

# Blessed ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

MATTHEW 5:9



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)

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

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

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

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

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

**We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition** (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 189 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Offerings** Offerings are received during the liturgy. They are presented along with gifts of bread and wine at the altar. You may also donate via our website at [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org) or use the QR Code provided.

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



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God  
in honor of my mom, Vada Egger's 86th birthday by  
Teresa Rohrbaugh.*

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	<a href="mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net">st.paulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	<a href="mailto:kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
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Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	<a href="mailto:lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>
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Sexton	Ted Weikert	<a href="mailto:tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	<a href="mailto:presch.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">presch.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**February 1, 2026**  
**8:00 & 10:30 AM**

*Musical Setting #1 Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

**PRELUDE**

*Bright and Glorious is the Sky*

David P. Dahl

***Stand turning to face the Baptismal font***

**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.*

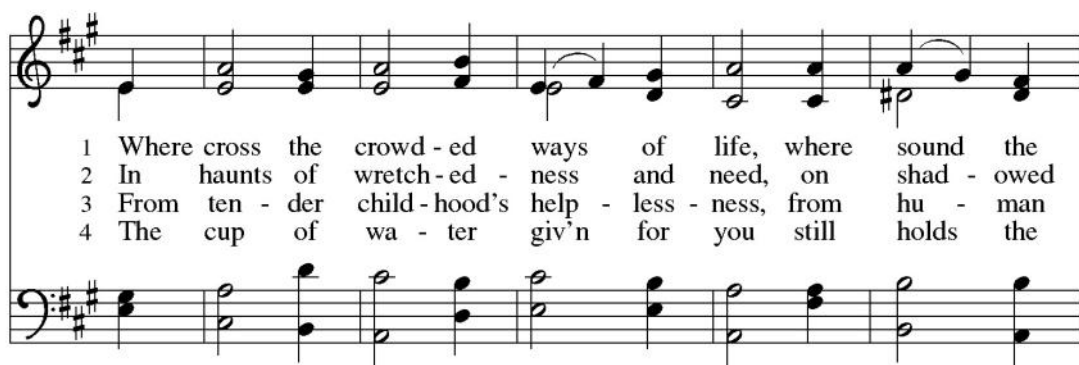
Most merciful God,

**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**

# ENTRANCE HYMN

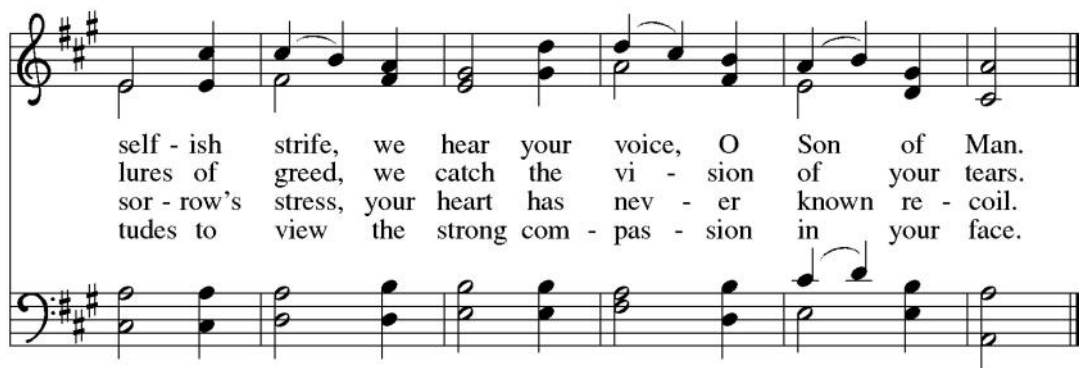
## Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life (ELW 719)



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the  
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed  
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man  
 4 The cup of wa - ter giv'n for you still holds the



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of  
 thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the  
 grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from  
 fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.  
 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.  
 sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.  
 tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion in your face.

5 O Master, from the mountainside  
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
 among these restless throngs abide;  
 oh, tread the city's streets again;

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,  
 and follow where your feet have trod;  
 till glorious from your heav'n above  
 shall come the city of our God.



## 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

Glo - ry to God in the high -

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

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

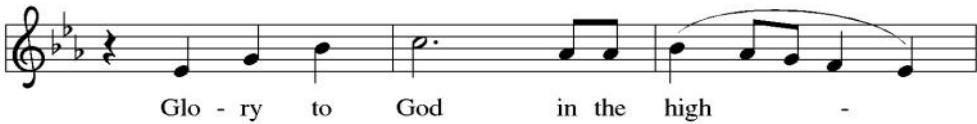
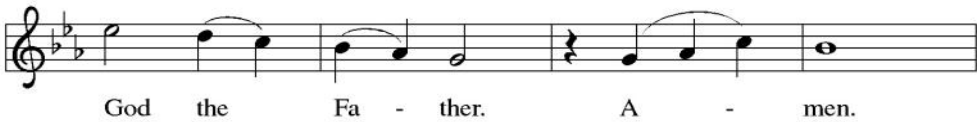
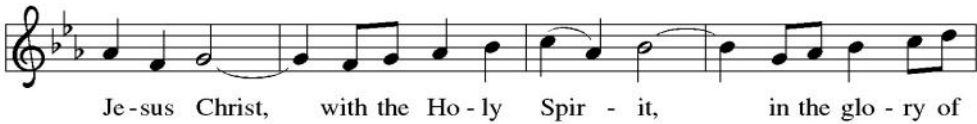
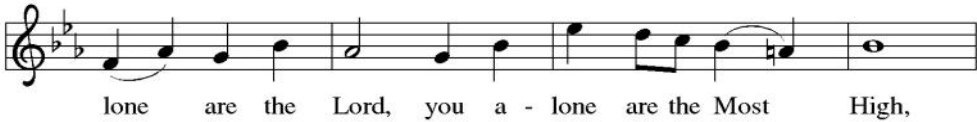
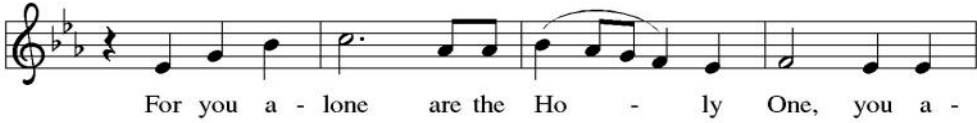
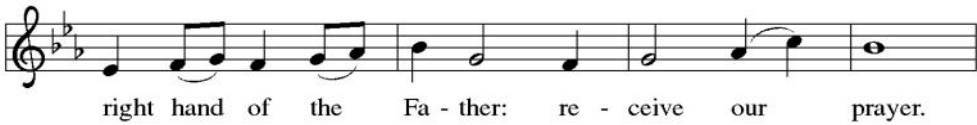
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

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

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

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

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



## PRAYER OF THE DAY.

Let us pray. . . O God, you know that we cannot withstand the dangers which surround us. Strengthen us in body and spirit so that, with your help, we may be able to overcome the weakness that our sin has brought upon us; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord.  
**Amen**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Sit*

**FIRST READING**

Micah 6:1-8 (back page)

**PSALMODY** Psalm 15 *spoken responsively by verse*

- <sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?\*
- Who may abide upon your | holy hill?
- <sup>2</sup> **Whoever leads a blameless life and does | what is right,\***  
**who speaks the truth | from his heart,**
- <sup>3</sup> there is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil | to his friend;\*
- he does not heap contempt up- | on his neighbor.
- <sup>4</sup> **In his sight the wicked | is rejected,\***  
**but he honors those who | fear the LORD.**
- <sup>5</sup> He has sworn to | do no wrong\*
- and does not take | back his word.
- <sup>6</sup> **He does not give his money in | hope of gain,\***  
**nor does he take a bribe a- | gainst the innocent.**
- <sup>7</sup> Whoever | does these things\*
- shall never be | overthrown.

**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (back page)

*Stand*  
**VERSE**

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

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

*Repeat alleluia*

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

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:1-12 (back page)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

*At the end of the reading*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*  
**SERMON**

Rev. Stan 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.*

Almighty God, renew the church so that she boldly proclaims Christ Crucified in lives that show forth justice, kindness, and humility. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the health of forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and who respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort all who grieve or suffer in any way (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the lives of those who have gone before us and who journeyed humbly with you. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**



We commend all for whom we pray to your loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus 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 *When Morning Lights the Eastern Skies*

Emma Lou Diemer

10:30 AM Chancel Choir *The Beatitudes*

Philip W. J. Stopford

*Stand*

## OFFERTORY

*Create in Me (ELW 188)*

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: 'Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-'

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

*Continued on next page...*

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you,

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

## DIALOGUE

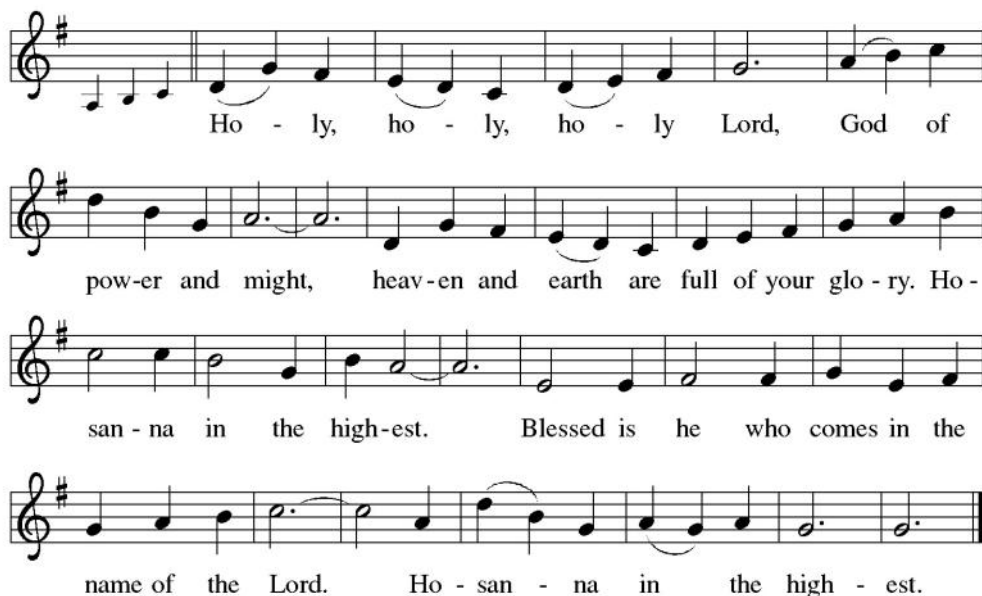
*Sung by Pastor and congregation*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, 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-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all. We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly [on this day] we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

## 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**      *A brief silence is kept.*

## AGNUS DEI





*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

10:30 AM

*I Come with Joy*

(ELW 482)



- 1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
- 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
- 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
- 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
- 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

*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

### *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (ELW 545)*

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.  
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.  
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.  
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der-ness.  
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.  
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.



## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Sit*

## POSTLUDE

*Let Streams of Living Justice*

Brenda Portman

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***Serving the Lord with Gladness***

## **This Week at St. Paul's**

Church office open Mon–Thurs 8:00 AM—4:00 PM Fri 8:00 AM—11:30 AM

### **Sunday, February 1**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist —Live Stream  
6:00 PM Confirmation Class  
6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

### **Tuesday, February 3**

9:30 AM Pantry  
6:00 PM Create—Preschool thru Grade 6  
6:00 PM NO Bible Study  
6:30 PM Week of Prayer Service—St. Joseph R.C.

### **Wednesday, February 4**

10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall

### **Thursday, February 5**

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

### **Friday, February 6**

5:30 PM Valentine's Day Dinner for  
Young Adults

### **Sunday, February 8**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist —Live Stream  
6:00 PM Confirmation Class  
6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm



You may get information regarding closures at our website [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org) or on our Facebook page St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George.



**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".

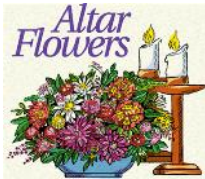


**St Paul's is collecting clothing for Union Lutheran Church's Clothing Ministry** and your help is requested. Union's volunteers are very appreciative of our cooperation and our help. If you have large donations you may take them directly to Union Lutheran Church. Simply call them to arrange a time.



### **A Partnership Between Local Churches & LifePath Thrift Stores**

New Year's resolution to clean out our closets? Please remember to donate your no longer needed items to LifePath Thrift Stores. The stores then return a portion of the value of these items in the form of gift cards to our church to help those directly in our care.



### **Altar Flower sponsors are needed for many dates in 2026.**

Please check the flower chart in the Springettsbury foyer to sign up. Vases are \$40 each. Remember to fill out the form and slip it under the secretary's window.

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Tuesday, 3 February 2026 6:30 PM**

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, 2935 Kingston Road, York will host this year's prayer service. This is an opportunity for all Christians to gather for prayer; for the Christian witness, for deepening relationships, and drawing closer to Christ. Great effort has been made to include congregations from across the area. Pastor Reep will be taking a leadership role in the prayer service. Members of St. Paul's congregation are encouraged to attend. Because this is a Tuesday evening we will not have a Tuesday Bible study session. St. Joseph's has plenty of parking, is easily accessible. If you are unable to attend in person, set aside time at 6:30 PM 3 February to be in prayer for a stronger more vital Christian witness in our community and throughout the world.



## Epiphany 4 A, 2026    Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

Calling witnesses is not a new thing. Gathering statements, assessing credibility, scanning video images to establish what occurred, what went wrong, who acted, how and why. These are all parts of the culture to which we belong. They are most clearly on display in the recent events in Minneapolis. The hope, of course, is that through testimony, witness, and evidence, an accurate account and verdict are reached. And that justice is conducted. Without justice, chaos continues. There are no winners and losers in times like these. Who will provide the testimony that brings calm? What will provide clarity for those in the wrong to change their ways, make amends, and allow for restoration or a new beginning?

The Prophet Micah calls upon the mountains to be witnesses. They have been there since the beginning. They have spent time with all who lived, passed by, and sought to live with caprice. Now, it is the mountains that will share their side of the story. They will bear witness to the people who have become “*wearied*” by God. This is biblical language for those who have become tired of the moral demands established by God. They have abandoned the ways of God because the payoff is so little. It pales; they think it paltry in comparison to what they can gain by looking away from God and toward another who will provide abundantly in the moment.

The Lord responds by recounting salvation history, how through time God has remained faithful, stood by them, made certain that they had a future, God was at work making a way forward for them. This against a backdrop of political figures who were living life in the moment, extracting what they could for selfish gain, creating chaos, and reminding those in their realm that blessings had to do with what you could access, what you could take, what you could plunder. So, God, as God often does, reminded those who were “*wearied*” by God, of how God served them, bringing them out of Egyptian slavery. God was at work making a way for them through Moses, Aaron, and Miriam and by thwarting the plans and prophetic utterances of false prophets. While Micah calls upon the mountains to give witness, it is the Lord Jesus, centuries later, who acknowledges that the very stones could cry out against injustice.

Micah establishes what the Lord wants by first stating clearly what the Lord does not want. The Lord does not want extravagant offerings. The Lord does not want thousands of rams. (Remember in ancient times herds and flocks were how you amassed wealth, not cash, stocks, crypto currency, bonds, and real estate.) The Lord does not want 10,000 rivers of oil. Nor does the Lord want human sacrifice. (The people had drifted far from God, but even human sacrifice was something for which they had not yet stooped. The prophet throws it in for good measure. Do not be tempted by killing your own he warns!) After stating clearly what the Lord does not want, the prophet lists what the Lord does in fact want, what the Lord is seeking, what the Lord desires. And what is it that God wants from his people? God wants, justice, kindness, and humility.

This is breaking news for God’s people. Micah has just reduced the 613 commandments of the Torah to three! (Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God.) That should reduce the seeming demand placed upon God’s people. This should ease the “weary” that is being felt from the crippling load of religious demands. For Christian people Matthew reduces the 613 commands of the Torah to two. The first one, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*” And the second one, “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” We are provided with commentary from Matthew when he writes, “*On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*”

The mountains give witness to the brokenness of humankind. They have been there from the beginning they can trace the journey from generation to generation. Micah's plea is for God's beloved people; yes, God loves humanity even when we are at our lowest, most despicable selves. Micah's call is for us to know our place in relationship with God, recognizing our utter dependence upon God, the Lord of all Creation, the one who brought us up out of Egypt, and brought us to this place, so that we go forth to serve the neighbor, even at the expense of our own well-being. That is what is required when you are living life justly, kindly, humbly. This is what the Lord desires.

Clarifying what the Lord God desires is the Incarnate Word himself, Jesus. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus provides instruction for all who will listen to him. Matthew is keen to mention that there were both "Jewish crowds" and "disciples of Jesus" gathered on the mountain that day when Jesus sat down and taught. Matthew writes for a Christian community. Matthew has the primary hearers to be disciples of Jesus. This is not a moral civic address. These are words for followers of the Lord Jesus. The message, according to the gospel writer Matthew, is precisely for us! He stresses the importance of Jesus, Emmanuel, "*God is with us*" to be the reality through which we live life, interact with neighbor, and foster relationship with God. Justice, kindness and humility, the trifold of Micah, will serve us well as we live now in the presence of God.

The bulletin cover highlights "*Blessed are the peacemakers.*" Heaven knows we need real peace makers (not PINO). At this moment I am concerned for those who mourn. There is mourning in Minneapolis at the death of two U.S. citizens. There is mourning over a broken immigration system. There is mourning over innocent people being victimized. There is mourning over the growing disdain for law enforcement officers. "*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted*" says our Lord. Comforted, how will that happen when so many have grown weary? Micah answers, by doing what the Lord requires, do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.

The challenge for me is to not be surprised by people who blatantly live life counter to the Sermon on the Mount and the Prophet Micah. I should not be caught off guard by those who thrive on injustice, hatred, and arrogance. And those who advance it with the claim that somehow, I will be better off. Both the Prophet Micah and the Lord Jesus proclaim a different message. The "blood thirsty" thrive on cheating, dividing, and touting superiority. But these are not the ways of God. These are not the ways of Christ Jesus. These are not the ways of those who listen to the Lord God and follow. Those who listen and follow turn away from the "blood thirsty" and embrace one another and neighbor in ways of justice, kindness, and humility. Following in these ways; It got our Lord Jesus crucified. He would suffer death on a cross at the hands of blood thirsty, unjust, hateful, arrogant men. Those men, "*wearied*" by God, thought that they had the last word, but God the Father proved them wrong. On the third day God raised Jesus from death to life proclaiming to the whole world, first by the women at the tomb, then by the disciples, and then by preachers and Sunday school teachers and grandmas and grandpas and people like us, who listened and lived a different way. God's way of justice, kindness and humility makes life worth living. God's way makes us the neighbors the world needs, America needs, our neighbors need, in times like these. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8**

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what  
King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

<sup>6</sup>"With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

**Psalm 15****SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

The message about the cross is foolishness to those  
who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is  
the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will  
thwart."

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar?  
Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made  
foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the  
wisdom of God, the world did not know God through

wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the  
proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews  
ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we pro-  
claim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and  
foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the  
called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of  
God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness  
is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is  
stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not  
many of you were wise by human standards, not many  
were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But  
God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the  
wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame  
the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in  
the world, things that are not, to abolish things that  
are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of  
God. <sup>30</sup>In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus,  
who became for us wisdom from God, and righteous-  
ness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order  
that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in  
the Lord."

**GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,  
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And  
he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the king-  
dom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be  
comforted.

<sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the  
earth.

<sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for right-  
eousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive  
mercy.

<sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called  
children of God.

<sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake  
of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when people revile you and  
persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you  
falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your  
reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they  
persecuted the prophets who were before you."

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]; Psalm 112:1-9 [10]; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]; Matthew 5:13-20.

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