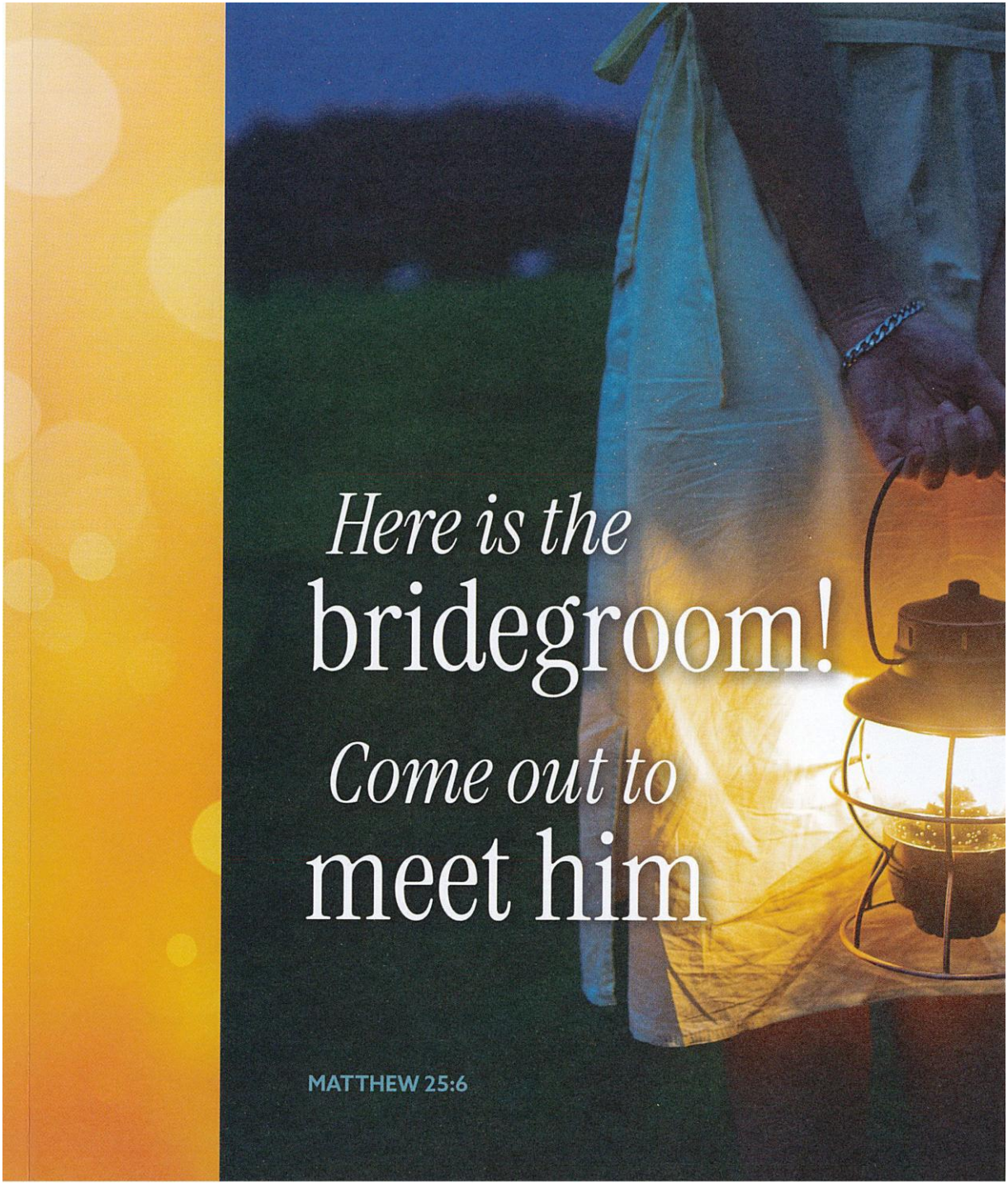

Here is the
bridegroom!
Come out to
meet him
MATTHEW 25:6

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.

Lutheran Church in York, PA - St. Paul's Lutheran...
stpaulsyork.org

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 Narthex restrooms during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.

The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
in memory of my husband, Henry Anstadt by Ann Anstadt
and in memorium of our founding pastor the Rev. Jonahtan Oswald.

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Visitation Pastor	Rev. Dr. Dan Yeiser	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Children's Choir Director	Julianna Jones	jjones.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	presch.stpaulsyork@comcast.net

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026
Holy Communion 9:30 AM

Musical Setting 9 Evangelical Lutheran Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether* James Biery

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 ***Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand (ELW 441)***



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

Let us pray. . . Lord, when the day of wrath comes we have no hope except in your grace. Make us so to watch for the last days that the consummation of our hope may be the joy of the marriage feast of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S CHOIR arr. Vicki Hancock Wright

Jesus Loves the Little Children/He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

FIRST READING **Amos 5:18-24** *back cover*

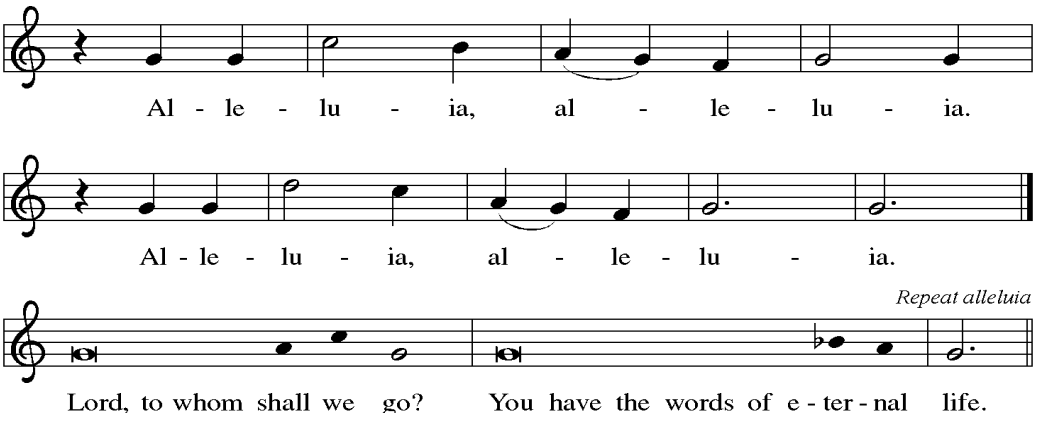
PSALM **Psalm 70** sung unaccompanied cantor/**congregation**

[1] Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;*
O LORD, make | haste to help me.
[2] Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogeth- | er dismayed;*
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
[3] Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over | me turn back,*
because they | are ashamed.
[4] Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;*
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"
[5] But as for me, I am | poor and needy;*
come to me speedi- | ly, O God.
[6] You are my helper and | my deliverer;*
O LORD, | do not tarry.

SECOND READING **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** *back cover*

Stand

ALLELUIA



HOLY GOSPEL **St. Matthew 25:1-13** (*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

HYMN OF THE DAY ***Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (ELW 244)***



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.

Heavenly Father, illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom and awaken us to your transforming love at work around us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The earth's natural rhythms you set in place so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; form us to be careful stewards of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and who help to rebuild in the aftermath of conflict (*relief ministries or organizations may be named*). Uphold veterans and those who care for them. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for all who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us be mindful of the sacrifices they made, and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You welcome into the joys of heaven those who have come before us in faith. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear 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, Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF WINTER SCARVES

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.

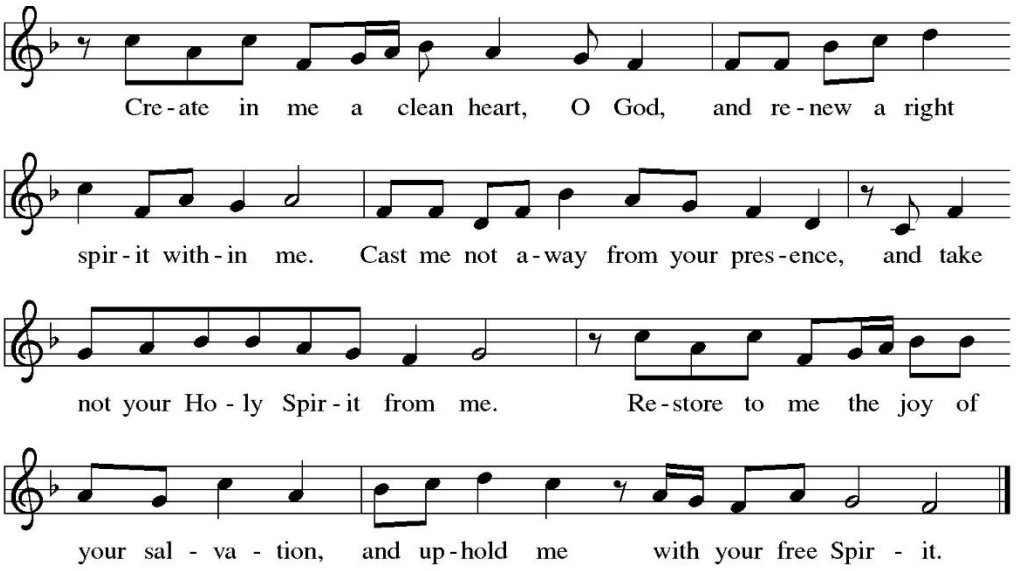
Sit

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Chancel Choir *Keep Your Lamps* Andre Thomas

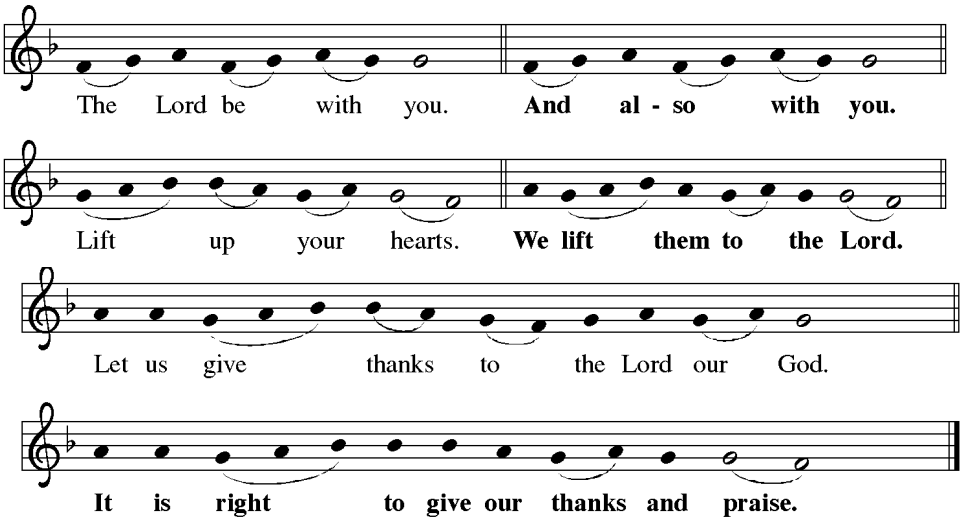
Stand

OFFERTORY



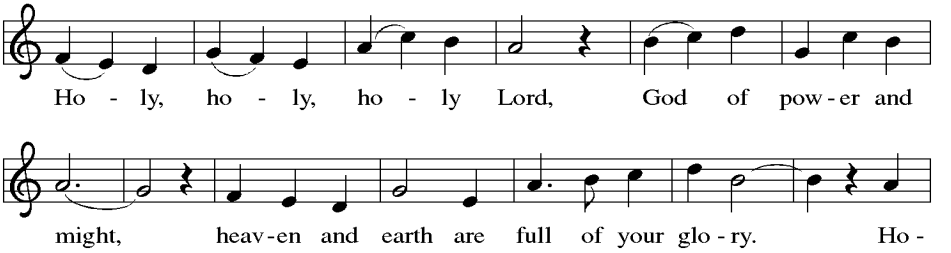
OFFERTORY PRAYER
Let us pray. Blessed are you,
O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself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

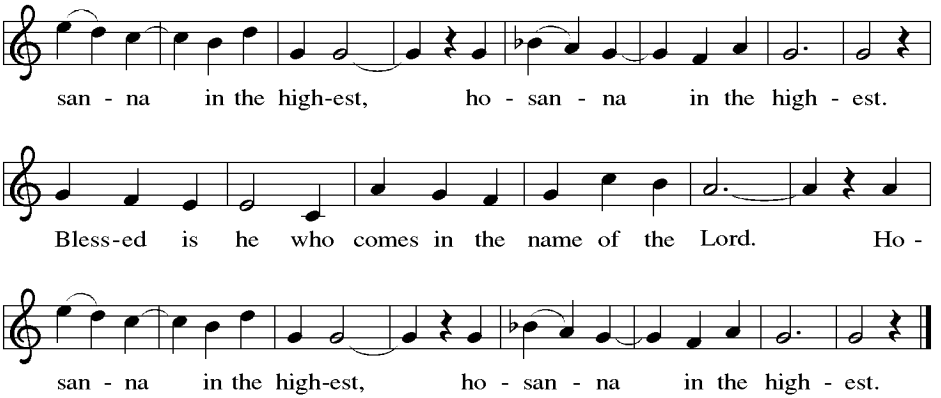
DIALOGUE *Sung by Pastor and* ***congregation***



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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord' death until He comes.

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

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

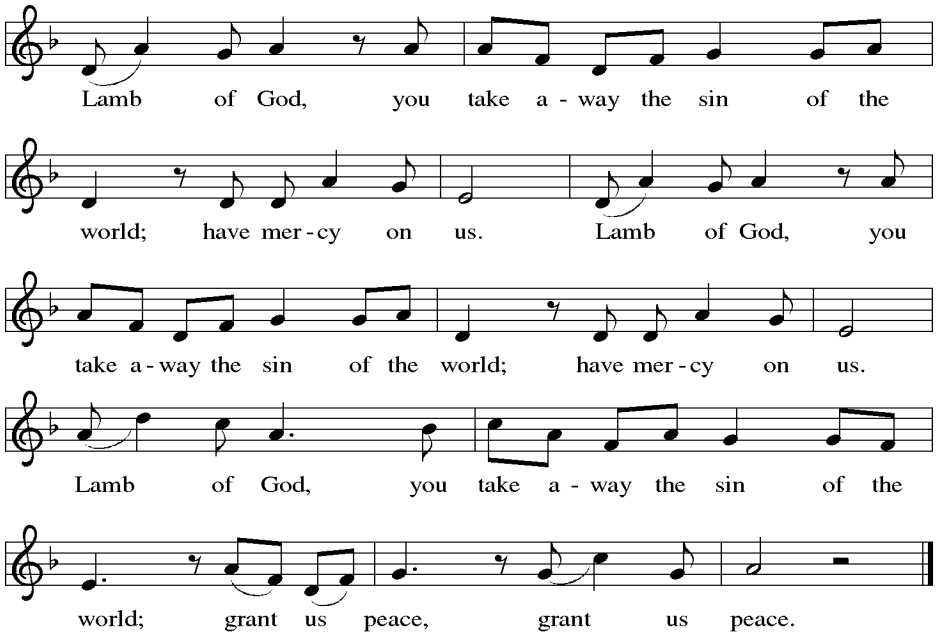
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,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



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 ***When Peace Like a River (ELW 785)***



Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

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

HYMN ***The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve (ELW 551)***



DISMISSAL

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

Sit

POSTLUDE *Praise to the Lord the Almighty* Wayne Wold

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Making Sense of Martin Luther, the adult Sunday school class is held in Christ Hall. Feel free to join the class at any time. We will begin a study on the Gospel of Mark in Advent.

This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open Mon–Thurs 8:00 AM—3:30 PM, Friday 8-11:30 AM

Sunday, November 8
9:00 AM Fellowship – Good Shepherd Rm
9:00 AM Chancel choir rehearsal – Music RM
9:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Live Stream
10:45 AM Faith Formation – Adults: Christ Hall
Children: Lower level Rm 005
Confirmation Class: Lower level Rm 004
1:00 PM Rededication Rev. Jonathon Oswald plot
Prospect Hill Cemetery
6:30 PM AA Meeting-Community Rm

Monday, November 9
7:00 PM Finance Committee Mtg

Tuesday, November 10 Council Reports due
9:30 AM Food Pantry
6:00 PM CREATE – Preschool-Gr 6
6:00 PM Bible Study - Christ Hall

Wednesday, November 11 Veterans Day
10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor – Nave
10:30 AM Bible Study – Christ Hall

Thursday, November 12
10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor – Nave
6:30 PM Handbell Choir
7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, November 15
Newsletter deadline for Dec/Jan issue
9:00 AM Fellowship – Good Shepherd Rm
9:00 AM Chancel choir rehearsal – Music RM
9:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Live Stream
10:45 AM Annual Meeting & Lunch
6:30 PM AA Meeting-Community Rm

Serving the Lord with Gladness									
DATE	**TIME**	**Asst Min**	**Crucifer**	**Comm Asst**	**Lector**	**Greeters**	**Ushers**	**Altar Guild**	**Bread Bakers**
11/8	9:30 AM	Harold Sargeant	Tom Gibson	Deb Becker	Chris Waddail	Gail Kerchner, Sharon Diaczun	Team 2E: Ron Riese, Kathy Monk, Ken Hinkle, Alex Bastian	Kathy Monk, Lois Ann Schroeder	Norma Shue
11/15	9:30 AM	Geoffrey Simon	Larry Moore	Aaron Jacobs	John Monk	Keith & Christine Kates	Team 2L: Kem Vaught, Gail Kerchner, Sandy Dickensheets	Ann Anstadt, Jill Striebig	Jessica Ericson

Survey regarding the 9:30 AM service. Please complete the online survey at https://form.jotform.com/262735591748066 or fill out a print copy (available in the narthex). The Council members would like to hear from you as they discern the future direction for our gathering for worship. Please return surveys prior to November 15.

2027 Offering Envelopes are prepared and are available in the Good Shepherd Room. Please take your packet along with you, put them in a secure place so that you have them ready when the new year begins.

Music and Create is working on the Advent Chancel Drama on Tuesday evenings.

Photo Directories have arrived. For those who participated in the process a directory with your name is placed on the table in the Good Shepherd Room. For newcomers to St. Paul's, we have a few additional copies for distribution. Simply contact the Church office to receive a copy.

Please sign-up in the Good Shepherd Room for the Annual Meeting Luncheon. We would like an accurate count for the meal. Thank you!

VETERAN'S DAY NOVEMBER 11 THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE			
CLIFF BECK, JR.	US AIR FORCE	BYRON LECATES	US ARMY
JAMES BENNETT	US ARMY JAG	JOE MOYER	US ARMY
GERALD BRIGGS, JR.	US AIR FORCE	EDWARD LECATES	US ARMY JAG
BLAKE COURTNEY	US AIR FORCE	RON RIESE	US ARMY & NATIONAL GUARD
SCOTT DONALDSON	CMA	FRED ROSENMILLER	US NAVY
THOMAS GIBSON	US NAVY	HAROLD SARGEANT	US RESERVES
LARRY GROSS	US ARMY	DARREN SMITH	US ARMY
MIKE HANSON	US ARMY	GREG SMITH	US ARMY
ANDREW HERROLD	US ARMY JAG	BEN STALLMAN, III	US NAVY
DICK KEEPORTS	US ARMY	GARY VAN NATTEN	US ARMY
DAVE KOPP	US AIR FORCE	JORDAN YAKIM-COURTNEY	US AIR FORCE *currently serving*
GEOFFREY SIMON	US AIR FORCE		

Coat Drive Ends Today - If you've donated, thank you! If you meant to donate, there's still time. This Wednesday, the 11th of November, the coats, new and gently used, will be delivered to the school's social worker just in time for the kiddos to bundle up as the cold weather approaches.

Silent Art Auction. Members of St. Paul's have created a variety of items that will be on display in the narthex (George Street). You may bid on items up through November 15, the day of the Annual Meeting. This is a great way to secure an original piece of artwork and even a potential holiday gift. All proceeds are given in support of St. Paul's Food Pantry.

St. Paul's Food Pantry Needs: White Rice, 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!

St Paul's collects gently used clothing for **Union Lutheran Church's Clothing Ministry**. Union offers it **free of charge** to needy families in the York City community. If you have large donations you may take them directly to Union Lutheran Church. Simply call them to arrange a time.

Sunday school for Children is held on the Lower Level in rooms 004 and 005. There are opportunities for church members to help with the teaching for a week or two. Simply sign up on the calendar located on the stand in the Good Shepherd room. If you want to know more, please speak with Miss Kelly or Johanna Patterson.

2027 Flower Chart - The 2027 flower chart is posted on the Springettsbury vestibule bulletin board. The cost of the flowers is currently $40 per vase. You are welcome to sign up to provide one or both vases. After you have signed up, simply make a check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and mark it altar flowers.

Proper 27 A, 2026
Amos 5:18-24 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13

The bumper sticker read "*Live Ready*." As with most bumper stickers, I am curious about why it was placed on the vehicle, what message the owner wanted to proclaim, how it will be perceived by those following along behind. I'm mostly struck by those that pertain to Christianity. There are familiar ones like; *"Take your kids to Sunday School," "Jesus loves you," "Jesus is the reason for the season."* And then there are some that are a bit more obscure; "*God wants spiritual fruit not religious nuts," "It's time to start flipping tables," "Do you follow Jesus this closely?"* Then recently I came across one that goes completely against our theological and biblical tradition, *"Jesus regrets dying for you!"* That one made me think about the way that I have been living. It also gets at the heart of the Amos text about the way God's people have been living.

Amos was a prophet of the Lord God. He proclaimed God's word about 800 years before the birth of Christ. He had the difficult task of proclaiming God's word to the Hebrew people, people who continued to observe the religious festivals, but for whom the core, the central conviction, of living as God's people for the blessing of others, had all but vanished. The Lord, proclaimed Amos, doesn't like the smell of their burnt offerings, the sight of their grain offerings or the sound of their singing coming from the temple. It wasn't because God has anything against the ritual traditions but because the traditions are carried out without any sense of justice and righteousness. It is the prophet Micah that asks "*What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God."* Amos says that what the Lord wants is for justice and righteousness to roll through the land surging and churning as a cleansing stream. *"But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like and ever-flowing stream."*

Amos' image of justice I suppose might be like to have it flow like Niagara Falls. (Have you ever been to Niagara Falls?) Justice for Amos is to be a powerful, thunderous, continuous, force within the community of faith, for all people, not just the well positioned. And there is not an on again off again option to living as God's faithful people.

Amos heard God's people speak of *"the day of the Lord."* He heard them talk about it as though it was going to be a rather romantic time of light, protection, rest, a

time like a festival or a solemn assembly, with songs and harps and music making. But Amos proclaimed that nothing could be farther from the truth. "*The day of the Lord"* was more likely going to be a day of darkness, despair, gloom, noise and confusion. Amos called them out for their contempt of God's law and how they had drifted into religious complacency. Amos had concluded that God would no longer forgive his people. As you might imagine, that message was not well received. A little bit like the bumper sticker I mentioned earlier about Jesus and regrets.

God's people are to be advocates for the powerless, that's part of what being a blessing to others is about. The powerless of his time were comprised of three groups, the poor, the widows and the orphaned. To seek justice was to get busy taking up the cause of those whose plight didn't permit them to participate fully in daily life and living. I suppose if Amos were among us today, he would send us on a field trip, an excursion of sorts, to walk through parts of the city where the poor live and the homeless camp out. He would ask us to look into the eyes of the lonely widow, the hurting orphan, and the hungry beggar before we would make any decisions about how to lend a hand or what might help. He would push us out along a country road to encounter young families about to lose the family farm and have us take a fresh look at what needs need to be met. Upon our return, we might well discover some things that we are doing well, some things that we have neglected, and some things that we didn't know needed attention. (This morning we rejoice at the winter scarves that have been made and donated for pantry shoppers, for the winter coats collected for Jackson Elementary school, and for the on-going donations for Union Lutheran's clothes closet, and St. Paul's Food Pantry.) Amos called out to God's people then and he calls to us now. Live your life seeking justice. That brings me back to that first bumper sticker *"Live Ready*" What do you suppose the person placing that on the back of their vehicle was trying to communicate?

Part of the living ready is explicitly stated in the parable of Jesus from Matthew 25. It tells of the 10 bridesmaids, virgins, young women. There are 10 of them. We find out that some of them were wise and some were foolish. We hear that 5 of them took flasks of oil to have enough fuel to provide illumination through the darkest longest night. By contrast, 5 simply took their lamps. We don't know if they thought the hours of darkness would not be so long. The bridegroom is delayed. All the bridesmaids became drowsy and slept. When the cry announcing the bridegroom's arrival came, they all

awoke and trimmed their lamps to light the path, to illuminate the way. Those who are prepared don't share. Those who needed oil went to search for some in the market. During the confusion the bridegroom came. Those who were ready and waiting went into the wedding banquet and the door was shut. Later when the others arrived and they pleaded at the door for the bridegroom to open to them, they were told that the bridegroom didn't know them. The Jesus concluded *"Keep awake, therefor, for you do not know neither the day nor the hour."*

What are we to make of this? Are we among the wise or the foolish? Do we share or are we out in the markets searching? How much oil will I need? How much will you need? How many hours of darkness will there be? The parable really gets me thinking, questioning, discerning. Those who were ready went in with him. And why is it that we are told to "keep awake?" Is it because it is easy to become drowsy?

The good news that illumines us today is that God is the one who makes us ready. The Father gives us the Son, Jesus, to prepare our way. The parable is told to alert those who think they know what is needed, who are wise, and what is foolish. In the end, readiness is a gift. It is the gift that we received in Holy Baptism and that comes to us anew every day. It is a gift that we shall receive this morning in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

You and I are more likely to have regrets, about faith and life, about things done and things left undone. About seeking justice and living ready. Jesus declared to his followers *"you are the light of the world*." Let your light shine. Illumine paths. Jesus tells us these things because he has made us ready; ready for lives of service, ready for deeper relationships, ready for the wedding banquet.

The Son, Christ Jesus, came down from heaven bringing us light, to illumine our path, to guide our way. He claims us as sons and daughters in the waters of baptism and sends us forth to do good works that bring glory to the Father. He opens the door to the heavenly banquet and gives us a foretaste of the feast to come. He places in our hands the bread of heaven, the bread of life, the feast that forgives and welcomes and calls us one and all to live ready. Knowing that he has done what is needed to prepare for us the way. Amen.

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
[19]as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand
against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
[20]Is not the day of the LORD darkness,
not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

[21]I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn
assemblies.
[22]Even though you offer me your burnt
offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted
animals
I will not look upon.
[23]Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
[24]But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing
stream.

or Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 [not printed]

Psalm 70

or Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14]For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15]For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16]For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17]Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18]Therefore encourage one another with these words.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2]Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3]When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4]but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5]As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6]But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7]Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8]The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9]But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10]And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11]Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12]But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13]Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."