

A photograph of a church interior. In the foreground, several people are seated in pews, looking down at books they are holding, likely Bibles or prayer books. The church has high ceilings with arched windows and a chandelier hanging from the ceiling. The text 'May they be one, as we are one' is overlaid on the image in a large, black, serif font. The word 'one' is significantly larger than the other words. The background shows more of the church's architecture, including a large stained-glass window and a balcony.

May they be
one,
as we are
one

JOHN 17:11

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

Seventh Sunday of Easter May 17, 2026 Holy Communion 8:30 & 10:30 AM *Musical Setting 1 Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

PRELUDE

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Kristina Langlois

Stand

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia

ENTRANCE HYMN

The Church's One Foundation (ELW 654)

1 The church's one founda - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

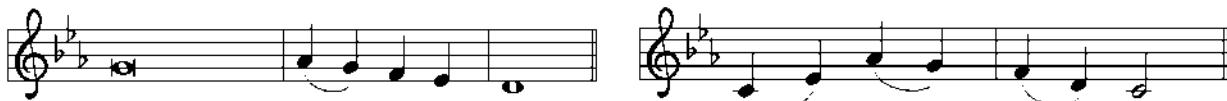
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

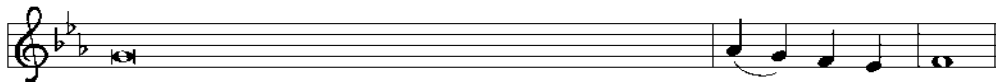
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

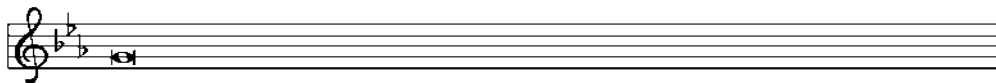
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



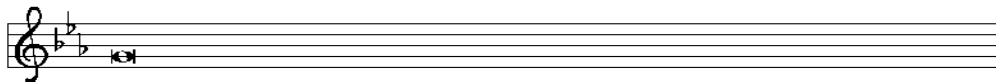
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

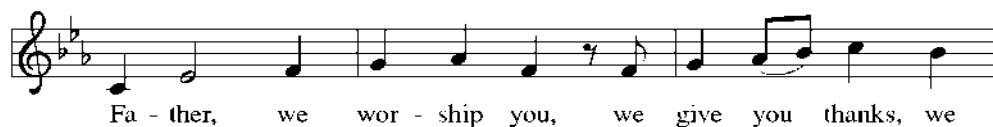
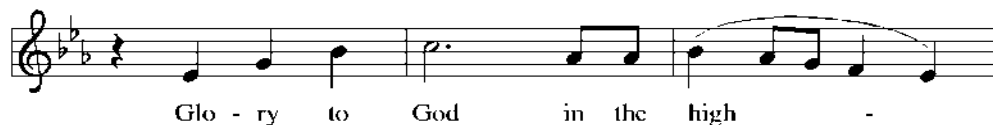


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . Almighty and eternal God, your Son our Savior is with you in eternal glory. Give us faith to see that, true to his promise, he is among us still, and will be with us to the end of time; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PSALM Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 sung unaccompanied cantor/congregation

¹ Let God arise, and let his ene- | mies be scattered; *
let those who hate him | flee before him.

- 2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives | it away;***
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the pres- | ence of God.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;***
 let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his name; exalt him who rides up- | on the heavens;***
YAHWEH is his name, re- | joice before him!
- 5 Father of orphans, defend- | er of widows,***
 God in his holy | habitation!
- 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners | into freedom;***
but the rebels shall live | in dry places.
- 7 O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people,***
 when you marched | through the wilderness,
- 8 the earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,**
at the presence of God, the | God of Sinai,*
at the presence of God, the | God of Israel.
- 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon | your inheritance;***
 you refreshed the land when | it was weary.
- 10 Your people found their | home in it;***
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the poor.
- 32 Let tribute be brought | out of Egypt;***
 let Ethiopia stretch out her | hands to God.
- 33 Sing to God, O kingdoms | of the earth;***
sing praises | to the Lord.
- 34 He rides in the heavens, the | ancient heavens;***
 he sends forth his voice, his | mighty voice.
- 35 Ascribe pow- | er to God;***
his majesty is over Israel; his strength is | in the skies.

READING 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 (back cover)

Stand

ALLELUIA



Repeat alleluia



HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

(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.

O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for favorable weather to nurture plants and animals. We seek protection from natural disasters, and guidance as we care for all that you have made. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity modeled by your Son. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We ask your blessing upon those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, or new employment (*other transitions may be named*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

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 *Christ is Risen, Alleluia* Anne Krentz Organ
10:30 AM Chancel Choir *Christ is the World's True Light* Walter Kendall Stanton

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

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 COMMUNION HYMN *Day by Day (ELW 790)*



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



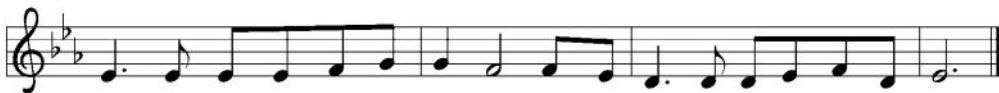
to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

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

How Firm a Foundation (ELW 796)

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Jubilate

Emma Lou Diemer

Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies

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, May 17

8:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Dentler Baptism
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist —Live Stream
3:00 PM Saxton & Stump Will Planning Seminar
6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Monday, May 18

6:30 PM Council Mtg—Christ Hall

Tuesday, May 19

9:30 AM Pantry

Wednesday, May 20

10:30 AM Bible Study— Christ Hall

Sunday, May 24—Pentecost

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Summer Fellowship
6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Monday, May 25—Memorial Day—Office closed

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
In loving memory of Gene R. Shue by Norma Shue & Family*



Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Greeters	Ushers -	Early: Altar Set-up Late: Altar Clean - up	Bread Bakers
5/17	8:30 AM	Harold Sargeant	Kathy Monk	Lois Ann Schroeder	Jim Mummert, Kathleen Lemke	Team 1E: Jeff Riese, John Monk, Alex Bastian, Claudia Deitrich	Lois Ann Schroeder, Kathy Monk	Ann Ulrich
5/17	10:30 AM	Tristan Ericson	Ephraim Lipp	Nancy Bennett	Victor & Claudia Shanaman	Team 1L: Joe Guerrieri, Scott Donaldson, Darren Smith, Kass Keleta	Janet & Larry Moore	Ann Ulrich

Summer Worship Schedule to Begin May 24, 2026

(Memorial Day Weekend)

Combined Liturgy 9:30 AM followed by Summer Fellowship



Will and Estate Planning Seminar

TODAY, 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.



It is not too late to **volunteer to share your musical talent** during the summer months. A sign-up sheet is available on the stand in the Good Shepherd Room. The Worship and Arts Committee has already begun their work of arranging for instrumentalists and ensembles for Sundays while Victor is on sabbatical.

MUSICIANS WANTED

Altar Flowers beautify our worship space. Please consider providing flowers for an upcoming Sunday. The chart is posted on the Springettsbury Ave. Bulletin board. The cost is \$40 per vase.



Spring cleaning closets? Consider **donating clothing to help Union Lutheran Church** with their clothes closet. Bring items to St. Paul's and we will deliver them for you. Or contact Union Lutheran and they will arrange a time for you to take them directly to their closet.



Last Day for Wednesday Weekly Bible Study is May 20th.

Thank you to the faithful participants. We plan to resume in September.

Summer Sunday Fellowship Time Weekly Following the 9:30 AM liturgy

Summer Sunday Fellowship is taking a page from the *Great British Baking Show*. We are featuring; Bread week, cupcake week, coffee cake week and so forth to try and keep us from getting in a rut. A sign-up sheet is on the stand in the Good Shepherd Room.





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.**



Vacation Bible School is June 7-11. The sessions take place in the evening from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Registrations forms are available at the entrances to the church and were in the news-



**Church Picnic in conjunction with Vacation Bible School
Thursday, June 11, 5:30 PM Kain Park**

The last evening of vacation Bible School a picnic will be held at Kain Park. The Witness Committee members are providing the appetizers and desserts. The Men's group is providing the main course (hot dogs, hamburgers and pulled pork are all in their notes about the event). Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. If you would like to bring a side dish to share that would be incredibly helpful.



**The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania**

Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

Summer Church Camp for Nawakwa and Kirchenwald are posted online. Check out the fabulous offerings. Scholarships are available through St. Paul's Church. See Miss Kelly for details.

Time is a precious thing. At different intervals in life, we view time and the gift of time based on where we are chronologically. In the letter from First Peter, we hear of the time in the early church when persecutions were common, where anxiety was high, and where Christians were suffering for the sake of the gospel. In the gospel from St. John, we hear how it is time for Jesus' followers to prepare for mission. Then, as it is today, time is passing, there are things that need doing, and for which prayer is key.

When in high school, I thought that I had all the time in the world. And then anxiety set in as I approached graduation. Uncertain as to what I wanted to do with the gift of time and life. That anxiety dissipated when I was accepted at university and the next four-year increment of life was suddenly sorted.

Then there was graduation from university and the questions surrounding what to do as an adult with a Fine Arts degree. More anxiety and then another four years at seminary. While studying theology and the classes on the scriptures, and daily worship it seemed that time stood still. Then there was a first call to serve a congregation and believe it or not, some anxiety.

Then I reached a time in life where there are things with which all of us contend; housing, moving, vehicles, dating, marriage, more housing decisions, family, travel, and all of this while working, doing the thing that God has called us to do. God calls each of us to live our life doing the thing for which we have received gifts and grace and ability and skill and passion.

And then there comes a time when your own children graduate from high school and you are suddenly aware of the precious gift of time. Now I am at a different interval in life. Each of us is dealing with some aspects of life as we gather here this morning. The thing that gets us through each interval is the relationships that we have. Relationships with spouses, children, parents, friends, members of the faith community and with Christ Jesus.

Time has been passing as we have been moving along through the Gospel of John during this season of Easter. We may not have even noticed that seven weeks have passed. We have noted the use of language, relationship between the Father and the Son, the promise of a Comforter, and then further exposition on what this relationship is like. Except in John, we don't have the description or example that the other gospel writers provide; the kingdom of heaven is like... and then a parable follows. In John the closest we come is with the section in chapter 15 with the image of vine and branches. *I am the vine, you are the branches*" Jesus says. *Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing* (verse 5). Jesus has also communicated to his followers that they have peace through believing in him and that even though there is persecution in the world, and that there is plenty of anxiety looming over them, he has conquered the world! This word, along with the image of vine and branches, and the connectedness and the desire for us to bear fruit, was omitted during the gospel readings for this Easter season.

Instead the lectionary skipped ahead to chapter 17 where Jesus is now in prayer on behalf of his followers; on behalf of those branches who are to be pruned, through whom fruit for the gospel will be born, on behalf of those whom the world will persecute, and for whom peace has been be-

stowed through belief in him. Jesus is praying to the Father on our behalf.

Jesus is at prayer. His prayer has everything to do with life and mission and eternal life. They are woven together so tightly that it is difficult to pull them apart or to make sense of them independent of the other.

Jesus loves us, Jesus loves you and he is praying for you, for me and for the world. This is reason for us to rely on him and to not let anxiety win the day. Remember Jesus has just told his followers that he has conquered the world! In his prayer he prays for unity, for oneness among his followers. This prayer is not prayed as a petitioner asking something of God, but is prayed as proclamation, prayed as thanksgiving, prayed for relationships to be, as the author of First Peter states; restored, supported, strengthened and established. He prays this so that we may be one as the Father and Son are one.

In our gathered assembly we are at prayer; we pray for mercy in the Kyrie. We pray for forgiveness in brief order of confession. We pray for the sake of others in the intersessions. We pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the Our Father. We pray for peace in the Agnus Dei. We pray for God to remember his promises to us in the Eucharistic prayer. Through prayer God is at work restoring, supporting, strengthening and establishing us for mission. He places us in relationships so that through all the times of our lives, we will be embraced by the peace that he alone gives and the oneness for which he prays.

The mission that we are made apart of is humbling work. *"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exult you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you."* Christ Jesus models humility for us through his own suffering, death and resurrection. Jesus washes feet and tells his disciples about a new commandment, that they love one another as he has loved them. And Jesus reminds them using the image of vine and branches that it is through him that they abide. Jesus, as divine revealer, in the gospel from John, reveals to the gathered community, to his followers, that they will be given a mission. And that the mission is one that will extend the desire of God the Father as made known through Jesus his son. He will provide them, and us, with the support and protection that is needed to engage in such mission.

Time is a precious thing. Jesus prays for us. His prayer is that we will be one as he and the Father are one. As God's beloved children we are welcomed into the mission, begun in Christ Jesus, and catapulted into the future by his Holy Spirit so that people here in York and around the world will know something of God's restoration, support, strength, and belonging in their life.

Sometimes the mission advances at such a rapid pace that you may begin to think that time is passing you by. Or that you are so engaged in God's mission that you haven't noticed the passing of time, what has been accomplished, what remains undone. His prayer is that we will be one. Such oneness comes through relationship given to us by the grace of God in Christ Jesus. It is the oneness for which Jesus prays. It is the oneness that draws us together providing restoration, support, strength and establishing us so that in all times and in all places, we give thanks to God. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus,] “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

Next Sunday’s Readings: Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39.

Cover: Congregation in Gothenburg, Sweden. Photo by Maskot. Copyright © 2025 Getty Images Plus via Getty Images/DigitalVision. Used by permission.

Readings from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org.

Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.