

January 30, 2022, AD
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
8:15 am

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

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 30, 2022, AD 8:15 am

(P=Pastor, C=Congregation. Please silence all electronic devices as we give our attention to God's presence in this holy place.)

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer Concerns, Joys and Concerns

(Acolytes light the candles during the prelude music)

Prelude: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light – arr. M. Burkhardt

(During the Prelude you may wish to reflect on the following prayer: Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. - Saint Ignatius of Loyola)

*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:

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Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by thy help I'm come;
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, Call for songs of loud - est praise.
And I hope, by thy good plea - sure, Safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now like a fet - ter Bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end - less glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.

Teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; May I still thy good - ness prove.
He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; Seal it for thy courts a - bove.

*Apostolic Greeting +

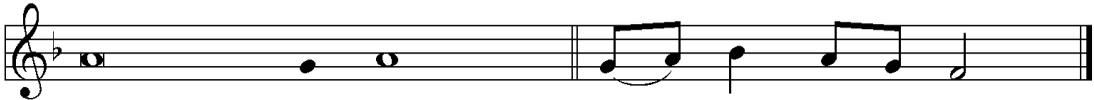
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*Hymn of Praise



*Salutation(sung)



□ The Lord be with you.

☒ And al - so with you.

*Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray.... O God, you know the perilous choices we are prone to make that fall short of your desire for human faithfulness and obedience. Without you, our fragile nature cannot survive. Support us with your Word of truth, that we may grow in faith, in the midst of our trials. 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: Jeremiah 1:4-10 (17-19)

(The Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah who thought he was too young to speak for God. The Lord assured him that he would not be alone, in fact he had never been alone. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you," declared the Creator. Jeremiah was given a vision of the disobedience of Israel and a charge to go and speak.)

⁴Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." ⁶Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." ⁷But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord." ⁹Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

[¹⁷"But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them. ¹⁸And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. ¹⁹They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the Lord, to deliver you."]

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 71:1-6 (7-11) (read responsively)

(The psalmist cried out to the Lord to be his rock and fortress, the one who saves him from the hands of the wicked. In the Lord is his only hope. He is the one who took him from his mother's womb; all glory and honor belong to God alone.)

L:¹In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be ashamed.

C:²In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me.

L:³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold.

C:⁴Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

L:⁵For you are my hope, O Lord God, my confidence since I was young.

C:⁶I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you.

L:⁷I have become a portent to many; but you are my refuge and my strength.

C:⁸Let my mouth be full of your praise and your glory all the day long.

L:⁹Do not cast me off in my old age; forsake me not when my strength fails.

C:¹⁰For my enemies are talking against me, and those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together.

L:¹¹They say, "God has forsaken him; go after him and seize him; because there is none who will save."

Second Lesson: **1 Corinthians 12:31b—13:13**

(Paul addressed the Corinthian church over their quarreling about which gift was the greatest amongst them. Some had cited that speaking in tongues was the superior gift, but their insistence caused conflict, pain, and division in the Body of Christ. Without love, Paul asserted, we have nothing. Love never ends.)

^{31b}I will show you a still more excellent way.

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon: Pastor Paul

*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 Luke, the 4th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 4:31-44

(As Jesus was traveling around Galilee, he healed many and cast out demons from those who were possessed. Those who witnessed his teaching and healing were perplexed by his power and authority. Some were confused about Jesus' true identity, but the demons knew who he was, "the Holy One of God," and he would not be held back from his mission by anyone. Jesus declared, "This is why I came!")

³¹{Jesus} went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, ³²and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. ³³And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴"Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God." ³⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. ³⁶And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" ³⁷And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region. ³⁸And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. ³⁹And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them. ⁴⁰Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ. ⁴²And when it was day, he

departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." ⁴⁴And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon: Pastor Sally
*The Votum

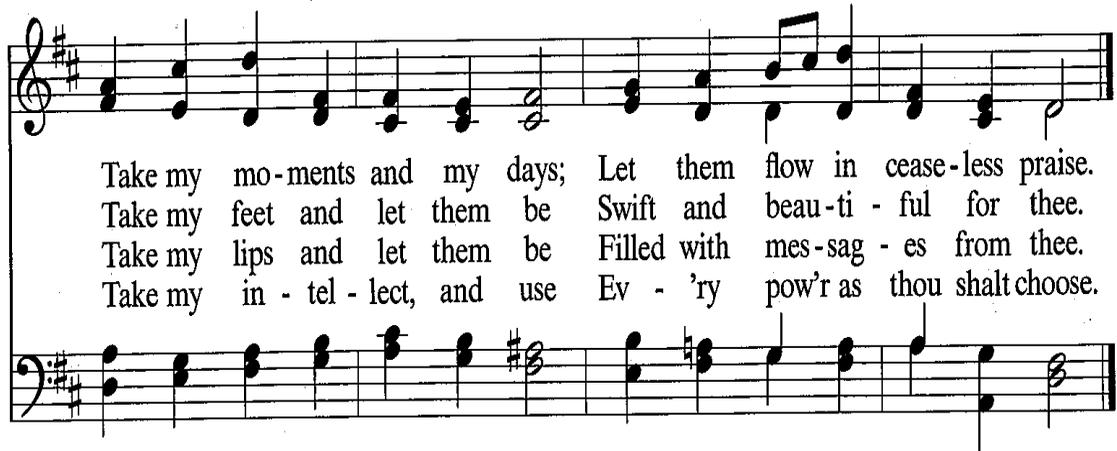


Take My Life, that I May Be

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1 Take my life, that I may be Con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing Al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days; Let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
Take my in - tel - lect, and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
It shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.

* 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: Lord, When You Came as Welcome Guest – arr. C. Schalk

*Offertory Response:

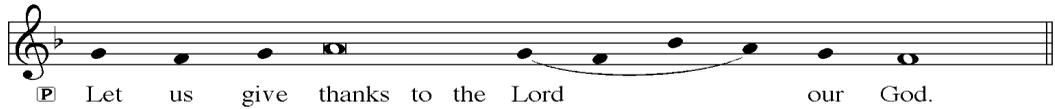
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your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

*Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you,

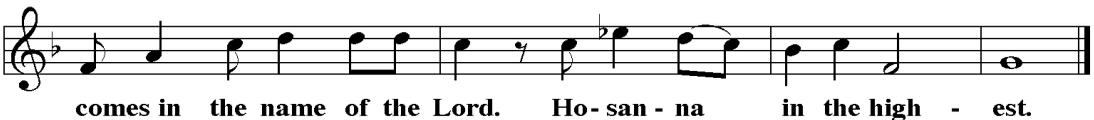
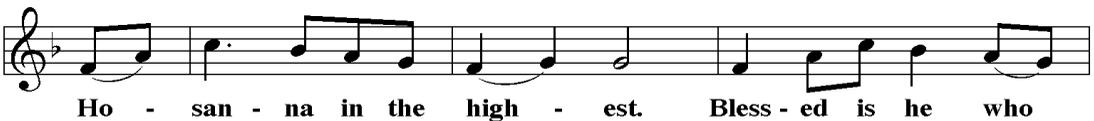
C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Great Thanksgiving



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 what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



***Eucharistic Prayer #33 +**

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.

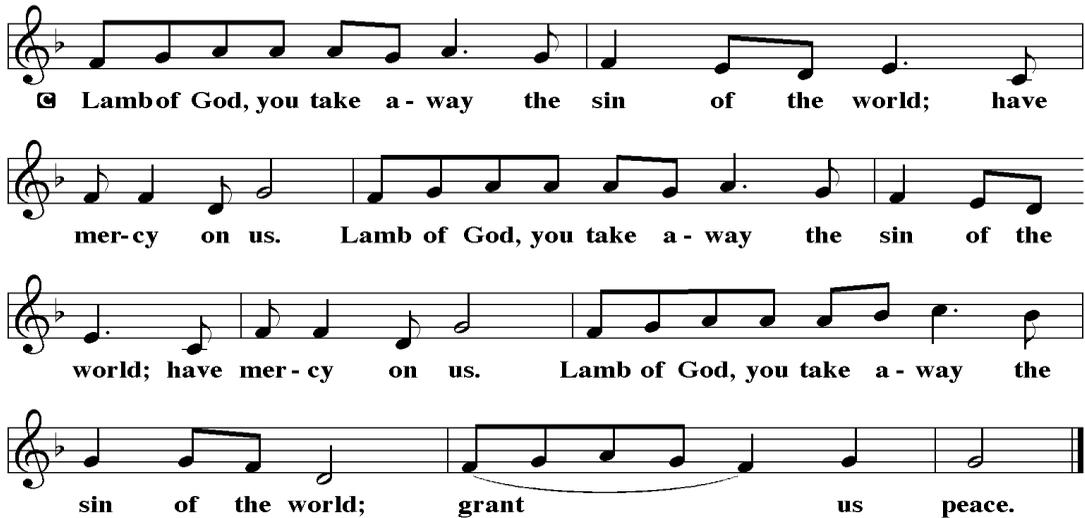
***The Words of Institution**

***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, 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 (Hymn sung during distribution):

Be Thou My Vision WOV#776

*Blessing

*Post Communion Canticale:



C 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 together:

All: Thank You, Lord, for Your patient love demonstrated by Jesus' death and resurrection for us and delivered to us today through the body and blood of Christ. Stir our hearts by Your Holy Spirit to love others with patience, kindness, humility, peacefulness, and truth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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:

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When Peace, like a River

1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way;
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come,
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought;
4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,

When sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What -
Let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That
My sin, not in part, but the whole, Is
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The

ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
Christ hath re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate
nailed to his cross, and I bear it no more.
trum - pet shall sound, and the Lord shall de - scend;

It is well, it is well with my soul.
And hath shed his own blood for my soul.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
E - ven so it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888
Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

IT IS WELL
118 119

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*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright – arr. K. Hildebrand

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Theme of the Day: God's love for his people is evidenced in his "knowing" us before we were born. We are only able to love because God has first loved us. His love is the epitome of unconditional agape love which is shown most clearly in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Without self-giving, self-sacrificing, self-less love, we have nothing. Love is the force that binds us together — a force that has its origin in the Creator.

WELCOME! Thank you for joining 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 join us again!

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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WIFI: John3:16

OFFICE HOURS

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

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CYC DIRECTOR: Malinda Grube

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

SPONSORSHIPS: ALTAR FLOWERS: in memory of Trey Sidenstricker by Tehya Harris **BASKET:** in honor of our grandson's, Isaac Robert Saylor, baptism by Mike & Marguerite Keller **BULLETIN:** in honor of Zana Krout's birthday by her sister, Brenda Shorts **BREAD & WINE:** in honor of my parents, Jack & Joyce Hall, by Steph Keech & Family **MAILING:** in memory of departed family members by Randy & Donna Barshinger **PARISH MESSENGER:** in honor of Joshua, Erica, Noah, Caleb, Benjamin, Ethan, Ashley, Skylar, Charlie, Linda, Devin, Rebecca, Barry, Sylvia, Corby, Candace, Chase and Colton by Ed & Connie Dunklebarger **SANCTUARY LAMP:** in memory of departed family members by Randy & Donna Barshinger

Our Lord's Helpers on January 30, 2022

Greeter: Regina Springer **Acolyte:** Lawrence Smyser

Head Usher: Lawrence Smyser **Sound:** Jack Hall

Lay Reader: Connie Dunklebarger **Altar Guild:** Joyce Hall

Communion Assts.: Connie Dunklebarger / Jean Strine

Activities for the Week of January 30, 2022

Sun. 1/30 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany / Isaac Saylor's Baptism

8:15 am Divine Worship with Holy Communion

9:30 am Faith Builders

10:45 am Divine Worship with Holy Communion

Mon. 1/31 9:00 am Office Staff Meeting

Tues. 2/1 10:00 am Bible Study

6:30 pm Girl Scouts

7:00 pm Hilltop AA / Zoom Bible Study

Thurs. 2/3 9:30 am Pastors' Text Study – Camp Hill

6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Fri. 2/4 7:00 pm Hilltop AA

Sat. 2/5 8:00 am Men of Faith

Sun. 2/6 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

8:15 am Divine Worship with Holy Communion

9:30 am Faith Builders

10:45 am Divine Worship with Holy Communion

12:00 Noon Friends in Christ Lunch at Bob Evans

We welcome Karl Mincemoyer as guest organist today and thank him for sharing his talents with us!

Today, at second service, we will welcome through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism Isaac Robert Saylor, son of Casey & Kevin Saylor. Isaac is the grandson of Mike & Marguerite Keller and great-grandson of Richard & Mary Keller. We pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon him!



Join the Fellowship Committee Sunday, February 13, 2022, at noon, for a Souper Bowl soup tasting. You will taste soup, vote for your favorite, and raise some money for a CYC family in need. Any member of the congregation can bring their favorite homemade soup and join in the fun. We will have a prize for the winner and monetary donations will be accepted for the family. Sign up by Feb. 6th in the library area.

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR JANUARY: MIVO FOUNDATION

MIVO'S mission, which is: "to serve the people of Haiti by offering treatment options for Orthopedic problems. Consistent with a Christian faith, we believe these problems are physical, emotional, and spiritual illnesses. Through Christ-centered care, we integrate these aspects of life to enhance a path to recovery, offering hope from a biblical perspective." This service is best exemplified through real life fact and example. With each passing year, the MIVO Foundation expands our reach as God expands our impact. We have been able to perform critically needed surgeries such as re-alignment and fixation of broken bones, as well as removal of infected hardware in patients' limbs, thus offering hope of returning to independent, productive lifestyles. By partnering with MIVO, you are truly helping to open the doors of possibility for future patients. Your gift is a tangible investment, which will enable us to maintain the clinic's operation year-round as well as help us to prepare for the expansions which God has sent before us. Thank you, too, for your prayers as MIVO strives to reach more and more people for Christ here in the United States and in Haiti. Funds to date for MIVO: \$3,626

MEN OF FAITH

Men's Group will continue to feature our look at why Pennsylvania has been called the Keystone State. Entitled *Anthracite Coal and the Molly Maguires*. This session will focus on the use of our state's unique resource of anthracite coal and the controversy surrounding the violent clash between labor and the owners of the coal mines. We will meet on **Saturday, Feb.5, beginning at 8:00 am and breakfast will be provided.**

BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study helps us to appreciate the Prophetic books of the Bible. Entitled *Flowers in the Desert: Learning to Love the Prophets*, it draws out particularly the hope filled aspects of the Old Testament Prophets' witness. The study is taking place **Tuesdays: February 1, 8, and 22.** Each session is offered twice, once at 10:00 am at the church, and via Zoom at 7:00 pm.

BOOK CLUB



Book Club will meet on Thurs., Feb. 17 at 1:00 pm. We will be reading *Mabbul* by John Reed. It is a novel about Noah and his family on the ark. In January, we read *Superior Getaway* by Tom Hilpert. It is written by a Lutheran pastor and is part of his Lake Superior Mystery series featuring a Lutheran pastor who solves the mysteries. It is written with honor and flair. Please visit our library. Book Club books are displayed on the top including three Lake Superior novels. We have a nice collection of Christian fiction to share with you!

Sermon Notes

“Dress yourself for work...” Jeremiah 1:17a

What is your typical work attire?

What was Jeremiah being asked to put on? Endurance? Obedience?

St. Paul when faced with similar challenges said (Philippians 4:13)

“I can do all things _____.”

These passages bring up a couple of questions for our lives:

1. What are we being called to do?
2. Are we dressed for work – are we ready for the tasks at hand?

We all have different gifts and talents, but we are all called to do the work that God has given us to do in and with _____.

Putting on love should not be difficult since God robes us in the garments of salvation.

Now, we have to realize that, just because God calls us to work, it does not mean he doesn't want us to rest. Remember Matthew 11: 28-30. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Dane Ortlund in his book *Gentle and Lowly* compares Jesus' yoke to a life preserver. Will someone who is thrashing about in stormy waters complain that the life preserver, which has been thrown out to him, is too heavy to put on? I hope not. That is the benefit of the yoke of Christ – his yoke is easy, and his burden is light.

We ask that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, he will fit us with just the right life preserver and then he will help us to jump into the water, no matter how stormy, knowing that we will be safe, always safe in Jesus' arms.

We have been sustained by God since we were born, and we want to praise him all of our days!



TAKING FAITH HOME – January 30, 2022, AD

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

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 Luke 4:21-30 The prophet Jesus is rejected

Monday Deuteronomy 18:15-20 A prophet like Moses is promised

Tuesday Matthew 7:24-29 Jesus' teaching has authority

Wednesday Matthew 13:53-58 Jesus rejected at Nazareth

Thursday Luke 6:20-26 Rejected disciples are blessed

Friday 1 Peter 2:4-11 Rejected by people but chosen by God

Saturday Psalm 56 In God I trust

Sunday Luke 9:28-43 Jesus is transfigured

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not get upset with others. Love does not count up wrongs that have been done. Love takes no pleasure in evil but rejoices over the truth. Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes, and always endures.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NCV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, make us strong when we are rejected because of you. Keep us trusting and following you. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

O God give us hearts that are grateful for all your kindness. As you love us, lead us to love others. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with unfailing love. May that love flow through you to others. Amen.

CARING

CONVERSATION

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What makes you feel loved? How do you show love to others?
- In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Paul gave 16 characteristics of true love. What are they? Which do you think is the toughest to live out?
- How does God's love match up with what Paul wrote about love in these verses?

DEVOTIONS

In your family devotion times this week, use 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a to reflect on the love shown in your home. Ask household members to recall and name ways in which they have been loved by other family members. For example, "You showed me love by being kind when . . ." "You showed me love with our patience when . . ." "You showed me love by forgiving me when . . ."

SERVICE

Think of people outside of your household who show love to you. Make up heart-shaped cards and write a short sentence on each one from Saint Paul's letter on love. For example, on the front you could write, "Love is kind," and on the back, "Thank you for being so kind to me." On the inside of your cards, write short personal notes thanking these people for their love. Plan a way to deliver your cards.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

February 3 is the feast of the Presentation of Our Lord (see Luke 2:22-38), also known as **Candlemas**, involving candlelight processions and the blessing and distribution of candles.

Prepare a home candlelight procession. Have two people play Mary and Joseph, carrying a doll to represent the baby Jesus. Process in candlelight to the waiting Simeon. Simeon takes the "child" and reads aloud from Luke 2:29-32. Then, use the following prayer, lighting four candles where indicated (*).

All: We thank you, God, for sending us light to help us see in so many different ways.

We thank you for the light of the flame that turns darkness into light.*

We thank you for the light of the sun, which divides night from day.* We thank you for the words of the Bible, which show us the right way.* Above all we thank you for Jesus, who is the light of the world.* Please help us shine as lights for you, so that others too can see your love and grace. Amen.

People and issues to pray for in your devotions this week: For Isaac Saylor, that he may grow in faith and understanding though out his life, and for those mentioned today including _____ and _____.

Our quilting group is in need of flat sheets (any size) and cotton material to make LWR quilts. Thank you for your continuous donation of materials for this ministry!



Our Daily Bread dessert for February is blueberry muffins. We need 30 dozen by 9:00am on Friday, Feb.18th. **We are asking that you please individually wrap all Our Daily Bread snacks please.** If you can contribute some muffins, please contact Jean Strine at 717-792-1650. Thank you!