Union Lutheran Church's Clothing Ministry and your help is requested. Union's volunteers are very appreciative of our cooperation and our help. If you have large donations you may take them directly to Union Lutheran Church. Simply call them to arrange a time.



ADDITIONAL DATES HAVE BEEN ADDED! You may schedule your photo session on December 29 & 30. Please do so ASAP.

Please call the church office if you have any questions. And remember that the 8 X 10 family portrait is free! Go to the Universal Church Directories website (www.ucdir.com) to schedule your appointment.



Food Pantry Needs: St. Paul's Food Pantry needs **Whole Grain Cereal donations**. We give out 80 boxes of cereal each week and our sources for cereal currently have very little available.



Other Pantry Needs: Peanut butter, Plastic and paper shopping bags, Monetary donations. Monetary donations can be placed in a special envelope marked "Pantry".

A Partnership Between Local Churches & LifePath Thrift Stores

Now is the time to clear out unwanted toys and donate them to LifePath BEFORE Christmas so families can purchase them to give to children at Christmas. The stores then return a portion of the value of these items in the form of gift cards to your church to help those directly in your care. Look in your newsletter for more information.





Christmas Worship Schedule

Please note the alternate service times throughout the Christmas Season

Sunday December 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The Holy Eucharist

The Ringing in of Christmas

Joy to the World

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve - The Nativity of Our Lord 4:00 PM

O Come All Ye Faithful

The Holy Eucharist

Lighting of Hand Candles

Children's choir

7:00 PM

Once in Royal David's City

The Holy Eucharist

Lighting of Hand Candles

Handbells, Organ, Chancel Choir,

Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day 10:30 AM

When Christmas Morn is Dawning

The Holy Eucharist

Sunday December 28, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs 10:30 AM

Lully, Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child

The Holy Eucharist

Sunday January 4, Second Sunday after Christmas 10:30 AM

A Stable Lamp is Lighted

The Holy Eucharist

Installation of Congregation Council

Tuesday, January 6, Epiphany of Our Lord 6:00 PM

What Child is This?

The Holy Eucharist

A liturgy designed for the children of the parish

All are welcome and encouraged to attend.