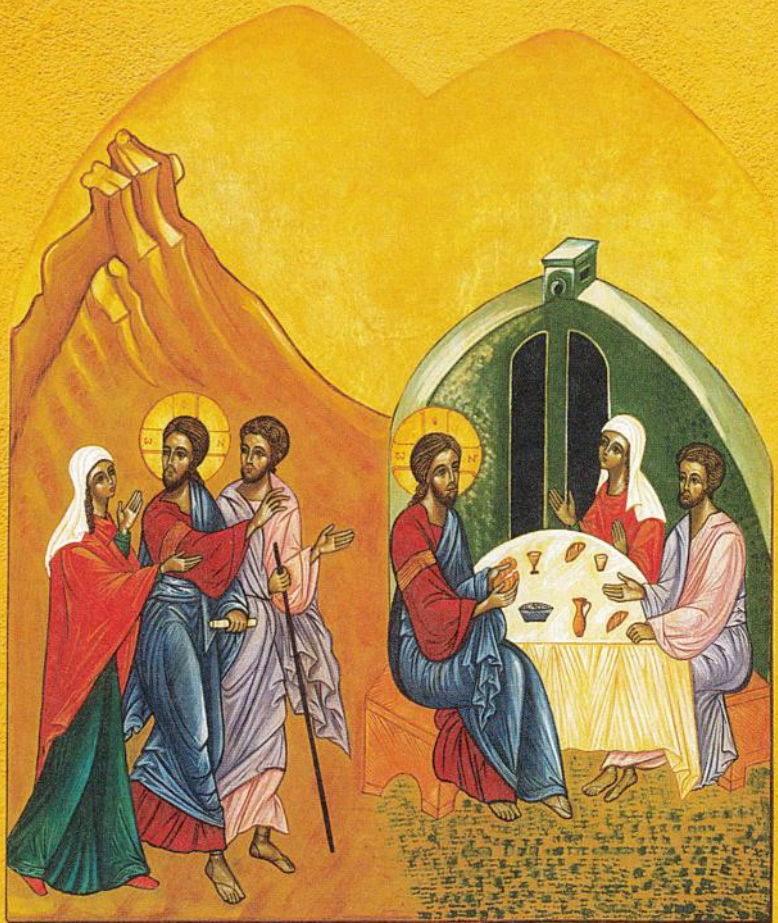


Were not our hearts burning within us?

LUKE 24:32



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

www.stpaulsyork.org

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

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 190 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.

An AED/Defibrillator unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury Ave) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

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.

Parents, please do accompany your child 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

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

Holy Communion 8:30 & 10:30 AM

Musical Setting 1 Evangelical Lutheran Worship

TEMPLE TALK

Pantry

PRELUDE

Jesus Lives, and I Live with Him

Markus Karas

Stand

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia

ENTRANCE HYMN

Day of Arising (ELW 374)



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,
2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,
3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.
4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,



un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.
blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,
This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:
bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,
yet Christ walks with us, ev - er a - wait - ing
when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,
Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.
our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.
that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

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

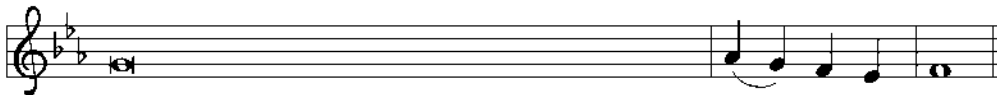


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

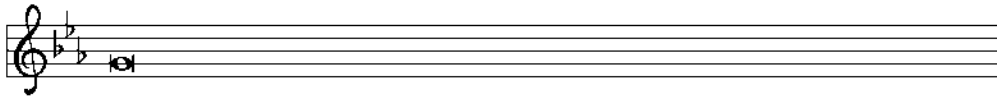
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For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



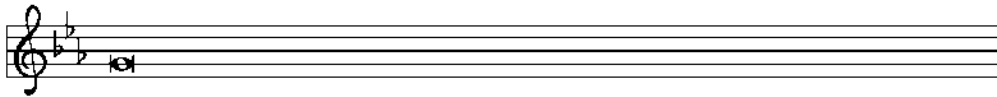
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

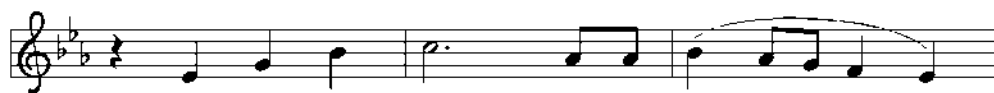


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

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



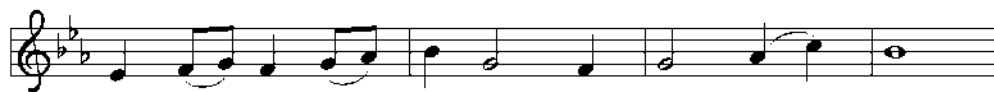
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



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



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world, rescuing us from the hopelessness of death. Grant your faithful people a share in the joys that are eternal; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PSALM Psalm 116 : 1-4, 12-17 The organ introduces the tone then it is sung by Cantor/**Congregation** unaccompanied.

- ¹ I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my | supplication,*
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I | called upon him.
- ² The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took | hold of me;*
I came to | grief and sorrow.
- ³ **Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:***
"O LORD, I pray you, | save my life."
- ⁴ **Gracious is the | LORD and righteous;***
our God is full | of compassion.
- ¹² I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD*
in the presence of | all his people.
- ¹³ Precious in the sight | of the LORD*
is the death | of his servants.
- ¹⁴ **O LORD, I | am your servant;***
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me | from my bonds.
- ¹⁵ **I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving***
and call upon the name | of the LORD.
- ¹⁶ I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD*
in the presence of | all his people,
- ¹⁷ in the courts of | the LORD's house,*
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. | Hallelujah!

READING 1 Peter 1:17-23 (back cover)

Stand
ALLELUIA



Repeat alleluia



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

(back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor 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.

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

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Living Savior, as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Open our eyes so that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

O God, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance.

Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Heal those who are sick (*especially*). Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for (*Olavus Petri, Laurentius Petri and*) all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence. Merciful God,

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray trusting in your mercy through your Son, 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

8:30 AM	Organ	<i>This Joyful Eastertide</i>	June Nixon
10:30 AM	Chancel Choir	<i>God is My Strong Salvation</i>	Richard Shephard

Stand

OFFERTORY

This is Christ's Body (ACS 967)

This is Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with

mer-cy and love. We are Christ's bod - y,
with mer - cy and love.

bro-ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,
we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us; our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered 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, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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, 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. We receive communion by intinction today.

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 CANTICLE

This is the Feast



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

10:30 AM *Strengthen for Service Lord (ELW 497)*



1 Streng - then for ser - vice, Lord, the hands that ho - ly
2 The tongues that sang your ho - ly name now purge of
3 And may the feet that walked your courts be nev - er



things have ta - ken; and let the ears that heard your
all de - cep - tion; keep bright the eyes that saw your
lured to wan - der; but lead the faith - ful nour - ished



word to false - hood nev - er wak - en.
love and sharp - en their per - cep - tion.

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. All powerful and ever-living God, in the Eucharist we celebrate the Mystery of Faith. By this Easter Sacrament, renew in us the gift of faith in the New Life it promises. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. **Amen**

BLESSING

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

HYMN *Stay with Us (WOV 743) next page*

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

May God be Praised in the Highest Throne

Colin Mawby

Stay with Us



1 Stay with us, till night has come: our praise to
 2 Walk with us, our spir - its sigh: hear when our
 3 Walk with us, the road will bend: make all our
 4 Talk with us, till we be - hold a joy - ful
 5 Stay with us, till day is done: no tears nor



you this day be sung. Bless our bread, o - pen our
 wea - ry spir - its cry. Feel a - gain our loss, our
 weep - ing, wail - ing end. Wipe our tears, for - give our
 life you will un - fold. Heal our eyes to see the
 dark shall dim the sun. Cheer the heart, your grace im -



eyes: Je - sus, be our great sur - prise.
 pain: Je - sus, take us to your side.
 fears: Je - sus, lift the heav - y cross.
 prize: Je - sus, take us to the light.
 part: Je - sus, bring e - ter - nal life.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
 Music: STAY WITH US, Walter L. Pelz, b. 1926

Text and music © 1990 Concordia Publishing House

St Paul's collects clothing for Union Lutheran Church's Clothing Ministry and your help is requested. Union collects 'gently used' clothing (and shoes) for its clothing closet and offers it **free of charge** to needy families in the York City community. A bin has been placed in the Good Shepherd room to collect any clothing you would like to donate. These donations will surely be a blessing to our neighbors. 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.



Benevolence Committee Update and Call for Applications

We are currently still calling for applications for 2026. Please have applications to the office by April 30. You can request the online application from Patee in the office or use the green application form available in the Springettsbury Entrance. The application has a place for the year the funding is requested. Remember, you may support local, regional, national, or international ministry opportunities. Each applicant should have a connection to the project or ministry. Contact Jamie Palmer, cell 717-451-3415, and email jlsip202@yahoo.com.

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, April 19

8:30 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:30 AM 1st Holy Communion Instruction
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
 3:00 PM York College Concert
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Monday, April 20

6:30 PM Council Mtg—Christ Hall

Tuesday, April 21

9:30 AM Pantry

Wednesday, April 22

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

Thursday, April 23

10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor—Nave
 6:30 PM Worship & Arts Mtg
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Saturday, April 25

9-11 AM Bake Sale Drop Off

Sunday, April 26—Preschool Sunday

8:30 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:30 AM Congregation Appreciation
 Breakfast
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
 11:30 AM Mpuguso Bake Sale
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
 In Loving Memory of Cynthia Long by the Long Family*



Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Greeters	Ushers -	Early: Altar Set-up Late: Altar Clean - up	Bread Bakers
4/19	8:30 AM	Harrison Palmer	Kathy Monk	Ann Ulrich	Lois Ann Schroeder, Norma Shue	Team 3E: Norma Shue, Cliff Beck, Sheridan Palmer	Pat Scarborough, Kathleen Lemke	Kat Lemke
4/19	10:30 AM	Janet Fitch	Tom Gibson	Earline Jones	Dave & Sue Kopp, Chris & Amy Lipp	Team 3L: Dan Garber, Joe Guarriello, Larry Becker	Tim & Melissa Yakim	Jessica Ericson

Music concerts and programs Spring 2026

St. Paul's Church is pleased to host the following musical events. Please show your support with your attendance. All events are FREE and open to the public.

TODAY York College Choirs 3:00 PM

York College Chorale and Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Erin Lippard will present a concert featuring "Gloria" of Vivaldi and American music.

Sunday, May 3 Matinee Musical Club of York piano recital 3:00 PM

Come and hear some of York's finest young pianists ages 8-18 perform in concert on the church's magnificent Steinway Concert grand piano. This is the annual Piano Competition and the caliber of playing is extraordinary.



Greeters will be needed for the May 3rd. Concert. You will **not** be required to set up or clean up before or after the event. Your duties are to guide people to the nave and/or restrooms, etc... You will need to arrive 1/2 hour prior to the event and stay until all the guests have left. If you are interested in representing our church as part of the Hospitality Team please contact Patee at the church office.

2026 Flower Chart—The 2026 flower chart is posted on the Springettsbury vestibule bulletin board. **The cost of each vase is \$40 per vase.** Simply complete the flower form, make a check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and mark it altar flowers, and slip it under the office window. All information for the bulletin needs to be received by Wednesday morning of the previous week. The flowers may be taken home with you at the conclusion of the 10:30 AM liturgy or you may have them given to someone who is sick, shut it, or hospitalized.



Mpuguso Bake Sale—Sunday April 26 Proceeds Benefit our sister congregation, Mpuguso Lutheran Church, Tanzania

St. Paul's own Mpuguso Committee is sponsoring a Bake Sale, April 26, to help the Mpuguso Lutheran Congregation. If you would like to help with the bake sale; bake, set up, oversee the sale, clean up, or donate financially please contact members of the committee; Anna & Scott Herdson, Martina Uffelman, Tom McKee, Keith Kates, Jim Mummert and Pastor Reep. Baked goods should be dropped off at the church on Saturday morning April 25 from 9:00 AM to Noon. In advance, thank you for supporting this important work.





St. Paul's Food Pantry Needs: Peanut Butter, Cereal, plastic and paper shopping bags, and monetary donations. Monetary donations can be placed in a special envelope marked "Pantry". Contact Teresa Rohrbaugh to volunteer for Tuesday distribution days. Contact Patty Snyder to volunteer for Thursday delivery days or Sunday stocking days or contact the church office. Thank you to all who help!

OUR FOOD PANTRY
NEEDS CEREAL DONATIONS!
HELP US FILL THE CEREAL BOX
IN THE GOOD SHEPHERD ROOM.
COLLECTION RUNS THROUGH MAY.



Instrumentalists for Summer Worship—A sign-up sheet for anyone willing to share their musical talent is located on the stand in the Good Shepherd room. We are planning to have instrumental ensembles provide leadership for our summer worship.

Will and Estate Planning Seminar Sunday, May 17, 3:00 PM.—by Saxton & Stump

Members of St. Paul's who attend the seminar will have the opportunity for Saxton and Stump to prepare a Will, Durable Power of Attorney, and Living Will at no cost to them through the generosity of St. Paul's Benevolence Fund. A sign-up sheet is in the Good Shepherd Room.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church is celebrating our 190th anniversary as a congregation.

As part of honoring this historic occasion, we are undertaking a special project to recognize the legacy of our founding pastor, Jonathan Oswald. His family's burial plot at Prospect Hill Cemetery stands as an important reminder of our congregation's roots.

To honor his contribution and celebrate the church's long history, a planning committee has begun organizing a restoration and beautification effort for the Oswald family cemetery plot.

This effort will rely on the support of volunteers from our congregation and community. If you would like to assist with this project or learn more about ways to help, please contact:

Aaron Jacobs ajacobs@scorecardsales.com 717-324-8133

“Now on that same day”

the day when the women found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

the day when they did not find the body of Jesus,

the day when they were perplexed,

the day when two men in dazzling cloths stood beside them,

the day when they heard that Jesus was not in the tomb,

the day when they remembered Jesus’ words,

The day when the Eleven disciples thought the women’s words were an idle tale,

The day Peter ran to the tomb to find only linen cloths,

on that same day Cleopas and his friend, followers of Jesus, disciples, even though they were not counted among the eleven,

They were going to a village called Emmaus.

It was about seven miles from Jerusalem. It was far enough away that the walk provided plenty of time to talk between themselves about the events that had taken place in Jerusalem, the events at the place of the Skull, the events that brought an end to their hopes for the redemption of Israel. It had been a long time since there had been such hope. Moses redeemed Israel, brought the Lord God’s people out of bondage, captivity, away from the things that kept them from fully being God’s people and living lives in praise and thanksgiving and in outpoured love for neighbors and sojourners in the land. And they had hoped that Jesus of Nazareth, the prophet mighty in deeds and words, was the one who could set things right.

As they were discussing all of these things, Jesus himself came near and went with them. Cleopas and his friend did not recognize Jesus. Their eyes were kept from recognizing him. It was not the right time for their blind eyes to be opened. But their ears, now that is a different story. They shared openly with the one who joined them on the road the things that had taken place. They even questioned him, *“Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?”* *“What things?”* replies the stranger.

And the two tell all about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how the chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. And then they express the painful reality, *“we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.”* They relayed how the women went to the tomb, how they didn’t find the body, how they saw a vision of angels, and how they said he was alive. But in that moment, their hopes remained dashed, the group of followers, the disciples, people who went around with Jesus, their dreams and hopes crushed and now they have begun to scatter. Some believe one thing, others believe something else. There are doubters in the rank and file.

“Oh how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” The glory of which the risen Lord spoke was not the glory for which they hoped. They hoped of a leadership change, a regime change, they hoped that the Messiah would force

people to submit to a new rule, one that was reflective of their collective hope. They could not grasp glory revealed in rejection, glory revealed in suffering, and glory revealed in death. They obviously had misinterpreted the scriptures. On that count, Jesus, beginning with Moses and the prophets interpreted the scriptures and all the things about himself that are revealed. This teaching, clarification, opening of the scriptural witness to the desire of God to take on human flesh and dwell with God's beloved people, suffering for them, dying for them, and being raised up, moved Cleopas and his friend in such a way that they did not want the unknown stranger to leave them.

As they approached Emmaus the stranger walked ahead of them as if he were going farther. The two walking companions strongly urged him to stay with them "*Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.*" The stranger stayed. And when they were at the table, he took bread, blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened. For those who were followers of Jesus, disciples like Cleopas and his friend, this action, this blessing, this sharing connected them to an evening in Bethsaida not far from the Galilean sea. There, Jesus fed thousands upon thousands from five loaves and two fish. There were leftovers. That was a day when Jesus of Nazareth taught them about the kingdom of God and healed those who needed to be cured. It was in the breaking of the bread when all of this came rushing back. And the once unknown stranger, when recognized, vanished from their sight.

"Where not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same day, that same hour, they got up and returned to Jerusalem. They met up with the same group of eleven and the other followers of Jesus. They heard how the risen Lord appeared to Peter. Then Cleopas and his friend told what had happened on the road and how the Lord had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Now on that same day the kingdom of heaven is being opened to all believers, the foolish ones, the slow of heart, the doubters, those in disbelief, and those whose hearts burned within them. God is at work redeeming not only Israel, but God is at working redeeming the world. A world where glory is portrayed by leadership change, regime change, force so that people submit to a new rule, one reflecting human desire. Most can't grasp glory revealed in rejection, glory revealed in suffering and glory revealed in death. They obviously misinterpret the scriptures. On that day, Jesus, beginning with Moses and the prophets interpreted the scriptures and all the things about himself that are revealed; the one who welcomed and taught about kingdom life, the one healing the sick and feeding everyone who had ventured away from their home to be in his presence, to be with Jesus of Nazareth. On that day the Risen Lord took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened. They recognized him. They recognized the power of his love, the glory of his presence, and the hope that he brings to a hurting world.

On this day, the Lord meets us on our journey. He leads us out of bondage, captivity, away from the things that keep us from fully being God's people. He models living life in praise and thanksgiving to his heavenly Father and in outpoured love for neighbors and sojourners in the land. He opens to us the scriptures, takes bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it, so that our hope is renewed. We get up and go telling others how he is present with us and how he is made known in the breaking of the bread. Our hope is in Jesus, the one whom God raised, the prophet mighty in deeds and words, the one who sets things right. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]:

³⁶“Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23**

If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person’s work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were

talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Next Sunday’s Readings: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10.

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