

June 13, 2021, AD
Third Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 am

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

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 13, 2021, AD 8:15 am

(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.)

Gathering Music: When Morning Gilds the Skies – arr. Larson

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer Concerns, Joys and Concerns

(Acolytes light the candles during the prelude music.)

Prelude: Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices - Manz

(During the Prelude you may wish to reflect on the following prayer. Almighty God, stir our hearts to a new obedience. Make us love what you love and follow our Master and Friend Jesus to lives of worship and service. Bless our worship this day and fill us with your joy which never ends. Amen.)

*Invocation and Order of Confession and Forgiveness +

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

C: Amen.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

P: 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.

(Please kneel or stand and observe a time of silence for self-examination.)

P: Most merciful God,

C: 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.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn:

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters 697

F Gm/F F Dm F B^b F

1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
2 We who bring them long for nur - ture; by your milk may we be fed.
3 Oh, how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - im - ag - ined, all your ways!

F Gm/F F Dm F B^b F

Num - ber them a - mong your peo - ple; bless as Christ blessed long a - go.
Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of bless - ing, liv - ing bread.
To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our lives we wor - ship, praise!

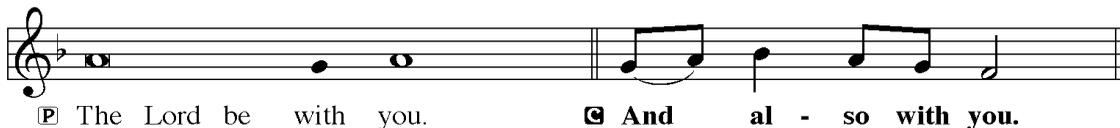
F C Dm Am F B^b

Weave them gar - ments bright and spark - ling; com - pass them with love and light.
God, re - new us, guide our foot - steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo - ple stand be - fore you, wa - ter - washed and Spir - it - born.

C Dm B^b F Gm⁷ Am Gm⁷ F

Fill, a - noint them; send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.
one with Christ in liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

*Salutation



*Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray...

O Lord, our God, arrange the course of this world that peace may come, and your tranquil Church rejoice through greater service. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: **Ezekiel 17:22-24**

(This lesson is just a snippet of a larger section in which Ezekiel prophesied to the exiles using a parable of two great eagles and a vine. The Lord made a promise to replant Israel, a tiny sprig that would grow sturdy branches and bear fruit until it became a great and noble cedar under which will dwell every sort of bird.)

²²Thus says the Lord God: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. ²⁴And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 1 (read responsively)

(The psalmist sang of his great delight in the law of the Lord. Dwelling in the ways of God is like a tree planted next to a water source. It grows and flourishes as it is fed and watered constantly. The wicked, on the other hand, blow away like chaff.)

L:¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

C:²Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on his law day and night.

L:³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

C:⁴It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

L:⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

C:⁶For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

(St. Paul described to the Corinthian Christians a dwelling that is eternal. Even when their present homes were destroyed, they could rely on God's promise of a heavenly home. Even though life can be difficult, Paul assured them they have reason to be courageous: Christ prepared each of them for this life of faith and prepared a place for them with him forever.)

¹For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened — not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

Children's Sermon: Pastor Paul

*Alleluia Verse+ (sung)



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 Mark, the 4th chapter.



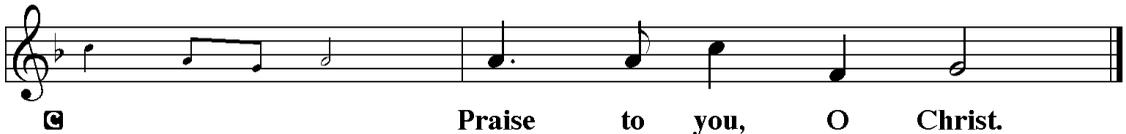
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Gospel: **Mark 4:26-34**

(Jesus compared the kingdom of God to scattered seeds as well as to the tiniest seed, a mustard seed. Seeds are mysterious entities, but they remind believers that it is God who is in ultimate control of the kingdom, as it is by his power that seeds sprout and grow. God will use the most unusual means to accomplish his goals.)

²⁶{Jesus} said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” ³⁰And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” ³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon: Pastor Sally
*The Votum



*Hymn of the Day:

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

675

1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 That, when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found:
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.
Music: Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816; arr. *With One Voice*, 1995
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

DUNLAP'S CREEK
CM

alternate tune: NEW BRITAIN

*** The Apostles' Creed**

All: 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 (Please respond "Hear our prayer.")

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.)

Offertory: Solo by Dave Shaffer

*Offertory Response: pg. 66 (or as below)

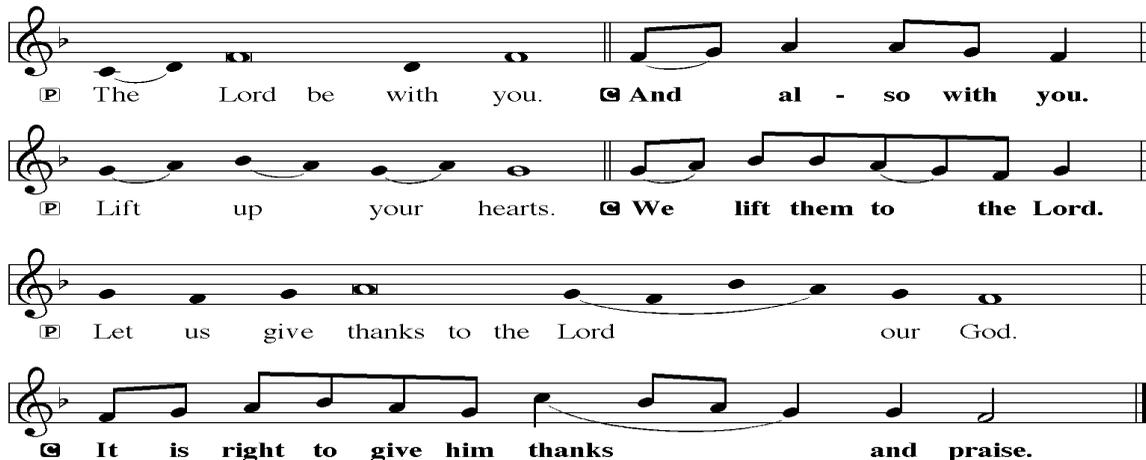
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***Offertory Prayer:**

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you,

C: 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.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

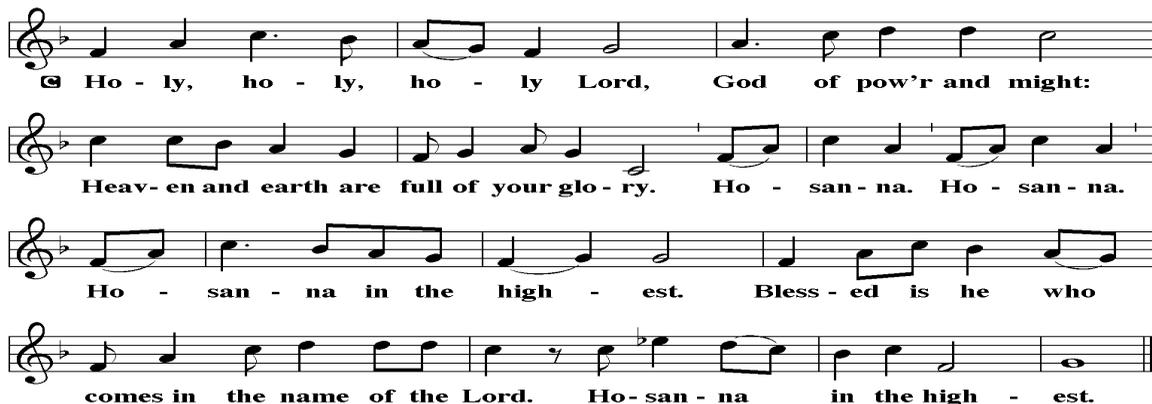


The Great Thanksgiving musical score consists of four staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: **P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you. **P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord. **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

***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, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing: §

***Sanctus**



The Sanctus musical score consists of four staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: **C** 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, O Lord, our God, for in creation You have shown Your power and might and still You preserve all You have made. Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, for in sending forth Your own Son to suffer and die for us You have revealed Your mercy and Your steadfast love. Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, for in Christ we have been restored as Your own children and You preserve us as Your own through forgiveness and by the rich food of this blessed Supper.

C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

*The Words of Institution p.69

*The Lord's Prayer, p. 71

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 p. 72

☐ 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

*Blessing, p. 72

*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.

C: Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Strengthen us through this gracious Meal, that we live in hope and confidently show forth Your love through acts of mercy. Support us in this life and bring us at last to the unending feast in Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

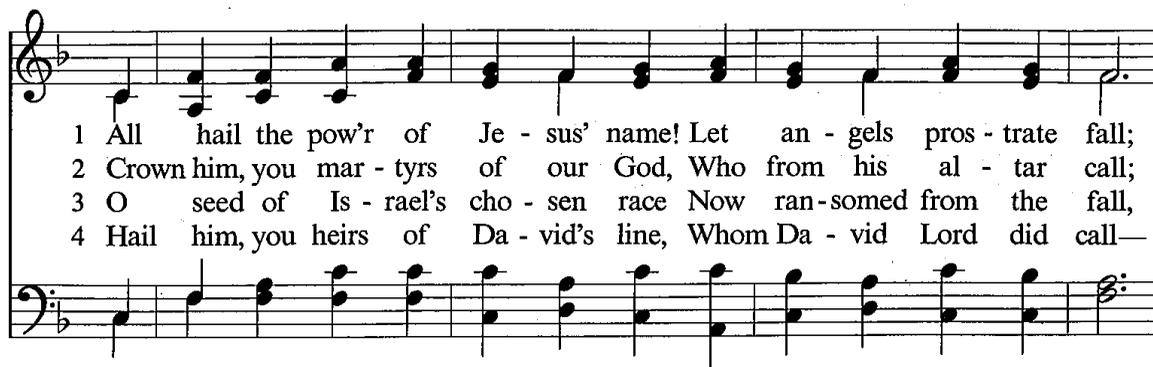
C: Amen.

(Acolytes extinguish the candles during the hymn.)

*Recessional Hymn:

328

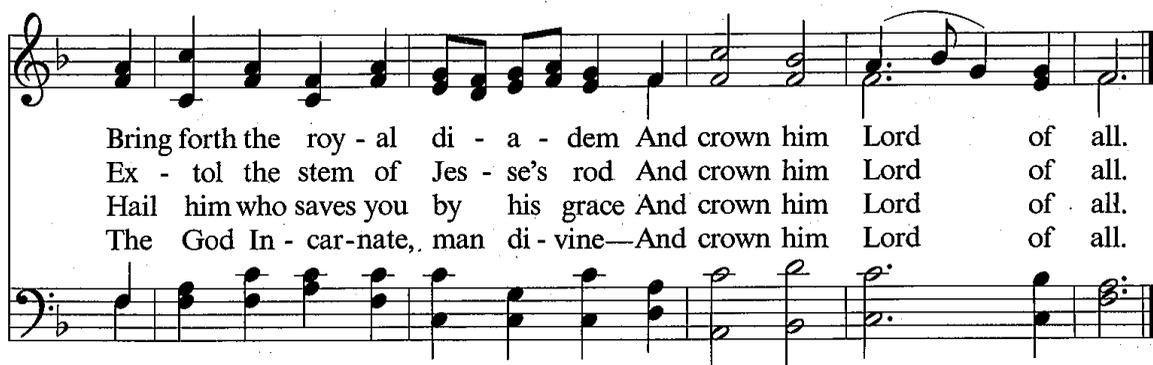
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2 Crown him, you mar - tyrs of our God, Who from his al - tar call;
3 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race Now ran - somed from the fall,
4 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, Whom Da - vid Lord did call—



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace And crown him Lord of all.
The God In - car - nate, man di - vine—And crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace And crown him Lord of all.
The God In - car - nate, man di - vine—And crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792, alt.
Tune: Oliver Holden, 1765-1844

CORONATION
86 86 86

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Let the Earth Rejoice! - Wood

Theme of the Day: The kingdom of God is a work in progress. He has been at it for a very long time. When we think things are going sideways, we may be certain God is in control of his kingdom. We may pray with confidence, “Thy kingdom come,” for the Lord himself will build his kingdom. When it seems that the kingdom is failing here on earth, we know it is coming just as surely as it is established in heaven. We walk by faith, not by sight! As we walk, we scatter the seed of the Gospel—and God gives the increase.

WELCOME! Thank you for joining for worship! **In the name of Jesus Christ, Saint Paul Lutheran Church is committed to praising, praying, and sharing 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 join us again.

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

250 Trinity Road York, PA 17408 717-792-1650

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Rev. Paul Gausmann

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ADMIN ASST: Jean Strine

Church office: 717-792-1650

E-mail: parishadmin@saintpaultrinity.org

Website: www.saintpaultrinity.org

WIFI: John3:16

OFFICE HOURS

M-Th 8:00am-2:30pm, Fri 8:00-12 noon

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Carol Moscony

musicdirector@saintpaultrinity.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Carol Frey

financialsecretary@saintpaultrinity.org

MINI SEXTON: Jack Hall

minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org

INTERIM CYC DIRECTOR: Malinda Grube CYCdirector@saintpaultrinity.org

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

SPONSORSHIPS to the Glory of God: ALTAR FLOWERS in loving memory of Sally Worley by Ken Worley & Family / in loving memory of Delores by Carl Smyser
BULLETIN in memory of Sterling Hoffman & Ira W. Keech by Mr. & Mrs. Ira Keech & Family / in honor of our 52nd wedding anniversary by Jack & Joyce Hall **BREAD & WINE** in memory of Barbara Haner by Amy Austin & Family **MAILING** by Treva Albright
PARISH MESSENGER in loving memory of Bernie & Clair Martin by Ron & Brenda Lentz, Jay, Amy, Kyle & Jamy Lentz & Amy & Rick Gardner **SANCTUARY LAMP** in loving memory of Mary Rebert by her husband John

Our Lord's Helpers on June 13:

Greeter: Ed Dunklebarger

Head Usher: Connie Dunklebarger

Lay Reader: Donna Rinehart

Acolyte: Billie & Stella Metzger

Sound: Neal & Elliott Metzger

Altar Guild: Diane Workman

Activities for the Week of June 13, 2021

- Sun. 6/13 Third Sunday After Pentecost
8:15 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 am Faith Builders
10:30 am Outdoor Service with Holy Communion
2:00-6:00 pm Fellowship Hall Rental
6:00 pm Home Bible Study
- Mon. 6/14 6:00 pm Youth & Family Meeting
7:00 pm Christian Education Meeting
- Tues. 6/15 9:00 am Social Ministry Meeting
2:30 pm Hymn Selection Meeting
7:00 pm Council Meeting
7:00 pm AA
- Weds. 6/16 1:00 pm Women of the Word Meeting
7:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting
- Thurs. 6/17 8:45 am Outreach Meeting
- Fri. 6/18 7:00 pm AA
- Sun. 6/20 Fourth Sunday After Pentecost / Father's Day
8:15am Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30am Faith Builders
10:30am Outdoor Service with Holy Communion
6:00 pm Home Bible Study

Our Lord's Helpers on June 20:

Greeter: Matt & Daphne Conn

Head Usher: Lawrence Smyser

Lay Reader: Lawrence Smyser

Acolyte: Lawrence Smyser

Sound: (Open)

Altar Guild: (Open)

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR JUNE – SHALLOW WELLS

Once again, we are supporting the Shallow Well Project to support the construction of wells in Tanzania and other African regions. To make a donation, use an envelope and include your name and 'water' on it & drop it in the offering plate please. (To receive credit on your giving statement, please make checks payable to Saint Paul Lutheran Church.) Thanks for your support of this worthy cause. Funds to date: \$1,480.



OUR DAILY BREAD: Our dessert for June is oatmeal coconut cookies. 3 cookies per bag. We need 360 bags by 9:00 am Friday, June 18th. If you can make some cookies, please sign the sheet in the narthex or contact Jean Strine. Thank you!



CYC is now accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year for both the 3 and 4-year-old classes. Children need to be either 3 or 4 by the 1st of September. Registration can be done through saintpaultrinity.org, the CYC webpage, cycpreschool.com, or by calling the church office and requesting a registration form. The 3-year old's meet 3 days a week from 9:00-12:00 and the 4-year old's meet 5 days a week from 9:00-2:00. Tuition for the 3's is \$135/ month and for the 4's it is \$270/month - both with a nonrefundable registration fee of \$20.00.

CYC NEWS

We have been working together to come up with a new and improved preschool program. While this is a change, we have faith that we can become the best Christian preschool program in the area. Extending our program hours and days will allow the children to deepen their learning and grow themselves, not only academically, but also socially and spiritually. This is a huge undertaking, and we need the support from members of Saint Paul. Our current enrollments are 8 children in each room, which compared to previous years is good, but we are not at our enrollment goals yet. Our curriculum focus is Kindergarten Readiness, along with adding Classical Christian Curriculum, and incorporating more emotional/social learning into the classrooms. We are currently finalizing the calendar and themed weeks for the school year, but most importantly, we are so excited to welcome the children back to our program on September 7, 2021. THANK YOU for all the prayers and support and please continue to spread the word.

CYC JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Saint Paul Lutheran Church is seeking qualified Christian candidates for the positions of Pre-school teacher of 4 year olds (approximately 32 hours per week – August 16- May 31); Assistant to the teacher of 4 year olds (approximately 28 hours per week – September 1- May 31) and an Assistant to the teacher of 3 year olds (approximately 11 hours per week – September 1- May 31). Job descriptions are available in the library area of the church or on-line. Cover letters and resumes are due by June 20th. For more information, contact Pastor Sally Gausmann at pastorsally@saintpaultrinity.org.

Women of the Word is planning to meet on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 1:00 pm. We will continue our Bible study "*Living for Jesus*". Nadine Worley will lead our study "*Hope in Him*". We invite all ladies to join us.

HARVEST OF HOPE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Helpers Needed, June 28, 2021 - 11:15 am–2:30 pm / 2:30– 5:00 pm

A sign-up list is available in the Narthex or call the church office to add your name to our crew. If you have questions about what is involved, please see Pastor Sally.

Vacation Bible School

Jesus . . . Tell Me A Story: The Parables of Jesus - July 18 - 22, 2021 6:30 - 8:00 pm

For Children Ages 3 to 12, Adult Class Also - Registration forms available in the library or on the church website: saintpaultrinity.org

Summer Bible Study: Jesus in Me, has begun and will continue to be held at the Dunkleberger home, 960 Sunny side Rd, York, PA 17408 every Sunday night beginning at 6 pm up to and including August 1. We will not meet on July 4th. Remember to bring your lawn chair, Bible, study guide and pen. If raining, participants in the study will be called in advance to move the study to the church.

Quilters: LWR Quilts are used when natural disasters strike. They help show our love and compassion to those in need. Our quilting ministry needs some helping hands. There are tasks that can be done at home that do not take much time, such as cutting squares, washing material, sewing quilts, or tying knots. We will meet the second Tuesday of each month at 9 am (for 60-90 minutes) at Saint Paul beginning in July. Anyone interested in helping can contact Bertha Spahr 717-225-6938 or just come to the quilting room at Saint Paul on the second Tuesday morning. If you go to yard sales or are spring cleaning, we are always looking for cotton material, tablecloths or curtains that are not plastic backed and sheets of any size. Donations can be dropped off at church. This ministry is a tangible way to express Christian love to those in dire situations.

Sermon Notes for June 13, 2021

“So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.” 2 Corinthians 5:9

What does it mean to be a people pleaser?

- Good part: It’s fun to give a gift, for instance, and see the person respond with joy.
- Bad part: Agreeing to things that are bad for us or bad for others in order to make someone else “happy.”

What does it mean to be a God pleaser?

Like a tree planted by streams of water – we will prosper!

Prospering doesn’t necessarily have to do with wealth or health.

Jesus was a perfect God pleaser – he lived in obedience to the will of the Father. He died for the forgiveness of our sins.

Obviously, we can’t be a perfect God pleaser the way Jesus was – in fact it was his perfect obedience that has freed us from trying to earn our salvation. But what Jesus also did was to open a pathway for us to respond in love. When the Holy Spirit leads us to Christ, he plants a seed of love in our hearts that grows as we live in relationship to God. As we read God’s word, as we worship him, as we receive his Holy Sacraments, as we meditate on his precepts, as we reflect on his mercy, as we copy his forgiveness, that seed grows and we desire more and more to please this Lord who has given us life.

What does Christian prosperity look like? It involves growing in faith. Growing in faith takes time and sometimes we won’t see the results that we expected. Growing in obedience to the Lord sometimes might involve letting go of habits that are unhealthy, and we might not always feel rewarded immediately when we embrace God’s ways over the world’s ways. Growing in the Lord involves patience.

As Saint Paul says, right now there will be times when in our earthly tents we groan. That seed breaking through the soil might cause some discomfort, but when the plant takes shape there is a beauty that cannot be compared. We should never underestimate what God is doing in our lives and in the world around us.

And so today we ask that as we feast on this small meal, faith would germinate in our hearts and we would grow in faith, love and obedience to the will of God and be a part of that ever expanding and growing kingdom, a kingdom without end. Amen.



TAKING FAITH HOME – June 13, 2021 AD

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday Mark 4:26-34 Two parables of seeds
Monday Ezekiel 31:1-14 God cuts down tall, proud trees.
Tuesday Hosea 14:1-7 Israel will be a fragrant cedar
Wednesday Mark 4:1-20 The parable of the sower
Thursday Genesis 3:14-24 Deprived of the tree of life
Friday Ezekiel 17:22-24 Make the tall tree flourish
Saturday Psalm 52 Like an olive tree in God's house
Sunday Mark 4:35-41 Jesus calms the sea

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)**

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

May the Lord answer you when you are in distress and may the God of our ancestors protect you. May God give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed (Psalm 20.1, 4).

Mealtime Prayer:

God has planted, God has fed. Thanks be to God for daily bread. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God help you to grow as his child. May he watch over you and do many good things through you. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is one way you have grown over the past year? What has caused you to grow?
- Jesus talked about the kingdom of God growing from a tiny seed into a large plant (Mark 4:30-32). What do you think he meant?
- How have you been growing as a child of God? In what ways would you like to grow more?

DEVOTIONS:

In 2 Corinthians 5:14-17, Paul tells us that Christ's love "compels" or "drives" us in our lives as Christians. We live for Christ instead of ourselves, and we no longer see people from a worldly point of view. In particular, we see our fellow Christians as "new creations." In your family devotions this week, ask each person to complete this sentence: "*Today, Christ's love drives me to ...*" (e.g., do an act of service for a family member, make a new friend, share with someone else). Pray that Jesus will help you to live for him.

SERVICE:

Think of some parents you know who would appreciate some "time out" together as a couple. Arrange a time to have their children at your home, so that they can have a date.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Decide on a household gardening project, such as planting a flower bed. Work together to plan the project and to collect the materials you will need. As you work on the project, talk about how you have seen one another grow in maturity and in faith.

People and issues to pray for in your devotions this week: For our missionaries, that they may bear much good fruit as they spread the Gospel abroad, for those who farm, that they may have good crops, and for those mentioned today including _____ and _____.

