

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Growing in faith. Growing in community. Welcoming all in Jesus' name.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
Sunday, February 23, 2025

**10 AM Service of
Holy Communion**

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.



Catch the excitement! Witness the joy! Shape the vision!

ST. PAUL'S VISION STATEMENT (adopted 02/25/2018)

- To worship as a diverse community of all ages
- To engage in faith formation as a community grounded in God's word
- To maintain with depth and integrity the work of feeding the hungry and housing the homeless
- To nurture a strong foundation of generosity, giving, and caring for creation
- To provide a music ministry that encompasses congregation and surrounding communities

Worship at Home and Away

When we cannot be together in person, we can still hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Therefore, we offer the 10 AM service through simultaneous live streaming to St. Paul's Facebook page. The service is then posted to the website, www.stpaulsnewarkde.org and can be found in the upper right hand corner of the home page, along with a digital copy of this worship folder.

Large print worship folders and hearing assist devices are available in the narthex. Ask an usher for assistance.

Two Praygrounds are available for young children – one in the rear of the sanctuary and one in the narthex.

✠ GATHERING ✠

*Worship begins with God who takes the initiative and calls us into being.
We gather at the Holy Spirit's invitation and assemble as the community of faith
on the first day of the week, the day of Christ's resurrection.*

*Upon entering the sanctuary, the people pray silently or engage in quiet meditation
allowing the music to focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.*

PRELUDE

"Softly and Tenderly"

arr. Dale Wood

THOMPSON

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF SCOUT SUNDAY

Please stand, as you are able.

DIALOG AND INVOCATION

Strength is commanding the wind and sea to obey.

Strength is wielding a slingshot in the face of a raging giant.

Strength is accepting vulnerability from inside the boat,

Strength is standing in solidarity with the powerless.

Strength is turning a cheek.

Strength is loving an enemy.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who redefines our vision of strength.

Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

ELW 707

1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly, free - ly,
3 Won-drous hon - or you have giv - en to our hum - blest
4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood

as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -
of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our
char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have
as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -

men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en
thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,
done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—
men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly,

bles - sings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful
warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your
hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of

and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you."
all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.
Show us your lovingkindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine."
In + Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.
Amen.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph forgives his brothers

A reading from Genesis:

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; God has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there – since there are five more years of famine to come – so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' " ¹⁵ And Joseph kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

God has been revealed to us in the word.

Let us wait here and dwell in it.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Antiphon: Ps. 37:11

The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

² For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.

³ Put your trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

⁴ Take delight in the LORD,
who shall give you your heart's desire.

The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what God will do.

⁶ The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.

⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

⁸ Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.

The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.

¹⁰ In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.

¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.

³⁹ But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.

⁴⁰ You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because in you they seek refuge.

The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

The mystery of the resurrection of the body

A reading from First Corinthians:

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body according to God's own choosing, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first human was from the dust of the earth; the second human is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the one made of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the dominion of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

God has been revealed to us in the word.

Let us wait here and dwell in it.

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 6



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38

Love your enemies

The Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, who is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Cris Frigm

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

ELW 603



1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,
3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease
4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.
5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.
for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.
from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.
Use us as a means of bless-ing: make us stron-ger, give us faith.
give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care, especially Trudy, Jameson, Claude, Ricardo, Karen, Kathy, Dot, Mike, Cheryl, Deborah, Bob, Eric, Silas, Jane, Judy, Nancy, Hugh, Rob, Marie, Susan, Michael, JoEllen, Elizabeth, Melissa, Ginny, Isabella, Heyward, Olive, and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts... (*brief silence*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. We pray for our Maryland partners in ministry, especially at Grace Lutheran Church in Easton and St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Ocean City. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us, especially Loretta, Betty, Joan, Julia, Sean, and Dan. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The assembly exchanges Christ's peace
in word and gesture, saying, **Peace be with you.***

Be seated.

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, we offer our gifts for service and mission.

*At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad (the black folder) found at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. We ask **visitors** to provide us with contact information so we can thank you for enriching our worship experience. We ask **members** to update any changes to their information so our records can be maintained.*

OFFERTORY

"God Knows"
Sanctuary Choir

arr. Lopez & Mock

Please stand, as you are able.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray: God of grace,
your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

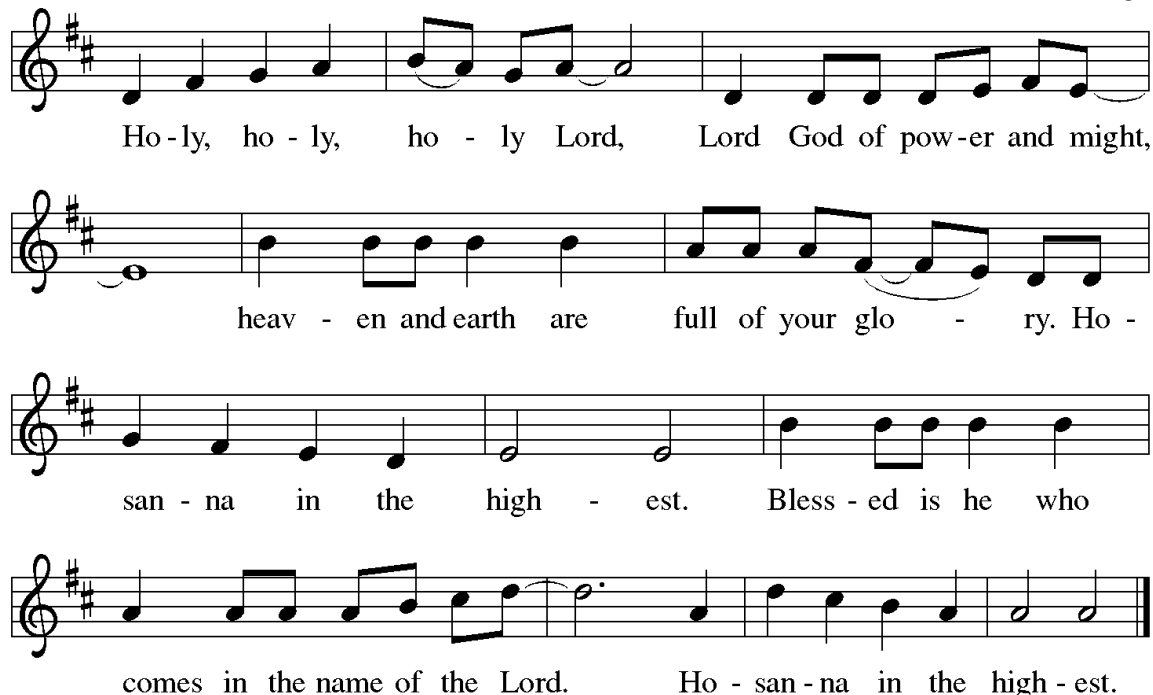
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;

in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth
and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ELW Setting 6



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,

saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

We seek to be your people,
even as we pray as you taught us, saying:

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
We come to eat this meal of gladness.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

ELW Setting 6

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

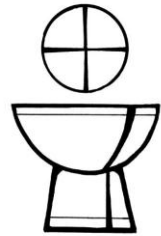
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
 way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.



Non-alcoholic grape juice and gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Spirit, Open My Heart

ACS 1043

Found on p. 16

I Come with Joy

ELW 482

Found on p. 17

*Love your enemies, and you will be children of the Most High;
 forgive, and you will be forgiven.*

Luke 6:35, 37

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
 goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
 friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
 deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
 day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

Text © 1996 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved.

Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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After all have returned to their places, please stand, as you are able.

BLESSING AND PRAYER

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

Amen.

Let us pray.

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

O Day of Peace
ELW 711



1 O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce de - vour the small;



guide us to jus - tice, truth, and love, de-liv-ered from our self - ish schemes.
as beasts and cat - tle calm-ly graze, a lit-tle child shall lead them all.



May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re-lease,
Then en - e - mies shall learn to love, all crea-tures find their true ac-cord;



till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.
the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
Music: JERUSALEM, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Fanfare on
Lasst uns erfreuen“ arr. Phil Lehenbauer

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Marjorie Chin
Lector:	Kaye Tyson
Bread Provider:	Linda Radwick
Altar Guild:	Linda Radwick
Flower Guild:	Keith Tyson



The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory and praise of God.



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LECTIONARY 7 (YEAR C)

The promise and its fulfillment may not look at all alike, even though they are intimately connected. Paul speaks about seeds and plants as he tries to picture resurrection life. Joseph's brothers never thought they would see him alive again, so how shocking he must have appeared to them as an Egyptian leader! Jesus invites us to sow seeds of new life by loving enemies.

COMMENTS FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Probably no admonition of Jesus has been more difficult to follow than the command to "love your enemies." Some men have sincerely felt that its actual practice is not possible. Others, like the philosopher Nietzsche, contend that Jesus' exhortation to love one's enemies is testimony to the fact that the Christian ethic is designed for the weak and the cowardly, and not for the strong and courageous. Jesus, they say, was an impractical idealist. But upheaval after upheaval has reminded us that modern man is traveling along a road called hate, in a journey that will bring us to destruction and damnation. Far from being the pious injunction of a utopian dreamer, the command to love one's enemy is an absolute necessity for our survival. Our responsibility as Christians is to discover the meaning of this command and seek passionately to live it out in our daily lives.

—Martin Luther King Jr., *Strength to Love*,
(Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1963), 47-48

CONNECTIONS WITH CREATION

We might think Jesus' teaching in Luke 6:27-38 to be merely exhortation toward personal morality and individual alignment with God's purposes, but we must recall the larger economic backdrop against which this teaching took place. Jesus was talking to agrarian peasants who were forced to give a significant percentage of their harvest to the wealthy religious elite and the Roman imperial rulers. His instruction was also about disrupting the predatory practices of their overlords with an economy of sharing and equity that reestablished bonds of trust and mutual support. What might it look like today if the church worked toward transforming local communities through alternative economies comparably built on mutual trust and support?

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23, 2025

ASSISTING MINISTER LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

After worship on Sunday, March 2, there will be a gathering of those who currently serve as Assisting Ministers and any folks who would like to join this ministry. Together, we'll review the work of leading worship and make sure everyone who takes on this responsibility is comfortable with their work. Please speak with Pastor Cris if you'd like to hear more about this important opportunity to support the worship life of St. Paul's.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST PROPOSAL

The congregation will be reviewing and voting on a proposal to become a Reconciling in Christ Partner Congregation today at the Annual Meeting. Printed copies of the proposal are available in the narthex. Please review this document in advance of the meeting and bring your questions to the RIC Committee.

APRIL OWLS OUTING

Come join the OWLS on Sunday, April 6, for an outing to see the comedy/drama "Steel Magnolias", performed by Newark's own Chapel Street Players. Chapel Street Players is a community theater which has been entertaining audiences for over 90 years!

We'll enjoy the 2 PM matinee in their new theater, then will head to Skipjack Restaurant for dinner. Tickets are priced \$20 (dinner on your own). This matinee performance is popular so please reserve your ticket with Nancy Lomax ASAP, but no later than Sunday, March 2. (contact for Nancy: N455LOM@verizon.net or 610-357-4065).

Also, please let Nancy know if you want to carpool from church parking lot. The new Chapel Street Theater is at 643 Creek View Road in Newark (about 10 min from church), and has plenty of free parking.

HOLY HIKE

Our next Holy Hike will be Sunday, March 23, as we hike the James Hall Trail, 15 Innovation Way, Newark. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Grund at lgrund923@gmail.com or Rudy Schock at rschock324@gmail.com.

MARCH OWLS OUTING

Join the Older Wiser LutheranS on Friday, March 7, at 9:30 AM as we explore the world of Verse Immersive, the only holographic theater of its kind. The experience uses augmented reality headsets. Our multi-pass tickets will include two thirty-minute experiences with a thirty-minute rest break between events. A late lunch will be on your own at the Kountry Kitchen Family Restaurant.. Contact Linda at 302-738-5491 or lgrund923@gmail.com with questions.

BOOKS AND BANTER

St. Paul's avid readers meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1PM in the Youth Room. If you have a book that you would like to share with the group, please let us know. Please join us for conversation and fellowship.

Upcoming Books:

- February 26 "Eruption" by Michael Crichton & James Patterson
- March 26 "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt

ADULT FORUM

Join in the fun on Sunday morning starting at 8:30 in the Blue Room as Pastor Greg Johnson wraps up his series, "The Gospel of Mark, According to Greg!" Find out how Mark's Gospel ends and the takeaways for our faith and daily lives.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

St. Paul's will hold its annual congregational meeting today, February 23, immediately following worship. Members in good standing are asked to stay and vote. The 2025 Annual Report is available in the Narthex. Please read it in advance of the meeting and come prepared with any questions regarding the constitutional/by-law amendments, the Reconciling In Christ proposal, and the 2025-2026 proposed operating budget.

PROPOSAL APPROVED BY COUNCIL TO BECOME A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION...

THE JOURNEY WE ARE COMMITTING TO

We, the congregation of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, in voting to become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) partner congregation, commit to the following, per the Reconciling Works¹ parent organization:

1. Adopt the proposed RIC welcome statement.
2. Be open to calling LGBTQIA2S+² and BIPOC (Black, Brown, Indigenous, or Person of Color) Rostered Leaders.
3. Allow our sanctuary and community spaces to be used for LGBTQIA2S+ weddings and blessings.³
4. Make a meaningful annual contribution⁴ to the national RIC program.
5. Commit to an ongoing process of making the welcome statement live.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We believe all people are created in God's image. Rooted in Jesus' ministry of liberation, unconditional love, and hospitality, we strive to welcome all into our community. This welcome explicitly includes those who have traditionally been marginalized in the church and society due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, racial and ethnic background, physical ability, developmental ability, citizenship/documentation status, and socio-economic status.

We are committed to continuing both self and community learning, and to making inclusivity a reality for our congregation. Because we seek to be shaped and changed by God through those called into our faith community, all are welcome to the worship life of this congregation. This includes access to the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and full participation in our congregational life and shared ministries.

¹ A Lutheran independent 501(c)3 organization (<https://www.reconcilingworks.org>).

² LBTQIA2S+ (Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Two-Spirit, plus)

³ In accordance with St. Paul's wedding policy regarding appropriate officiants.

⁴ A meaningful annual contribution is determined by our faith community and our budget, with the understanding that the RIC Program is funded by the generosity of its member congregations.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: www.stpaulsnewarkde.org

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.



The Reverend Cris Frigm

Pastor

302-368-0064 ext. 104

pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org

Michael Bareham

Director for Music and Worship

302-368-0064 ext. 123

<mailto:music@stpaulsnewarkde.org>

Jerilynn Hinrichs

Office Administrator

302-368-0064 ext. 101

office@stpaulsnewarkde.org

Nalini Janaki

Business Administrator

302-368-0064 ext. 102

<mailto:business@stpaulsnewarkde.org>

Church Council

Anne Sullivan, *President*

Barb Rhodes, *Vice President*

Heidi Burch, *Secretary*

Mary Collins, *Treasurer*

Kristine Cassar, Winnie Hull, Greg Johnson,

Susie Olson, Emily Pierce

Vacant

Early Education Director

St. Paul's Lutheran School

302-368-0064 ext. 118

stpaulschool@comcast.net

St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

<mailto:prayonstpauls@gmail.com>

office@stpaulsnewarkde.org

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

Articles due by Wednesday morning at

10 AM. Late submissions will be shared

the following week. Please send articles to

the church office at

**WISH TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES
OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH?
THEN SCAN THIS QR CODE**

