



The Weekly Epistle

Holy Cross Day
September 15, 2024

Take This Sheet Home With You!



@StPaulMorgantown

StPaulMorgantown.org

All Are Welcome! At St. Paul we welcome all to worship and share in God's love, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, age, economic status, background, life situation, or wherever you are in your faith journey.

All who Believe and are Baptized (from any church) are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion here.

A Word from Pastor Tony

Today in worship, we commemorate the Feast of the Holy Cross, a day that brings us to the heart of our faith: the cross of Christ. For Martin Luther, the cross was not merely a symbol of suffering, but the revelation of God's grace and power. Luther's theology of the cross teaches us that God works in ways that contradict worldly expectations. Where we might look for glory and strength, God shows Himself in weakness and humility.

Through Christ's suffering and death, God defeats sin, death, and the devil. It's in the very act of dying that life is given. The cross reminds us that God is present in our own struggles, turning even the darkest moments into opportunities for resurrection and hope. Today, as we lift high the cross, may we cling to its promise that God's love triumphs in the most unexpected ways.



Yours in Christ, +Pastor Tony

Our Hymns Today

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------------|
| ◆ Opening Hymn: | <i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i> | Green #482 |
| ◆ Psalm | 98:1-4 | Green, p.262 |
| ◆ Hymn of the Day: | <i>Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross</i> | Insert |
| ◆ Communion Hymn: | <i>Beneath the Cross of Jesus</i> | Green #107 |
| ◆ Closing Hymn: | <i>Lift High the Cross</i> | Green #377 |

The First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live. (NRSV)

The Second Reading

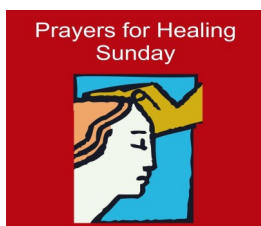
1 Corinthians 1:18-24

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (NRSV)

The Gospel

John 3:13-17

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (NRSV)



You are invited to come up to the rail for prayers and anointing during the Hymn of the Day.

Topic Study: Angels and Demons
7:30—8PM on Google Meet & Facebook
Tuesdays, September 17 & 24



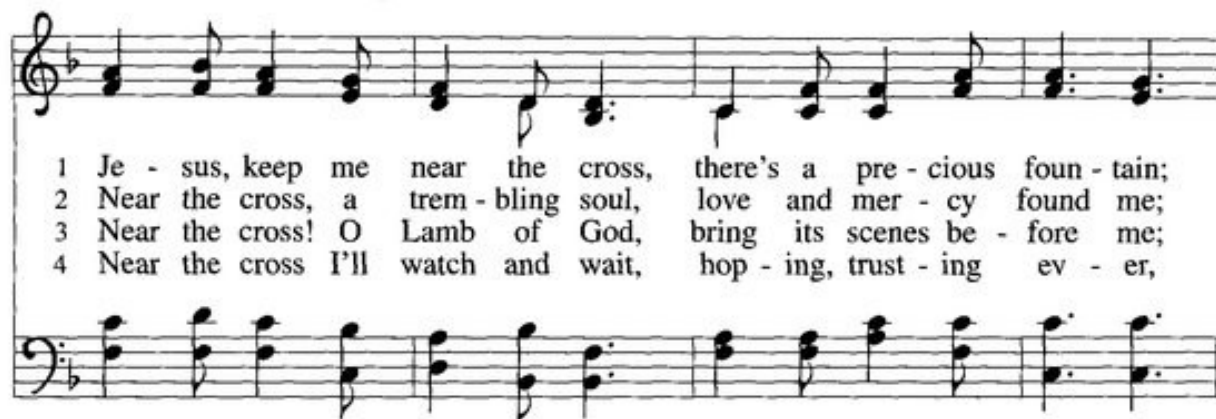
The altar flowers are given by Sylvia McEwuen in thanksgiving for a year of blessings

Communion Today

- ◆ **Communion today** is at the rail. Proceed down aisle filling in from outside toward center. Return to your pew down the side aisle on your side of the Church.
- ◆ **Grape juice & gluten free wafers are available**, just ask for them at the rail.

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

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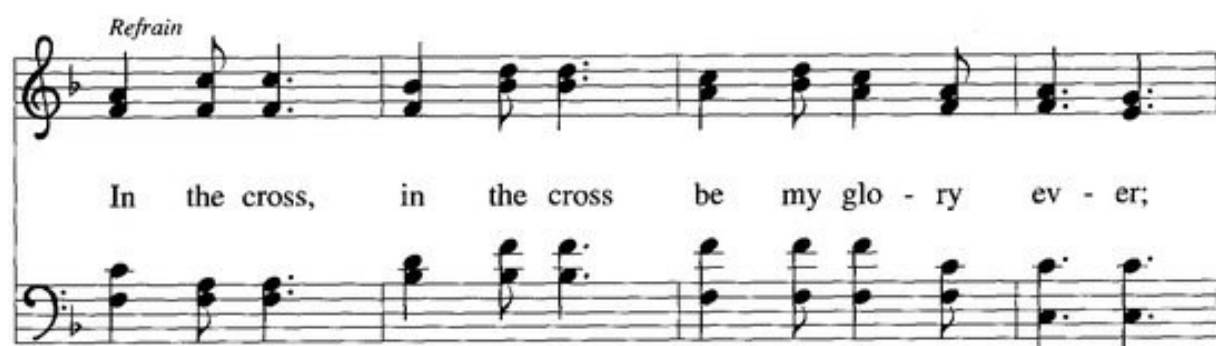


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,




free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.



Online Offering

You can give a secure online offering with a debit/credit card or checking account. Scan or visit:



stpaulmorgantown.org/giving

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Tamara Riegel, Administrator

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9AM —Noon

Call/Text: (304) 599-0620

Office@StPaulMorgantown.org



Officers Of The Congregation

President: Bill Graham

Vice President: Lillian Stevens

Treasurer: Joanne Seasholtz

Secretary: Lindsey Naumann

Financial Secretary: Sue Cook

Serving Today:

Assisting Minister: **Matthew Sampson**

Lector: **Stephanie Setley**

Usher: **Bill Graham**

Counters: **Dave Stiles & Mike Peters**

Broadcaster: **Mary Boroff**

Serving September 22nd:

Assisting Minister: **Sylvia McEwuen**

Lector: **Shabonne Grimm**

Usher: **Larry Springer**

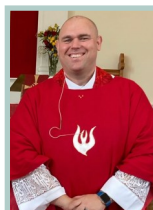
Counters: **Julie Sandolini & Jennifer Reed**

Broadcaster: **Mike & Jen Peters**

The Rev. Tony Setley, Pastor

Phone (text or call):
304-715-2350

Email:
Pastor@StPaulMorgantown.org



This Week's Schedule

Sunday, September 15

Choir (choir loft) 9:00 AM

Adult Bible Study (lounge)

Worship 10:00 AM

Nave

Tuesday, September 17

Bible Study 10:00 AM

Lounge

Angels & Demons Study 7:30 PM

Virtual

Thursday, September 19

Prayerful Walkers 9:00 AM

Parking Lot

Council Meeting 7:00 PM

Lounge

Friday, September 20

Piecemakers 10:00 AM

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 22

Choir (choir loft) 9:00 AM

Adult Bible Study (lounge)

Sunday School (classroom)

Worship 10:00 AM

Nave