

# 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.*

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**March 23, 2025**

**10 AM Service of**  
**Holy Communion**



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"?

**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 Playground in the rear corner of the sanctuary if you want more space, and to use the Playground 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**                      “As the Sun with Longer Journey”                      arr. David Lasky  
NAGEL

### WELCOME

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

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who are thirsty.

**Come, all who are seeking.**

Come, all who are waiting.

**Come, all who labor.**

Come, all who need rest.

**Come, all who dream dreams.**

Come—whether you're young or old,  
confident or curious, lonely or hopeful.

**This is God's house. All are welcome here.**

Come, let us worship the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**                                              **Before the Waters Nourished Earth**  
ACS 1049

*The assembly turns forward as the processional cross passes them.*



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -  
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of  
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows  
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - in<sup>3</sup>ed morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the  
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in  
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's  
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.  
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.  
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.  
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961  
Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody  
Text © 1996 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

There is something so healing, so life-giving, about telling our stories. In the prayer of confession, that is what we get to do. The mask comes off. Any pretense of perfection is removed. We let the pressure to perform slip away and we sit here, face to face with God, sharing honestly who we long to be. Friends, there is healing here. There is life to be gained here. So, join me in this moment of honesty.

*Silence for reflection.*

Let us pray.

**Holy God, we treat our self-worth like something that can be bought at a store; but you know this even better than we do. Instead of trusting that we are made good, instead of trusting that we are loved exactly as we are, we stockpile our value in earthly things – in trophies and awards, in likes and follows, in wealth and power. Forgive us for creating our own measuring stick. Heal our open wounds and tell our hearts that we won't be forgotten if we slow down. We won't be forgotten if we rest. Gratefully we pray. Amen.**

Friends, take a deep breath. Release the tension in your jaw.

There is good news here. For even when we stumble, even when we take the easy way out, even when we forget our own self-worth, even when we lose our way – we belong to God. Say it with me –

**We are loved. We are claimed. We are under God's wing.  
We are worthy of grace. We belong to 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.

God of fig trees and foxes, of today and tomorrow, we would like to ask that you scoop us up. Pick us up like a great gust of wind. Startle us awake like a first love. Light a fire in us like tomorrow depends on today. Do all of this to get our attention and then turn us toward you. We are a scattered people, God. The world is moving faster than we can keep up. So, we pray – scoop us up. Catch our eye. Open our ears. Capture our attention. We are here. We long to be close to you.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **✝ WORD ✝**

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

## **FIRST READING**

### **Isaiah 55:1-9**

*Everyone who thirsts, come to the water; seek the LORD*

A reading from Isaiah:

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for the LORD has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while the LORD may be found,  
call upon God while God is near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, who will have mercy on them,  
and to our God, who will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God, word of life.

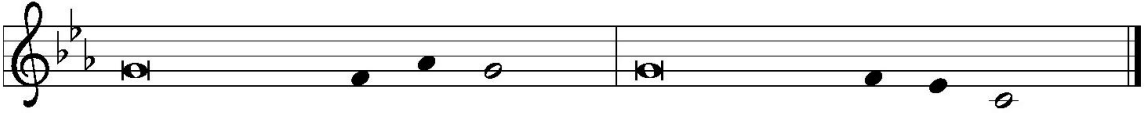
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 63:1-18**

*Sung in unison to Psalm Tone 9*



<sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; eager-ly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.



<sup>2</sup>Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,  
that I might behold your power | and your glory.

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;  
my lips shall | give you praise.

<sup>4</sup>So will I bless you as long | as I live  
and lift up my hands | in your name.

<sup>5</sup>My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,

<sup>6</sup>when I remember you up- | on my bed,  
and meditate on you in | the night watches.

<sup>7</sup>For you have | been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.

<sup>8</sup>My whole being | clings to you;  
your right hand | holds me fast.

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

*Israel, baptized in cloud and seas, ate the same spiritual food as Christians*

A reading from First Corinthians:

<sup>1</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and

were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing God will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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 13:1-9

*Unless you repent, you will perish: parable of the fig tree*

The Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> Jesus asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup> Then Jesus told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> The gardener replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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**

**As the Sun with Longer Journey**  
ELW 329



1 As the sun with long - er jour - ney melts the win - ter's snow and ice,  
2 Through the days of wait - ing, watch - ing, in the des - ert of our sin,  
3 Praise be giv - en to the mak - er of the sea - sons' year - ly round:



with its slow - ly grow - ing ra - diance warms the seed be - neath the earth,  
search - ing on the far ho - ri - zon for a sign of cloud or wind,  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it—Source, Sus - tain - er, Lord of life,



may the sun of Christ's up - ris - ing gent - ly bring our hearts to life.  
we a - wait the heal - ing wa - ters of our Sav - ior's vic - to - ry.  
as the ev - er turn - ing a - ges roll to their e - ter - nal rest.



## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us profess our faith:

**We believe that the God of the cosmos is at work here.**

**We believe that God is fertilizing the soil.**

**We believe that God is planting roots.**

**We believe that God is growing fruit that is yet to be tasted.**

**But until that promised day when the fig tree stands tall  
and swords are beaten into plowshares, we believe:**

**when our work does not bear fruit, God still loves us.**

**When our soil grows dry and cracked, God still longs for us.**

**When all seems hopeless here on earth, God holds hope for us.**

**The God of the cosmos is at work here. We believe.**

**Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray.**

**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.*

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion, especially Louise, Dominic, Sloane, Gretchen, Trudy, 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)*. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly and our partners in ministry throughout the Delaware-Maryland Synod, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended, Jim, Bill, Loretta, Betty, and Joan. May their witness inspire our own. 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**

"Seek the Lord"  
Sanctuary Choir

John Carter

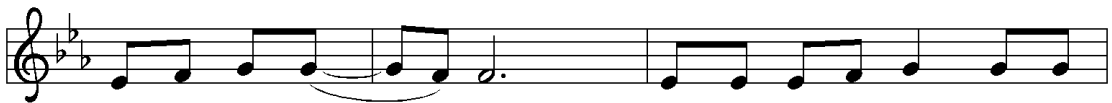
*Please stand and sing as the gifts are presented and the table is set.*

**OFFERTORY**

**Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God**  
ELW 185



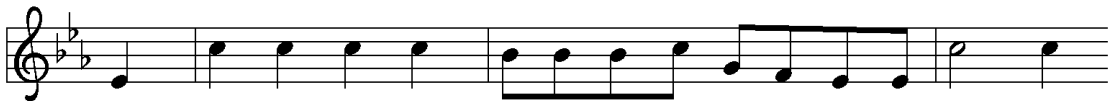
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



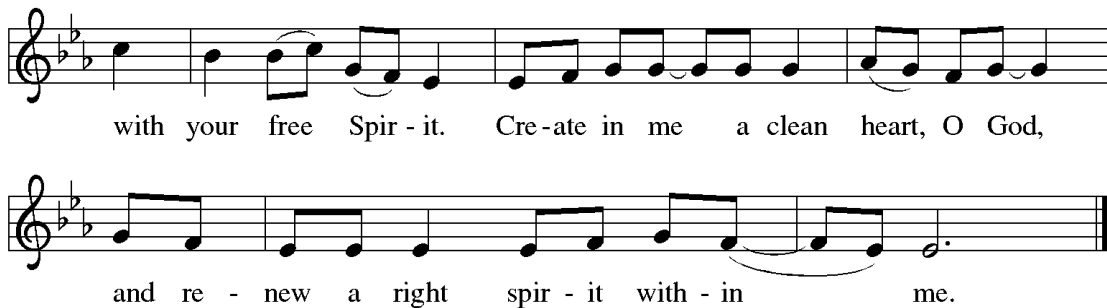
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



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.**

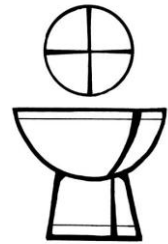
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
**grant us peace.**

*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

### O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts ELW 658 (harmony)



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of  
2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to  
3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our  
4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our



life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -  
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -  
chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you  
mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -



parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.  
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.  
turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.  
way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.  
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

## Jesus, Still Lead On

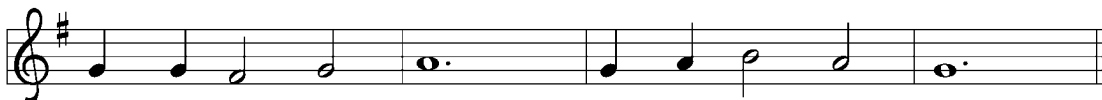
ELW 624



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the  
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less  
3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions  
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;  
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;  
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;  
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.  
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.  
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.  
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.  
Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

*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**

## **All the Way My Savior Leads Me**

TFF 259

*Found on p. 17*

## **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.



# All the Way My Savior Leads Me



1 All the way my Sav-ior leads me; what have I to ask be - side?  
2 All the way my Sav-ior leads me, cheers each wind - ing path I tread,  
3 All the way my Sav-ior leads me; oh, the full - ness of his love!



Can I doubt his ten - der mer - cy, who through life has been my guide?  
gives me grace for ev - 'ry tri - al, feeds me with the liv - ing bread.  
Per - fect rest to me is prom - ised in my Fa - ther's house a - bove.



Heav'n - ly peace, di - vin - est com - fort, here by faith in him to dwell!  
Though my wea - ry steps may fal - ter, and my soul a - thirst may be,  
When my spir - it, clothed im - mor - tal, wings its flight to realms of day,



For I know, what - e'er be - fall me, Je - sus do - eth all things well;  
gush - ing from the rock be - fore me, lo, a spring of joy I see;  
this my song through end - less a - ges—Je - sus led me all the way;



for I know, what - e'er be - fall me, Je - sus do - eth all things well.  
gush - ing from the rock be - fore me, lo, a spring of joy I see.  
this my song through end - less a - ges—Je - sus led me all the way!

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ALL THE WAY, Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

*Jesus began to proclaim, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.*

Matthew 4:17

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Kristine Cassar
Lector:	Linda Grund
Crucifer:	Lorraine Fett
Bread Provider:	Linda Radwick
Altar Guild:	Linda Radwick

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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## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, March 30, 2025

### *Prodigal grace*

The word “prodigal” is commonly used to describe the son who squanders his inheritance. Yet, this parable invites us to consider how God’s grace is also prodigal – extravagant, lavish, illogical. This parable disrupts and expands our definitions of grace. Once again, grace is not earned. After wasting his resources, the younger son becomes destitute and returns home to his father, saying, “I am no longer worthy.” His father, instead, greets him with a celebration and the fatted calf. The older son, in contrast, has done everything “right” – he’s tried to perform, work hard, check all the boxes – but he forgets how to celebrate. How might you receive and extend prodigal grace?

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# ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

## IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 23, 2025

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### THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

### ADULT FORUM

We continue our 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.

### HOLY HIKE

Our Holy Hike will be today, 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](mailto:lgrund923@gmail.com) or Rudy Schock at [rschock324@gmail.com](mailto:rschock324@gmail.com).

### BREWING THEOLOGY

For everyone 21 and older, please plan to join us on Wednesday, March 26, at 7 PM at the Delaware Saengerbund for a tasty beverage, some snacks, and some hearty conversation. Our topic for this week will be "Forgiveness and Reconciliation".

## 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

## YOUTHERANS EVENT

Please join the youth of the Delmarva North Conference (Grades 6-12) on Sunday, March 30, at Retro Roy's Arcade, 601 N. Bridge Street, Suite C, in Elkton, Maryland. The plan is to play for a couple hours and have lunch with each other. This event is free. It would be very helpful to get a RSVP to Pastor Zach at [pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com](mailto:pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com), so we have enough food.

## SOUNDING BRASS FOR EASTER

If you play a brass instrument – trumpet, horn in F, baritone, trombone, or tuba – and want to join our brass ensemble for Easter, please contact our Director for Music and Worship, Mike Bareham, at [music@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:music@stpaulsnewarkde.org). The ensemble will rehearse on Tuesdays from 4:15 – 5:30 PM, starting March 25.

## CONNECTIONS WITH CREATION

Despite the frustration of the landowner in today's parable, trees don't necessarily produce fruit every year, especially in stressful conditions. Instead of learning about or caring for his tree, the landowner assumes it is faulty – a "waste of soil." It is curious that many interpreters assume that the landowner in this parable is God, given he demands the fig tree produce or perish. Instead, the landowner's frustration sounds all too human; when something doesn't bend to our will, we call it a waste – but God does not. Christ has never called us a waste of soil – or a waste of grace. Indeed it is Jesus, who is associated with the gardener, who cares for us and feeds us so we might be fruitful anew.

## *What I Forgot*

Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree.  
No fruit here, just soaking up the sun,  
growing roots, turning green,  
stretching out my branches until  
I can hug the horizon.

Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree,  
because she doesn't produce,  
and she's not exhausted,  
and she probably gets eight hours  
of sleep at night.

And her branches,  
unlike my shoulders,  
are not heavy with work—  
pulled toward the ground,  
threatening to break.

And her trunk,  
unlike my spine,  
is not fighting to stand tall  
while holding it all together.

Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree  
because she knows  
what I forgot  
many years ago.

You are still worthy  
even if  
you don't produce.





# Worship Schedule for **Holy Week**

**Sunday, April 13**

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION**

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the multitude of disciples begins to joyfully shout with praise. The Pharisees try to silence them, but Jesus responds: “I tell you, even if these were silent, the stones would shout out.” All of creation cries out with praise—that message rises above the noise, even if the oppressive powers want to silence it. As we begin our walk through Holy Week, let us ask: What can’t be silenced? What must be said? What things can we not stay quiet about? What is bubbling up that we need to give voice to—faith questions, apologies, issues of justice, truth-telling? As we go deeper into the story, the truth will soon be set free.

*10:00 AM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed*

**Thursday, April 17**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

In a room full to the brim with emotion, Jesus offers a tender, loving, and humble goodbye, stooping low to wash and caress his disciples’ feet. Like the water splashing within the washbasin, his actions ripple out: “Go and do likewise. Just as I have loved you, love one another.” We can’t fully give without receiving also; love is designed to be shared. As is the case for Peter, receiving selfless, poured out love fundamentally changes us. It’s a practice of surrender and letting go. It reminds us of how God loves us. And so, on this evening, remove the walls and protective layers you have built up. Allow yourself to be loved fully by God. Allow yourself to be filled to the brim so you can go out and fill others too.

*7:00 PM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed*

**Friday, April 18**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

On this day, we grieve the violence of humanity. In John’s account of Jesus’ death, Jesus’ final words are: “I am thirsty. . . it is finished.” He is offered a jar full of sour wine as he takes his final breaths. And yet, even here, God’s love is full, poured out, self-emptied. Even in his last moments, Jesus is overflowing with truth and the fullness of the human experience. God embodies the fullness of pain and deep sorrow. And so, in the silence of this day, let us, too, sit in the fullness of this cup of sorrow.

*7:00 PM The Way of the Cross—Live Streamed*



# 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](http://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](mailto:pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

## Jerilynn Hinrichs

*Office Administrator*

302-368-0064 ext. 101

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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](mailto:prayonstpauls@gmail.com)

## Michael Bareham

*Director for Music and Worship*

302-368-0064 ext. 123

[music@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:music@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

## Nalini Janaki

*Business Administrator*

302-368-0064 ext. 102

[business@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:business@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

## Vacant

*Early Education Director*

St. Paul's Lutheran School

302-368-0064 ext. 118

[stpaulschool@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:office@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

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

