

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.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 16, 2025

10 AM Service of

Holy Communion



God is our refuge. There is nothing that can separate you from God, or could keep God from gathering you in, protecting you fiercely. Jesus' lament for Jerusalem is surprising given how he is treated by Jerusalem. And yet, no matter how much we try to separate ourselves from God, God will run to protect us. God's love for us is fuller than we can imagine.

Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex.

If you need any other help with worship, please speak with an usher at the doors to the sanctuary.

WE WELCOME WORSHIPPERS OF ALL AGES

We hope that our young people experience God in our gathering together. Families are welcome to use the Prayground in the rear corner of the sanctuary if you want more space, and to use the Prayground in the narthex if you need a break from the activities in the sanctuary. Most of all, know that the joyful noise of young people in our worship is welcome!

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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

"Passion Reflections"

arr. Terry Osman

Henry Chisholm, piano & Rich Wallden, organ

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able, and turn to face the font.

CALL TO WORSHIP

If God is a hen,

we are under God's wing.

If God is a table,

we each have a seat.

If God is a house,

we are safe from the storm.

If God is a party,

we're invited to dance.

If God is a melody,

our names are the lyrics.

If this is God's house,

then all are welcomed. All are loved. All belong.

Let us worship our holy triune ✠ God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth

ELW 727

The assembly turns forward as the processional cross passes them.



1	Lord	Christ, when	first	you	came	to	earth,	up	-
2	O	awe - some	Love,	which	finds	no	room	in	
3	New	ad - vent	of	the	love	of	Christ,	will	
4	O	wound - ed	hands	of	Je - sus,	build	in		



on a cross they bound you, and mocked your sav - ing
life where sin de - nies you, and, doomed to death, shall
we a - gain re - fuse you, till in the night of
us your new cre - a - tion; our pride is dust, our



king - ship's worth by thorns with which they crowned you. And
bring to doom the pow'r that cru - ci - fies you, till
hate and war we per - ish as we lose you? From
vaunt is stilled; we wait your rev - e - la - tion. O



still our wrongs may fash - ion now new thorns to pierce that
not a stone is left on stone, and then the na - tions'
an - cient doubts our minds re - lease to seek the king - dom
Love that tri - umphs o - ver loss, we bring our hearts be -



stead - y brow, and robe of sor - row round you.
pride, o'er - thrown, will nev - er - more de - fy you!
of your peace, by which a - lone we choose you.
fore your cross; come, fin - ish your sal - va - tion.

Text: W. Russell Bowie, 1882–1969, alt.
Music: MIT FREUDEN ZART, medieval European tune

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, we come to confession not to wallow in our own guilt. Instead, we come to confession because we know that change starts with being honest. So in a desire to grow and change, let us pray to a God who loves us like a mother hen. Let us confess our sins together.

Silence for reflection.

When the Pharisees tried to stop Jesus, Jesus said,

“I will keep on.”

I will keep on healing.

I will keep on teaching.

I will keep on preaching.

I will keep on flipping the tables of injustice.

I will keep on treating every person like a child of God.

I will keep on believing that this world can change.

I will keep on

and keep on

and keep on until God’s promised day.

Forgive us, God, for the times when we stop. Amen.

Family of faith, because Jesus’ love just keeps going, we can trust that that love and grace exists for us. So, rest in this good news:

No matter what we do wrong or what we leave undone,

we are under God’s wing. We are loved, held, and forgiven.

Thanks be to God for a love like that!

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.

Holy God, this life of ours is full to the brim. Our days are overflowing with emails and to-do lists, schedules and notifications, assignments and deadlines. We wake up feeling behind, we go to sleep worrying about tomorrow, and we know – there *has* to be more than this. So, we pray: bend down and show us the way. Leave breadcrumbs in the street. Point us toward awe and wonder. Guide us to intimacy and trust. Gift us with laughter that will make us cry and hope that will make us feel alive. We want a new kind of full to the brim. Show us the way. We are listening for your cues. Gratefully we pray.

Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

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

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

The covenant with Abram and his descendants

A reading from Genesis:

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ The LORD brought Abram outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then the LORD said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And Abram believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then the LORD said to Abram, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ The LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ Abram brought the LORD all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.
- 3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear.
Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.
- 4 One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple.
- 5 For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary,
and raise me high up- | on a rock.
- 6 Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music | to the LORD.
- 7 Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call;
have mercy on me and | answer me.
- 8 My heart speaks your message – | “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, | I will seek.
- 9 Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.
Cast me not away – you have been my helper; forsake me not,
O God of | my salvation.
- 10 Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me,
the LORD will | take me in.
- 11 Teach me your | way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.
- 12 Subject me not to the will | of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.
- 13 This I believe – that I will see the goodness | of the LORD
in the land | of the living!

¹⁴ Wait for the LORD | and be strong.
Take heart and wait | for the LORD!

SECOND READING Philipians 3:17 – 4:1

Our citizenship is in heaven from where we expect a Savior

A reading from Philipians:

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ The Lord will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

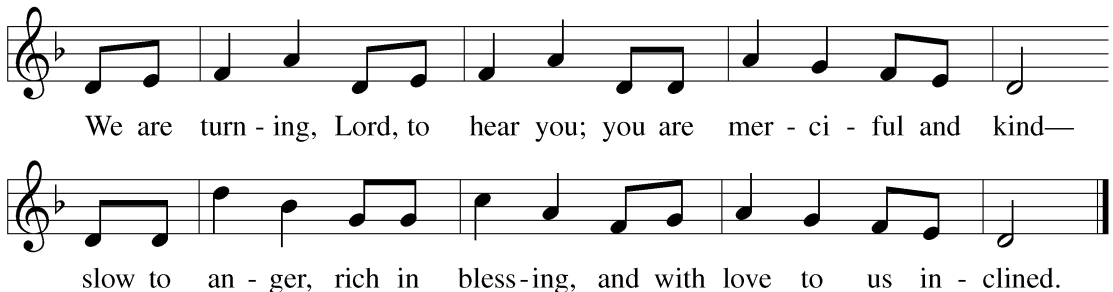
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 10



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind—
slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:31-35

I have desired to gather Jerusalem as a hen gathers her brood

The Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² Jesus said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

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

Thy Holy Wings

ELW 613



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite
Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A modern paraphrase of Psalm 27

Let us profess our faith:

**The Lord is my light. The Lord surrounds me
like a warm, familiar quilt, in layers of grace.**

Whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the sturdy foundation and the roof over my head.

I am not afraid.

**When the world is at its worst – when grief clings to my bones,
when fear eats at my confidence, when loneliness moves into my house –**

God sets the table, turns on the lights, and invites me to dance.

So even though there are days that feel like too much to bear,

I know – I am not alone.

**So I ask the Lord, I seek and I pray –
let me live in your house all of my days.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need, especially Chris, Dominic, Sloane, Gretchen, Kylee, Jameson, Claude, Ricardo, Karen, Silas, Marie, Susan, Michael, JoEllen, Elizabeth, Melissa, and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts...*(brief silence)*. May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you promise redemption to a world that will not listen. Gather us and our partners in ministry, Hope Lutheran Church in New Castle and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Dover, to yourself in tenderness, open our ears to listen to your word, and teach us to live faithfully as people confident in the fulfillment of your promises. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, especially Trudy, Jim, Bill, Loretta, Betty, and Joan. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

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 records are maintained.*

ANTHEM

"Blessed, Holy Jesus"
Sanctuary Choir

arr. Althouse

Please stand and sing as the gifts are presented and the table is set.

OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

ELW 185

Found on p. 12

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

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.

God who knows us, we are amazed by you.

Your love never runs out, your hope never runs dry, your joy never gives up.

We wish that we could be more like you in that way.

In a world that loves scarcity, your abundance is shocking.

In a world that knows fear, your joy is compelling.

In a world that knows anxiety, your peace is captivating.

We long for these things.

So today we ask you—be with us on the hamster wheel.

Be with us when compassion fatigue rears her head.

Be with us when stress makes it hard to breathe.

Be with us when self-doubt pushes in close.

Be with us when exhaustion becomes constant

or when loneliness becomes our primary language.

Be with us and show us the way to the life you long for us.

Be with us as we remember the night in which 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.

Show us a life of expansive faith.

Show us a life of overflowing joy.

Show us a life of absorbing beauty.

Show us a life of engrossing purpose.

Show us a life that is as honest, and rich, and meaningful as the one Jesus led.

And until that expansive and holy day, we will continue to gather at this Table.

Until that day we will continue to look for you in our midst. So pour out a

double portion of yourself onto this bread and cup so that we might catch a

glimpse of your goodness. God, we are amazed by you. Your love never runs

out, so bring that never-ending love here as together we pray...

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

Jesus has always been one to invite, and that has not changed.

So friends, you are invited to this Table.

Each and every one of us – with our doubts, our fears, our scars, our joy, our dreams, our hopes, our questions – we are invited to God’s table.

And here we will be met. Here we will be fed. Here we are given a taste of an expansive life that is full to the brim with love, overflowing with joy. So come.

Not because we must, but because we can.

Come. You are invited. This Table is for you.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Jesus, Lamb of God,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

grant us peace.

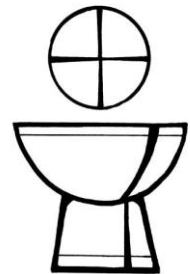
Be seated.

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

Around You, O Lord Jesus

ELW 468 (harmony)



- 1 A - round you, O Lord Je - sus, your own you gath - er still
- 2 We hear your in - vi - ta - tion, and heed, O Lord, your call;
- 3 We are your own for - ev - er; un - til our fi - nal breath



to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill.
your word of con - so - la - tion is spo - ken here to all.
we will be true and nev - er— in joy, in grief, in death—



You say to us so lov - ing - ly, "Take, eat! This is my
It draws us to your lov - ing heart; it brings to us your
de - part from you, for you are still a - mong your peo - ple



bod - y! Take, drink! This is my blood!"
bless - ing, which nev - er will de - part.
dwell - ing, as you have said you will.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. composite
Music: O JESU, ÅN DE DINA, H. Thomissön, *Den danske Psalmebog*, 1569
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Here on Jesus Christ I Stand

ACS 1024

Refrain



Kwa - ke *Ye - su na - si - ma - ma,* *ndi - ye*
Here on Je - sus Christ I will stand. He's the



mwam - ba ni sa - la - ma. *Ndi - ye mwam - ba ni sa - la -*
sol - id rock of my life. He's the sol - id rock of my



ma, *ndi - ye* *mwam - ba ni* *sa - la - ma.*
life. He's the sol - id rock of my life.



1 There's no oth - er place I can hide till the
2 It is not the work of my hands that has
3 When my days on this earth are done, and I



storm that rag - es sub - sides. My voice cries to God from the
washed a - way all my sins. I'm re - deemed, and all of my
stand at God's ho - ly throne, my heart will not have an - y

Refrain



flood, and I'm saved be - cause of his blood.
days, Je - sus Christ will be my heart's praise.
fear; in Christ's righ - teous - ness I am here.

Text: Kenyan hymn; adapt. Greg Scheer, b. 1966
Music: KWAKE YESU NASIMAMA, Kenyan melody; adapt. Greg Scheer
Text © 2007 East African Annual Conference, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik
English adapt. and arr. © 2007 Greg Scheer, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

*After all have communed and returned to their places, **please remain seated.***

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Strengthened by the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and kept in his grace, we pray. Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

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

LIFE OF THE CHURCH – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

BENEDICTION

As you leave this place, may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world. May you laugh, and may it be contagious. May you overflow with love for those around you. May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy. And in all of your living, and breathing, and being, may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit, and may it change your life, in the name of the Lover, ✠ the Beloved, and Love itself.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

O Beauty Ever Ancient

ACS 100

Found on p. 18

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, full to the brim.

Thanks be to God.

Postludes, a festive element of worship,
will not be played during the season of Lent.

O Beauty Ever Ancient



1 O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,
2 O beau-ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,
3 O beau-ty that is move - ment in liq - uid line of grace,
4 O beau-ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,



di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,
O beau - ty in the si - lence, in dark-ness as in light,
O beau - ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,
O beau - ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,



in grat - i-tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931–2020

Music: ANCIENT BEAUTY, Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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*The Son of Man must be lifted up,
that whoever believes in him
may have eternal life.*

John 3:14-15

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: Marjorie Chin
Lector: Lorraine Fett
Crucifer: Linda Grund
Bread Provider: Sherri Mench
Altar Guild: Lynn Deschere

There are no flowers in the chancel during the season of Lent. Instead let the décor remind you that God wants a life for you so expansive that faith, joy, and hope flow over the edges.

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Fill to the Brim: An Expansive Lent worship resources written by The Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT, March 23, 2025

You are worthy

Like the fig tree, you are worthy. You're not a lost cause. You're not a waste of resources. You deserve to be nurtured. Your fruit will come. Like the gardener, you are invited to see others with audacious hope and budding potential. The lesson of the fig tree invites us to unpack the source of our worth in a system and society that often measures worthiness by commerce, production, output, success, status, achievement, ethnicity, and/or gender identity. We might ask, "Can the fig tree have worth even if it never produces any figs?" What does that mean for us if the answer is "yes"?

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 16, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

OUR MUSICIANS THIS MORNING

We welcome Rich Wallden to the organ bench and Henry Chisholm at the piano while Mike is on vacation in Pittsburgh for a wedding. We thank them for sharing their talents with us and for allowing Mike to spend time with family.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Please join us after worship today, Sunday, March 16, from 11:30 AM to 1 PM as we continue our series of Coffee and Conversation. This month's topics will include worship at St. Paul's, suggestions for website enhancements, and the need for enhanced technology. Any questions - please touch base with coordinator Linda Grund at lgrund923@gmail.com or 302-738-5491.

ADULT FORUM

Through the season of Lent, we will have a series of Adult Forums led by Pastor Cris. We'll focus on the Gospel readings with maybe a little bit of art thrown in as we explore our Lenten theme, "Full to the Brim." Join the conversation as we move beyond thinking of Lent as a season to "give something up" and more about how God fills our lives with what we need. We start at 8:30 AM on Sunday mornings in the Blue Room

FISH ARE ON THE MARCH (SORT OF)

Fish don't have feet so they can't march, but you can – so come help us at our FISH events next week! The Food Bank pickup will be on Thursday, March 20, at 1 PM, and then at 6:30 PM, we'll gather in Fellowship Hall to pack boxes. On Friday, March 21, from 2:30 PM until 4 PM, we will have the monthly distribution, also in Fellowship Hall. For more information, please call or email Keith Bart (302-345-6107 or keith.m.bart@gmail.com).

SAINTLY SENIOR SPRING SPECIAL

Our support of our homebound members has been growing over the last few years thanks to your generous support and participation. We are currently maintaining an outreach to 18 seniors. Join us right after church today, as we put together some beautiful spring flowers in pretty vases to deliver to our seniors along with some yummy chocolates. We are also seeking **monetary contributions** to support this effort – please see Ellen Garrison with your check or cash donation. We are also looking for a few more **volunteers to visit** our seniors. Please let coordinator Linda Grund know if you are available to do so within the next couple of days.

HOLY HIKE

Our Holy Hike will be next Sunday, March 23, as we hike the James Hall Trail, 15 Innovation Way, Newark. This flat, paved trail is 3.6 miles out and back. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Grund at lgrund923@gmail.com or Rudy Schock at rschock324@gmail.com.

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:

March 26

“Remarkably Bright Creatures” by Shelby Van Pelt

April 23

“Horse” by Geraldine Brooks

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY

Thinking of You: Have you noticed recently that a friend in our congregation hasn't been in church for a while? If so, please take a moment to send them a card to let them know you care. Cards and addresses are located on the table in the back of the narthex.

Prayer Squares: Do you know someone who could use a hug, comfort or love? Take a pocket prayer square from the basket in the rear of the narthex and deliver this reminder that God loves them and so do you!

CONNECTION WITH CREATION

God's promise that Abram's descendants would be as numerous as the stars in heaven is rightly mind-boggling for a person of his age with no children to be his heirs. This illustration's familiarity means that stargazers may look into a dark night sky, see the abundance of stars, and, like Abram, ponder the magnitude of this promise. Lent marks the lengthening of days in the Northern Hemisphere and the return of light after the darker winter season. But as daylight increases, there are fewer hours of darkness to stargaze, and light pollution from our many modern sources of artificial light restricts this further. When the James Webb Space Telescope launched, its orbit was designed to limit Earth's light interference. When its first images were released by NASA, humans around the world were dazzled by pictures of a vast universe filled with countless unique stars beyond our imagination, allowing us to more deeply explore the wonders of God's creation and the expansiveness of God's promises. As we approach the spring equinox and the paschal dawn, consider incorporating a thanksgiving for the beauty of darkness whether in your Sunday assembly or a midweek Lenten worship.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Pharisees are often depicted negatively in our lessons and teachings, but today's gospel shows them coming to warn Jesus against the schemes of their common enemy: Herod. While some may still question their intentions, it seems clear they did not want Jesus to be hurt. How can this help us understand the relationship between Jesus and the Pharisees?



EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

St. Paul's will be ordering an assortment of flowers for our celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord on Sunday, April 20.

ORDERS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, MARCH 30.

Please place completed form in the offering plate or send it into the church office.

Payment can be made by cash, check, or by clicking the "Easter flowers" tab on the drop down menu using [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.com), accessed by the QR Code below.

I/we would like to order a total of _____ 6" Easter lilies (5+ bloom) at \$11.00 each.

I/we would like to order a total of _____ 6" Tulips (6 bloom) at \$8.00 each

Color and quantity _____ White _____ Yellow _____ Purple/Lilac

I/we would like to order a total of _____ 8" Tulips (10 bloom) at \$13.00 each

Color and quantity _____ White _____ Yellow _____ Purple/Lilac

I/we would like to order a total of _____ 6" (3 bloom) Hydrangeas at \$8.00 each

Color and quantity _____ Pink _____ Blue

I/we would like to order a total of _____ 6" Cushion mums (assorted) at \$9.00 each.

I/we would like to order a total of _____ 6" Daffodils (yellow) at \$8.00 each.

Total: \$_____ Envelope # _____

Paid by: [] Cash [] Check # _____

[] [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.com) online giving (Please pay the processing fee.)



Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Additional dedications can be written on the other side or on another piece of paper.



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

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Church Council

Anne Sullivan, *President*

Greg Johnson, *Vice President*

Heidi Burch, *Secretary*

Mary Collins, *Treasurer*

Kristine Cassar, Phillip Gerecke,

Winnie Hull, Ian Kenyon, Susie Olson

St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

prayonstpauls@gmail.com

Michael Bareham

Director for Music and Worship

302-368-0064 ext. 123

music@stpaulsnewarkde.org

Nalini Janaki

Business Administrator

302-368-0064 ext. 102

business@stpaulsnewarkde.org

Vacant

Early Education Director

St. Paul's Lutheran School

302-368-0064 ext. 118

stpaulschool@comcast.net

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 office@stpaulsnewarkde.org

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

