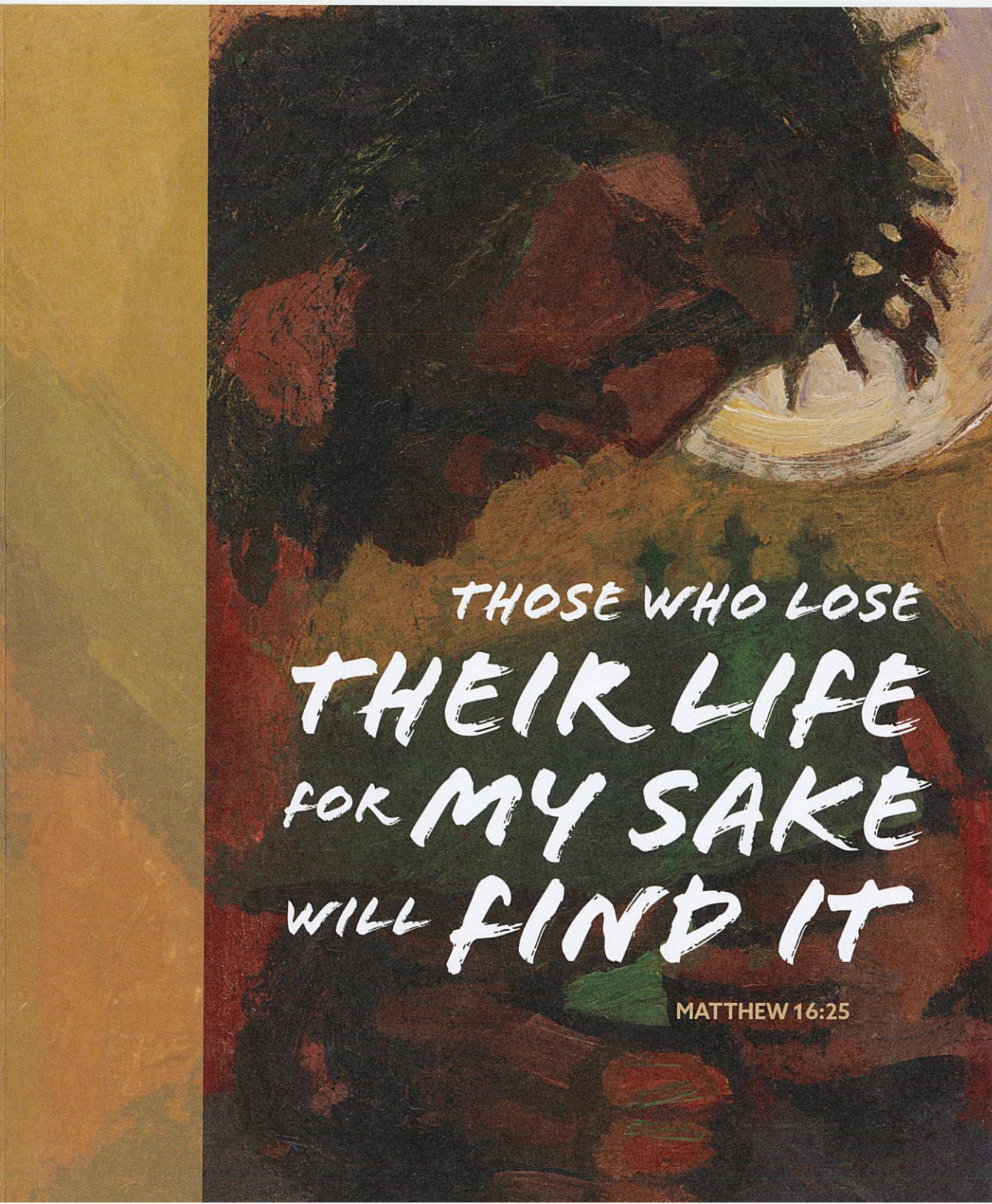




THOSE WHO LOSE
THEIR LIFE
FOR MY SAKE
WILL FIND IT

MATTHEW 16:25

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155 Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

Website: 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 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

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
in honor of my children, Mark, Lauren and Amy by Jim Mummert.*

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Visitation Pastor	Rev. Doctor Dan Yeiser	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
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Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
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Preschool Director	Deb Becker	presch.stpaulsyork@comcast.net

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

Holy Communion 9:30 AM

Musical Setting 5 With One Voice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude in Classic Style

Gordon Young

Stand

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

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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

Son of God, Eternal Savior (LBW 364)



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, we thank you for your Son who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow his commands; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 15:15-21 *back cover*

PSALM

Psalm 26:1-8 sung unaccompanied cantor/**congregation**

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived | with integrity;*

I have trusted in the Lord and | have not faltered.

² **Test me, O | LORD, and try me;***

examine my heart | and my mind.

³ For your love is be- | fore my eyes;*

I have walked faith- | fully with you.

⁴ **I have not sat | with the worthless,***

nor do I consort with | the deceitful.

⁵ I have hated the company of | evildoers;*

I will not sit down | with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in inno- | cence, O LORD,***

that I may go in procession | round your altar,

⁷ singing aloud a song | of thanksgiving*

and recounting all your won- | derful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house in | which you dwell***

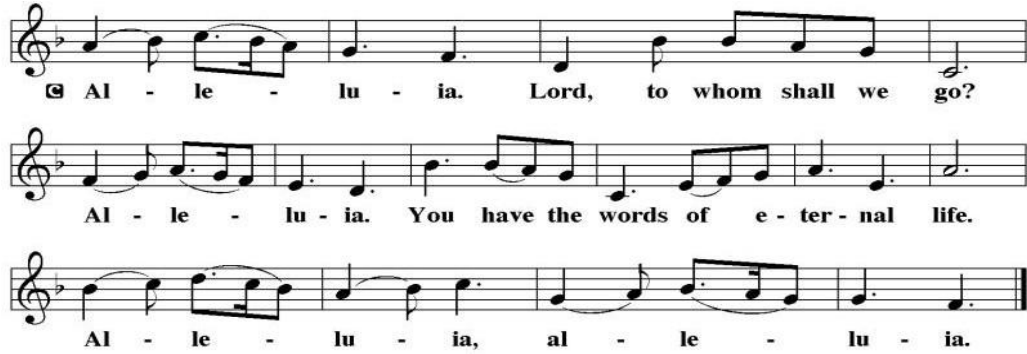
and the place where your glo- | ry abides.

SECOND LESSON **Romans 12:9-21**

back cover

Stand

ALLELUIA



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-28

(back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Stanley Reep

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence is kept.

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the well-being of creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For all those in need, that they may be satisfied with food, water, shelter, and medical care. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For all who are sick, suffering or oppressed. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For those who serve in the armed forces, that you will direct them and be their companion when they must engage in battle. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For a hastening of the day when humanity shall lay down their arms and live in peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

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

His Voice as the Sound of the Dulcimer Sweet

Paul Randall Keith

Stand

OFFERTORY



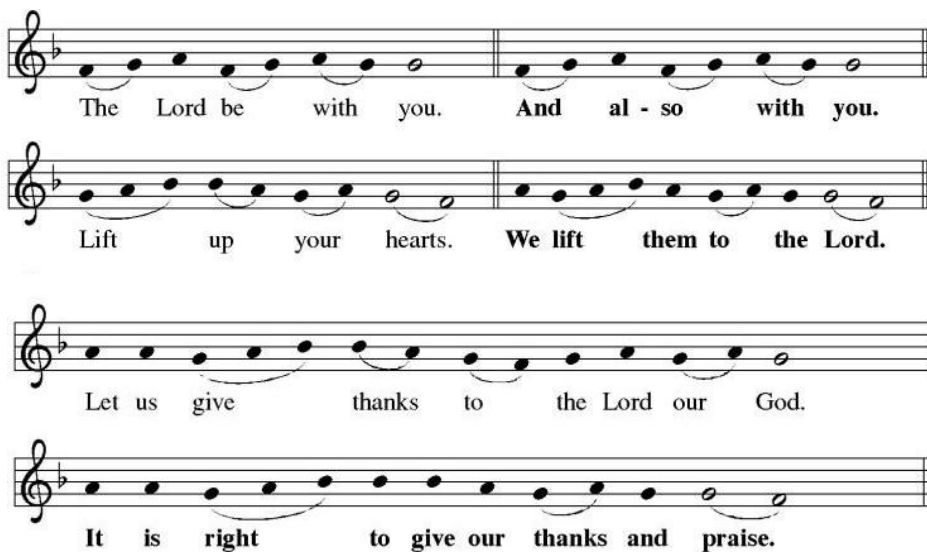


OFFERTORY PRAYER

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*

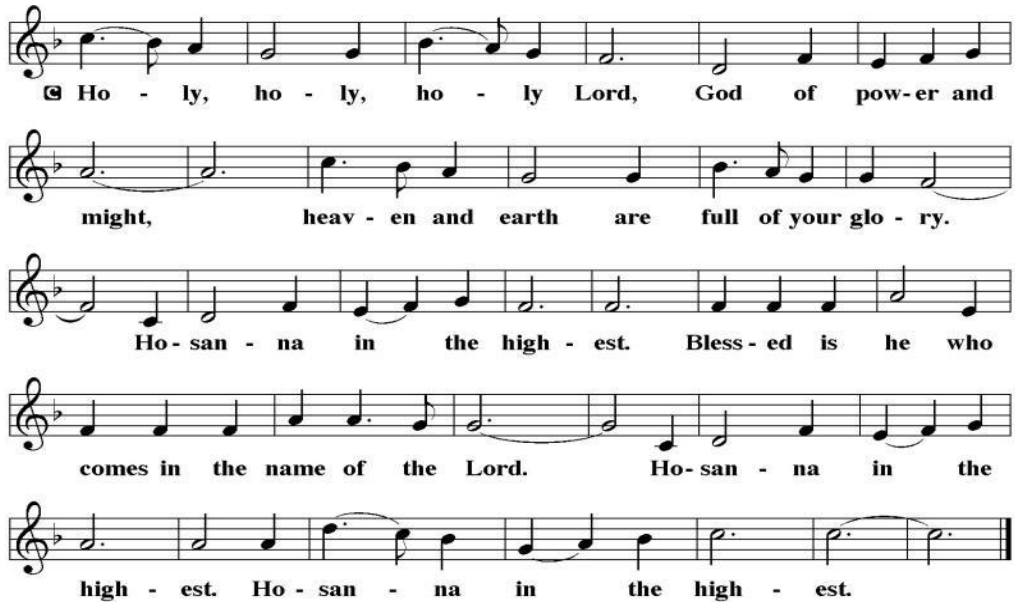


PREFACE

The preface appropriate to the day is said.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

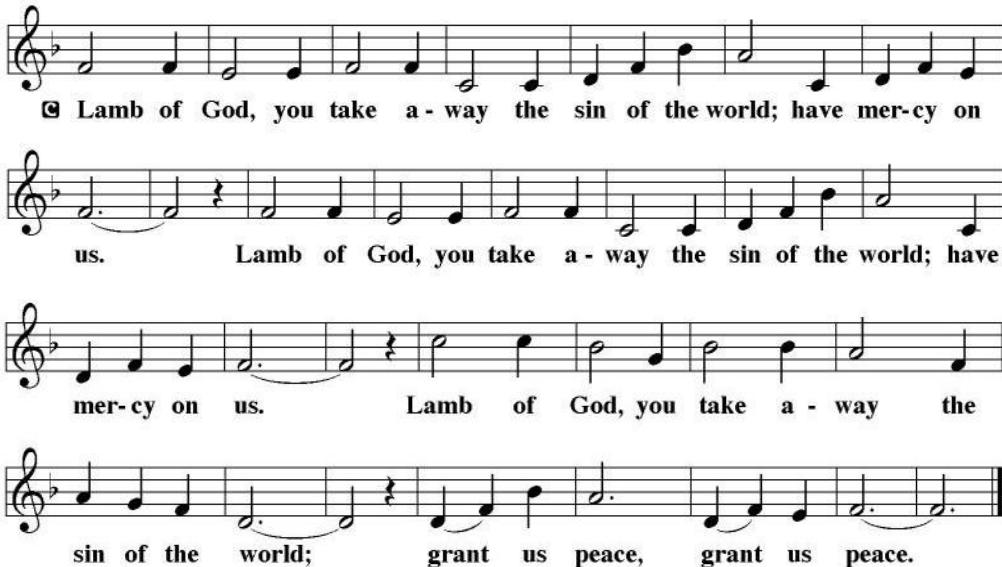
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are 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 common loaf and pouring chalice.

Procedure for receiving Communion:

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle.*
- 2. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*

3. Take your place along the chancel step.
4. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.
5. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.
6. Return to your pew using the side aisle

COMMUNION HYMN

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus (LBW 487)



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, since you are our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, pil - grims here, our home a - bove,
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Fa - ther's bid - ding.
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
 then by grace we all may win un - told fruits of his cre - a - tion.
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
 Je - sus, un - to you I die, there to live with you on high.
 Je - sus, if I faith - ful be, life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. **Amen**

BLESSING

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

HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending (LBW 408) next page

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sit

POSTLUDE

Sortie

Marcel Dupre

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God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.



This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open Mon–Thurs 8:00 AM—3:30 PM, Friday **Closed**

Sunday, August 30 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Live Stream 10:30 AM Summer Fellowship 6:30 PM AA Meeting-Community Rm Monday, August 31 Office closed Tuesday, September 1 9:30 AM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Bible Study	Wednesday, September 2 10:30 AM Bible Study – Christ hall Thursday, September 3 6:30 PM Handbell Polishing Party – Music Rm Sunday, September 6 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Live Stream 10:30 AM Summer Fellowship 6:30 PM AA Meeting-Community Rm Monday, September 7 Labor Day Office closed
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St. Paul's Food Pantry Needs: Peanut Butter, Cereal, plastic and paper shopping bags.

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!

A Witness of God's Love

This is the last week of our August hygiene and household cleaning supplies collection for York City's Bearcat Cyber Academy. Giving students a “hand up” is an investment in the future and a response to our Lord's persistent plea to “Feed My sheep.” Designated boxes in the Good Shepherd Room are ready for your gifts of feminine hygiene products, lotion, hand sanitizer, tissues, dish soap, paper towels, sponges/cleaning cloths, and trash bags. Thank you for your generosity.

A Partnership Between Local Churches & LifePath Thrift Stores

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. Donate at three locations: 2414 Eastern Boulevard, 283 West Market Street, and in the South York Plaza. Give them the name and address of our church. Donors are still able to take advantage of the tax-deduction with every gift to LifePath Thrift Stores.



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.



Beginning on 13 September we will extend the 9:30 AM Sunday Worship time followed by Education (Sunday school) at 10:45 AM through the end to the calendar year. During this extended time the Christian Education Committee will be asked to monitor participation in Sunday school, the Worship & Arts Committee will be asked to

monitor worship and participation by the faith community. Additionally, ways to identify parking, especially for guests, families and elderly will be sought out to ease that aspect of accessing St. Paul's.

Called for Service, Peace, Instruction & Renewal the theme for the 2026/27 stewardship emphasis highlights four aspects of our baptismal life. Work is underway now in preparation for our fall events. Helpers are needed. If you would like to aid in this important work, please notify the church office. There are many aspects to the campaign; preparing print materials, writing skits, actors for the skits, coordinating a "Thank You" dinner, cooking, setting up, cleaning up and providing Temple Talks. Please prayerfully consider how you can share your gifts for the building up of the faith community.

Calling all crocheters and knitters. Last November we gave out over 200 scarves to our pantry shoppers. It's time to start making scarves again for November 2026. The only suggestion is that scarves are about 4 ½ - 5 feet long and about 6 inches wide. When you finish a few scarves, put them in the pantry shopping cart in the Good Shepherd Room with your name on the bag. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who provided the amazing scarves. Let's see if we can surpass last year's number! This year the Blessing of the Scarves will be held on Sunday, November 8, prior to the distribution on November 10.



Summer Fellowship Time—Thank you to everyone who signed up to help and especially to the Fellowship Committee for their coordination all summer.

Serving the Lord with Gladness								
DATE	TIME	Asst Min	Crucifer	Lector	Greeters	Ushers -	Altar Guild	Bread
8/30	9:30 AM	Tristan Ericson	Ken Hinkle	Chris Wad-dail	Mike & Becky Bingham, Scott & Justine Donaldson	Team 3E: Norma Shue, Cliff Beck, Sheridan Palmer	Pat Scarborough, Kat Lemke	Jessica Ericson

Proper 17 A, 2017

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

“And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.” This was the opening verse assigned for morning prayer Tuesday morning. Not quite the text I was seeking amid the strife in our nation and world. It is from the book of Judges. There is a lot to lament in the book of Judges. The book is not really about legal matters and ways to settle them within the law, but it is more akin to freedom fighters, guerrillas, willing to do anything to trick opponents. The stories are gorier than most people think appropriate for church. The part of the text that struck me was the part where it states *“again.”* *“And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.”* It must grieve our Lord when we continue to do evil. It sets the stage for lament.

Evie lamented leaving her little brother as she prepared to head off to university. She lamented leaving him in the same volatile home in which she had maneuvered for 18 years. She lamented that she personally, physically, couldn't be there to protect him from their mother's psychotic episodes. There wasn't any pattern to their mother's abusive rages, except that when you least suspected such an occurrence, that's when she would, without warning, become an unknown environment of rage. Sometimes it was just smashing drinking glasses randomly on the floor. At other times it was focused on Evie, her mom would come at her with common household items, like a baseball bat, or a guitar, or a frying pan. These episodes usually ended up with police and a hospitalization for her mom and her brother staying with understanding neighbors. Evie stood in front of the house ready to leave for school. She lamented leaving her little brother to fend for himself.

Lament is part of the Biblical tradition of which we are apart. God laments and God's people lament too.

In the New Testament; Jesus laments over Jerusalem, *“How often did I want to gather you as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.”* Mary and Martha lament over the death of their brother, *“had you been here our brother Lazarus would not have died.”* At the burial of Stephen, the men lamented that he had been needlessly stoned to death *“and they waited to God.”*

In the Old Testament; In Egypt the Hebrew people lament their slavery under Pharaoh. Job laments how quickly people turned away from God, and how they abandon him. Half of the 150 Psalms are Psalms of lament with varying themes for lament about humanity, lament about the care for the earth, and lament about the environment.

Society has all but forgotten lament. It is often depicted as weakness. Lament is messy and complicated. It usually has ties to personal situations. Allowing lament permits the listener to be pulled into a story, into a situation, often an unpleasant time of pain, heartache, sorrow, even despair. Much like Evie lamenting leaving her younger brother at home while she takes leave for university. Much like God lamenting that again God's people did evil in his sight.

Lament. We heard it in the first reading this morning. The prophet Jeremiah laments. He laments suffering the loss of everything for God's sake. Being a prophet for the Lord God, has taken a toll on Jeremiah. The publicly perceived persona of a prophet often punctuates the prestige as messenger of the Most High God. It is not prestigious work. This is not the case with Jeremiah. He has lots of lament and today's Old Testament reading is no exception. He suffers

insults. He doesn't hang out with the merry-makers. He ends up alone. His pain is unceasing. His wound refuses to heal. And he puts it all out before the Lord. The only thing it seems that he hasn't lost is God's Word! But he says that God is like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail, here today and gone tomorrow. Jeremiah's lament comprises the first half of the Old Testament reading.

The second half of the reading is the response of God. God wants Jeremiah as well as all the people including you and me, to return; to come back, to turn back. God does not want us doing evil in his sight! God says; I will restore you; I will take you back, I will put things right. I want you, God says, to proclaim what is precious and not the worthless things that so easily fall from your lips. I will make you a fortified wall of the strongest metal to protect you. Others will fight against you, but they shall not prevail, they shall not win, for I am with you. I am with you to save you. I am with you to deliver you from your enemies. I will deliver you from the hand of the wicked and keep you from the choking hold of the ruthless. God's command and promise; return, repent, turn back, and be restored, delivered, saved.

If we had gathered for weekly scripture study this week, I would have engaged participants by listing their laments. I suspect that there would be a long list of laments; for the world, for the lack of diplomacy, for the hatred infecting our nation, for lack of respect, lack of prayer, these are not regrets, these are laments. As we bring the month of August to a close it is often a time of lament; things that didn't come to fruition over the long summer days. Such laments are most likely different for each one of us. This morning the voice of God calls to us to turn back, to repent, because God wants to take us back. God's desire is for restoration, for deliverance from all that seeks to overtake us, for salvation from the things that separate us from him. God's desire is that we turn from our evil ways.

Jesus tells the disciples *that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.* This suffering is necessary for him so that restoration, deliverance, salvation is lavishly bestowed on us. The gospel writer Matthew is the one that proclaims that Jesus will die for the sake of many, for all. Peter of course thinks that there is another way. But there is not according to Jesus. Jesus wants us to set our mind on divine things. Our mouths are to utter precious things. Our lives are to reflect good things. Which brings me back to Tuesday morning's verse from the book of Judges *"And again God's people did what was evil in the sight of the Lord."*

God wants the prophet Jeremiah to change his thinking so divine salvation may be realized. God wants us to change our thinking so divine salvation may be realized. Through the loving gift of Christ Jesus God opens to us an avenue that leads from lament to a broad boulevard of restoration and hope. The only thing that Jeremiah didn't lose was God's Word! That word of hope is spoken to us in bread and wine, body and blood, given and shed for deliverance, for restoration, for salvation; for in with and under these gifts our sins are forgiven. God is with us setting our minds on divine things, our mouths uttering precious things and our lives reflecting good things even as we stand with Evie in front of her house lamenting leaving her brother as she goes to college. That intersection; of the avenue of lament and the boulevard of restoration and hope, is a cross, the cross that Jesus bore and the one that we take up. Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my
persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,

for I am called by your name,

O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;

under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious and not what is
worthless,

you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Psalms 26:1-8

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what
is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection;

outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag
in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice
in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer.
¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospi-
tality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not
curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep
with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one
another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the
lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not
repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what
is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as
it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved,
never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath
of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will
repay, says the Lord." ²⁰Instead, "if your enemies
are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them
something to drink, for by doing this you will heap
burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome
by evil, but overcome evil with good.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus
was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples
that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suf-
fering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and
scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.

²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him,
saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen
to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get be-
hind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you
are setting your mind not on divine things but on
human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to
come after me, let them deny themselves and take up
their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to
save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life
for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them
if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or
what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in
the glory of his Father, and then he will repay every-
one for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there
are some standing here who will not taste death be-
fore they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Next Sunday's Readings: Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20.

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