



November 15, AD 2020
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
8:15am

Saint Paul Lutheran Church
250 Trinity Road
York, PA 17408
www.saintpaultrinity.org

(P=Pastor, AM=Assisting Minister, C=Congregation,
*=please stand) (The order of service and several hymns are found in the green book –LBW, purple-W&P or
in the blue book-WOV. Please silence all electronic devices as we give our attention to God's presence in
this holy place.)

Music Meditation

Chimes

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer Concerns

*(During the prelude, anyone who would like to receive a special prayer and the laying on of hands may
bring their concern with them and kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive this blessing.)*

(acolytes light the candles during the prelude music)

Prelude: Let There Be Peace on Earth by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson / Handbell Choir

*(During the prelude you may wish to reflect on the following prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for each
moment that we can praise you, for each day to do your work, for every opportunity to proclaim in word and
deed the Good news of your kingdom. Teach us to use our time well until that day when we enter into
eternal joy with you and all the saints in light. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.)*

*Invocation and Confession and Absolution +

P: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*Opening Sentences (*Revelation 19:1-2, 5-7*)

P: Praise our God, all you His servants, you who fear Him, small and great.

C: For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory.

P: Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

C: for His judgments are true and just.

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: As children of the light and well beloved by our gracious God, let us come with confidence before the throne of grace to confess our sins and to receive absolution.

(please kneel or remain standing and observe a moment of silent confession)

C: Almighty God, whose compassion never fails, we come before You in penitence. We know that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Grant us Your mercy, and spare us from the just punishment of our sin, which our Lord Jesus Christ has borne for us on the cross. Renew us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may walk in the light of Your love, now and forever. Amen.

P: God has promised to grant His forgiveness to all who repent of their sins and turn to Him for mercy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May our God keep you in His grace, lead you in ways of faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn: **Come Thou Almighty King LBW# 522 (see insert)**

*Apostolic Greeting §

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

C: And also with you.

*Opening Dialogue (from Romans 10)

P: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

P: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

***The Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray... Lord God, rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit, that while keeping the end of all things in mind, we may be stirred up to holiness in this life and come to be with you forever in that life to come. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: Zephaniah 1:7-16

(The question of how to be prepared for Jesus' return is answered four times in today's lessons. Being ready for Jesus' return is not passivity on our part; instead, it is an active preparing, an active waiting and serving and doing justice in the world in the name of Christ. There is no reason to fear anything. Christ promised he would return in due time. We await this moment with an active and vibrant faith.)

⁷Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. ⁸And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice — "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. ⁹On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. ¹⁰On that day," declares the Lord, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill.' ¹³Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." ¹⁴The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 90:1-12 (read responsively)

(The psalmist sings of the everlasting nature of God for whom a thousand years is like one day. Secret sins are brought to light in the sight of the God of the ages.)

L:¹Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

C:²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.

L:³You turn us back to the dust and say, "Go back, O child of earth."

C:⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night.

L:⁵You sweep us away like a dream; we fade away suddenly like the grass.

C:⁶In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.

L:⁷For we consume away in your displeasure; we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

C:⁸Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

L:⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

C:¹⁰The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

L:¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath? who rightly fears your indignation?

C:¹²So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

(Paul urges the Christians at Thessalonica to keep awake, be sober, do not sleep or fail to be ready, for the coming of the Lord is near. Those who believe bear the marks of faith and love are not destined for wrath, but for salvation through Christ.)

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Alleluia Verse

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

*Gospel Announcement

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 25th chapter.

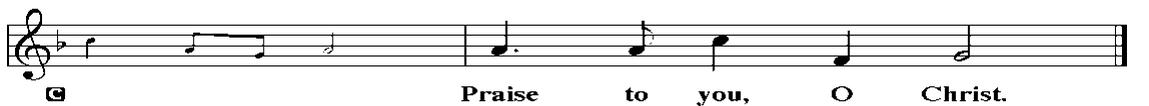


Gospel: **Matthew 25:14-30**

(Jesus teaches about stewardship by using a story about a master who entrusts his property to his servants' care while he is away. Each one invests what they have been given, realizing a profit before the master returns. One, however, buries his portion in the ground. The master returns to judge the "worthless servant.")

¹⁴{Jesus said to the disciples,} "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon: Pastor Sally

*The Votum

*Hymn of the Day: **Son of God, Eternal Savior LBW# 364 (see insert) versus 1-3**

* The 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.

*The Prayers

C: Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you. (We share the peace with one another. Please stay in your pew and greet without hand shaking.)

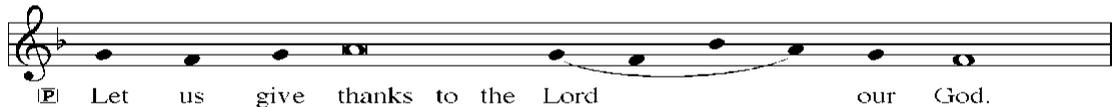
Offertory: Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray –Leupold

*Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-ourselves, 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.

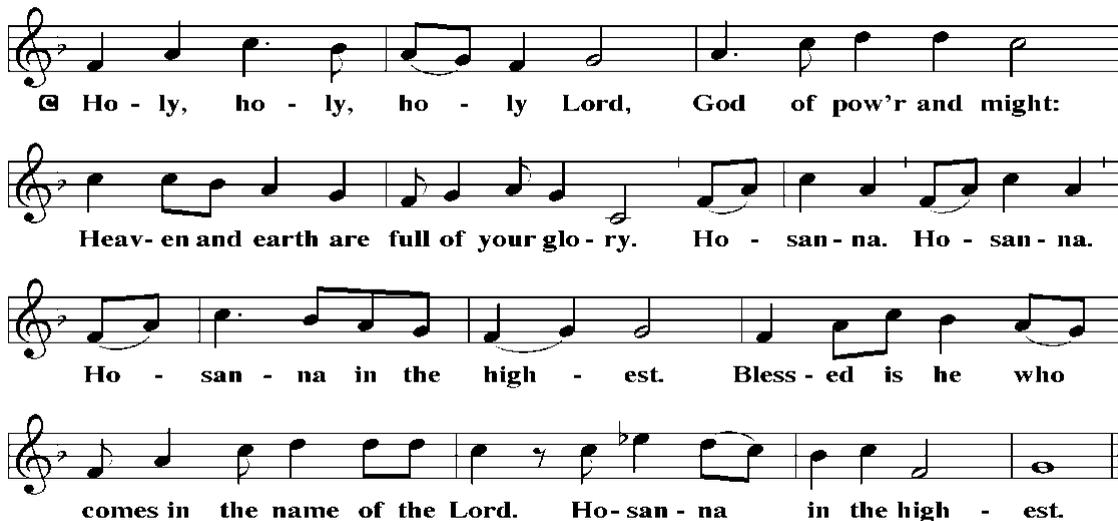
*Great Thanksgiving



*The Proper Preface §

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for He is our good and faithful Master who has called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

*The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Eucharistic Prayer §

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

*The Words of Institution

*The Lord's Prayer

*P: Lord remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray...

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Lamb of God

☩ 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.

Distribution of Holy Communion (Carol plays special music)

*Blessing

*Post Communion Canticle:

☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.
He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Post Communion Prayer: +

P: Let us pray. Thanks and praise to You, heavenly Father, for in this Sacrament You have again assured us that we are freed from the wrath due us for our sins and freed to serve You in joy. Help us to trust firmly in Your forgiveness and guidance each day until faith turns to sight; for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

*Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(acolytes extinguish the candles during the hymn)

*Recessional Hymn: **Go, My Children, with My Blessing WOV# 721 (see insert)vs.1-3**

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Little Prelude in D Minor – Bach

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WELCOME! Thank you for joining us for worship! **In the name of Jesus Christ, Saint Paul Lutheran Church is committed to praising, praying, and proclaiming the Word of God.** All baptized Christians who have received their first communion are invited to join us for Holy Communion believing as we do that Christ is truly present in this holy meal. Please follow the ushers instruction for when to leave your pew. Receive the wafer with open hands and then take a communion glass from the tray. If you have trouble coming forward **please inform the usher and communion will be brought to your pew.** Please join us again.

Thought for the day: The Day of the Lord is ever upon us, even though believers have been waiting for his return since his ascension long ago. Time for us is vastly different than God's time and so we wait with anticipation and patience for the return of Christ. In the meantime, we are encouraged to be good stewards of all that God has given us: investing in others, sharing His Word, and living each day with joy and mercy.

Lord's Helpers:

Greeter: Lawrence Smyser

Sound: Neil & Elliot Metzger

Lay Reader: Karen Gladfelter

Head Usher: Deb Shue

Acolyte: Jordan Eisenhart

Altar Guild: Deb Smyser

Book Club will resume this week.

We Will discuss Dearly Beloved by Kara Wall. Please join us Thursday, November 19, at 1:30 in the library area of Saint Paul for an interesting discussion of this book about two pastors, their wives, ministry, and friendship.

SPONSORSHIPS to the Glory of God: ALTAR FLOWERS in memory of all cancer patients by John & Esther Jacobs **BASKET** in loving memory of Eugene Bahn by his wife, children and grandchildren **BULLETIN** in memory of Barry Emig by Brenda Shorts & family **BREAD & WINE** to the glory of God by Gloria Witmer **MAILING:** in memory of Delores by Carl Smyser **PARISH MESSENGER:** to the glory of God, in honor of our grandchildren by John & Esther Jacobs **SANCTUARY LAMP:** in honor of our grandchildren by Donna & Gordon Huckenberry

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR November Samaritans Purse

The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) gives a clear picture of God's desire for us to help those in desperate need wherever we find them. After describing how the Samaritan rescued a hurting man whom others had passed by, Jesus told His hearers, "Go and do likewise." For over 40 years, Samaritan's Purse has done our utmost to follow Christ's command by going to the aid of the world's poor, sick, and suffering. We are an effective means of reaching hurting people in countries around the world with food, medicine, and other assistance in the Name of Jesus Christ. This, in turn, earns us a hearing for the Gospel, the Good News of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Third Thursday Bible, Bingo, Bag Lunch!

Friends in Christ (our group for widows, widowers and friends) is taking on a new look this fall. **We will meet at 11:15 on November 19** (right after Bible study) We will be meeting in Fellowship Hall and have plenty of room for social distancing. We will use paper bingo papers and stamps. Small prizes will be given out. Also, if you bring a bag lunch we can hang around and visit a bit.

Hopefully, Covid will end soon and we can go back to some of our fun outings, but in the meantime, we can have fun together in our nice big building! Pass the word around.

Our Annual Church Budget Meeting is TODAY at 9:30am, please plan to attend! We will have a modified Sunday School with activities for the children in the Library/Gathering Area. Please remember that we need to have a quorum in order to conduct an official meeting. Your church needs you. We will practice the same social distancing that we do during worship and ask members to be diligent about the use of masks when moving through the building.

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

250 Trinity Road York, PA 17408 792-1650

PASTORS Rev. Sara “Sally” Gausmann e-mail: pastorsally@saintpaultrinity.org

Cell phone – 717-487-1790

Rev. Paul Gausmann

e-mail: pastorpaul@saintpaultrinity.org

Cell phone -717-495-6582

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Kate Frye church office: 792-1650

e-mail: parishadmin@saintpaultrinity.org

Website: www.saintpaultrinity.org

WIFI: John3:16

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-2:00pm

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Carol Moscony

musicdirector@saintpaultrinity.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Carol Frey

financialsecretary@saintpaultrinity.org

MINI SEXTON: Jack Hall

minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org

Missionaries: Andy Stump in Haiti, Luke & Ruth in the Philippians

***Don't forget~ you can access the newsletter and other announcements on our website!**

Bible Study for November (two opportunities)

One of the enriching features of church life is our common desire to delve further into the Holy Scriptures. This fall we all can engage in a study entitled *Words that Matter*, a look at the deeper meaning behind several words found in the Scripture. Rather than just a study of one book, this allows us to trace the rich meaning of the word from one book to another and, in the course of doing so, come to a more profound understanding of what God conveys to us through His Word. So join us in person or by Zoom on Thursdays, the morning session is held here at the church in the Parlor at 10AM, the evening Zoom session is held at 7PM, the invitation to which will be included in the Wednesday and Thursday daily devotion e-mail for that week. The next November Bible Sessions will be held on **November 19**.

OUR DAILY BREAD: for November is pumpkin bars (no nuts please.) Use your favorite recipe and cut in 15 squares and wrap individually. We need 24 pans by **9 am on Friday, Nov. 20th**. If you are able to make some, please call Kate Frye (717) 792-1650. Thanks!

Anyone who still has not handed in their Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box will have to deliver them to Genesis Church in York New Salem yourself.

Activities for the week of November 15, 2020

Sun.	11/15	Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost 8:15am Divine Worship Service 9:30am Budget Meeting / Modified Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship Service
Mon.	11/16	7:00pm Fellowship Committee Meeting
Tues.	11/17	9:00am Social Ministry Committee Meeting 10:30am Bell Choir Practice 7:00pm Hilltop AA
Wed.	11/18	1:00pm Women of the Word 6:30pm Youth & Family packing Advent boxes
Thurs.	11/19	10:00am Bible Study at the Church 11:15am Bingo and Bagged Lunch 1:30pm Book Club 7:00pm Bible Study via Zoom
Fri.	11/20	7:00pm Hilltop AA
Sat.	11/21	9:00am Quiet Communion Worship Service
Sun.	11/22	Christ the King Sunday 8:15am Divine Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship Service

Women of the Word

Women of the Word will continue their monthly Bible Study on Wednesday, November 18th at 1:00 pm. We are continuing our *"Living in Jesus"* Bible study. This month we will study *"Refreshed in Him"*. We invite all women to join us in for study and fellowship.

Great News!

Saint Paul Church Council has approved hiring an Interim Director for the reopening of our beloved pre-school program. The job description is available on the church web site and on the shelf in the library area of the narthex. **Applicants should supply a cover letter and resume by TODAY.**

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP: It is good to give thanks to the Lord every day, but we especially want to gather in worship and praise for the Thanksgiving holiday. **Join us Wednesday, November 25th at 7:00 pm** for a service of Holy Communion.





POINSETTIAS FOR 2020

It's time again to order poinsettia plants to adorn the sanctuary for the Christmas season. The multi-bloom plants will be in a 6" pot. The price is \$9.00 per plant.

Payment is due at the time of the order.

Red (per 6" pot) \$9.00 each

Memory / Honor of (circle one) _____

By _____

White (per 6" pot) \$9.00 each

Memory / honor of (circle one) _____

By _____

Harvest of Hope Food Pantry Donation

Memory / honor of (circle one) _____

By _____

Name _____ Total plants ordered ____

Total Pd. _____ Check No. _____

Please place your order with payment in the offering on Sunday. **If you want additional quantities of any flowers, please fill out another form from the narthex.** Thanks!

Contact Linda Sherman 717-846-2036 with questions.

Order deadline = November 29, 2020

Sermon Notes

Start a Fire by Unspoken

This world can be cold and bitter
Feels like we're in the dead of winter
Waiting on something better
But am I really gonna hide forever?
Over and over again
I hear Your voice in my head
Let Your light shine, let Your light shine for all to see
Start a fire in my soul
Fan the flame and make it grow
So there's no doubt or denying
Let it burn so brightly
That everyone around can see
That it's You, that it's You that we need
Start a fire in me
You only need a spark to start a whole blaze
It only takes a little faith
Let it start right here in this city
So these old walls will never be the same
Over and over again
I hear Your voice in my head
They need to know
I need to go
Spirit won't You fall on my heart now
Start a fire in my soul
Fan the flame and make it grow
So there's no doubt or denying
Let it burn so brightly
That everyone around can see
That it's You, that it's You that we need
Start a fire in me
You are the fire You are the flame
You are the light on the darkest day
We have the hope we bear Your name
We carry the news that You have come to save
Only You can save
Start a fire in my soul
Fan the flame and make it grow
So there's no doubt or denying
Let it burn so brightly That everyone around can see
That it's You, that it's You that we need
Start a fire in me



TAKING FAITH HOME – November 15, 2020 AD

**These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.**

Sunday Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of the talents
Monday Luke 19:11-26 A king and his servants
Tuesday 1 Peter 4:7-11 Using our gifts
Wednesday Romans 12:4-8 We have different gifts
Thursday 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 Each has a gift
Friday Ephesians 4:11-16 Christ's gifts to the church
Saturday Psalm 24 All belongs to the Lord
Sunday Matthew 25:31-46 The sheep and the goats

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Encourage one another and build each other up.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, thank you for all you have given us. Help us to be faithful servants who make the most of your gifts. Amen. (Matthew 25:14-30)

Mealtime Prayer:

For food and drink and happy days we offer up our thanks and praise. In serving others, Lord, may we show our thankfulness to Thee. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

Child of light, may God bless you with faith, hope and love, this day and always. Amen.
(1 Thessalonians 5:5,8)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What talents has God given to those in your household or group?
- What helps us use our talents? What stops us from using them?
- In what ways are you using your talents to serve God? What does God promise to those who use their talents well (see Matthew 25:29)?

DEVOTIONS

God has given each of us special talents and qualities to serve and to bless others. In your home devotional times this week, focus on each member of your household in turn. Share the talents and qualities you see in him or her, and suggest ways in which he or she might use these to serve God. Encourage your family members through prayer, asking God to help them make the most of their talents.

SERVICE

Think of a person in your church or community who is developing or using his or her God-given gifts and talents, and whom you would like to encourage as a household. Write an encouraging note or prepare an encouragement gift to give that person.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The apostle Paul wrote, *“Encourage one another and build each other up”* (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Spend some time this week affirming and encouraging one another. For instance, you may wish to finish these sentences for each family member:
A talent I see you have is. . .
One thing I really appreciate about you is. . .
Something I'd like to encourage you in is. . .
I felt very proud of you when. . .

People and issues to pray for in your devotions this week:

Peace in our land and peace in our homes, strength for those who are working on a vaccine and health care workers who are dealing with virus patients, those suffering economic hardship because of the virus: _____

Theme of the Day: We read today about three servants. Two were good and faithful. One was evil and faithless. Two enter into the joy of their master. One does not. Our Lord has entrusted us with many good and gracious gifts and sends us into the world to make disciples and multiply the gifts we have received. Yet, it is not our own work that leads us into the joy of our Master; rather, it is our Master's work on our behalf. Jesus' saving work of death and resurrection brings us into the joy of our Master.