

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 30, 2025

10 AM Service of

Holy Communion



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.

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

"What Wondrous Love"

arr. Rod Jeffords

Joanne Hench, piano & Mike Bareham, keyboard

WELCOME

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

God's reach is endless.

God's mercy is unstoppable.

God's grace is lavish.

God's love is constant.

God's wisdom is vast.

God's hope is stubborn.

God's presence is here—

with us, among us, moving through us.

Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

We are in God's house.

Come, let us worship the holy Trinity,

✠ one God, who welcomes us home.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Our Father, We Have Wandered

ELW 606 (harmony)

The assembly turns forward as the processional cross passes them.



- 1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
- 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
- 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan-dered your leg-a-cy of grace.
be-hold us, Lord, re-turn-ing with hope and trust to you.
com-pas-sion-ate, for-giv-ing, and ev-er-car-ing Lord,



But now, in ex-ile dwell-ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re-joic-ing bring,
grant now that our trans-gress-ing, our faith-less-ness may cease.



as, dis-tant but com-pel-ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless-ing, in par-don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

Text © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

If you ask any parent with a teenager what it's like to wait up for their child to meet curfew, they will tell you – they're standing at the door. The porch light is on. No one can sleep until that child is home safe. Friends, I think God is like that for us. The porch light is on. The door is unlocked. We might be late for curfew, but God is just so glad we're home. So we confess together, trusting that no matter what we do or what we leave undone, the porch light is always on.

Silence for reflection.

Let us pray.

The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name. It sounds like ours. And we know his story. It sounds like ours. For who among us hasn't burned a bridge? Who among us hasn't forgotten that we belong to one another? Who among us has not ached for home? The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name. Forgive us God. We want to come home.

Family of faith, the word ‘prodigal’ can be defined as wasteful or imprudent, hence the name, “Prodigal Son.” However, ‘prodigal’ can also be described as extravagant and excessive. Friends, we worship a prodigal God – a God who is extravagant in mercy and excessive in grace. For no matter how many times we run, no matter how far we go or how lost we get, God is standing at the end of the driveway waiting for us. The doors are open. The feast is for you. This grace is extravagant.

Thanks be 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 open doors, we often long to come home: to you, to love, and to ourselves, but we aren’t always sure how to get there. We know that we need you, but the road back to you is heavy with distractions. So, if we can dare to be so forward, we pray – reach into the cacophony of our hearts and minds and make yourself known. Quiet everything but your Word for us today. Leave us awestruck. Drown out the distractions. Come as thunder or come as a still, small voice; we don't care which, we just pray that you will come. Turn on the light. Speak through these words. Find the parts of us that are lost. With hope we pray,
Amen.

Please be seated.

✠ WORD ✠

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

FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

Israel eats bread and grain, the produce of the land

A reading from Joshua:

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32

Sung in unison to Psalm Tone 9



¹Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

²Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!

³While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.”

Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

⁸“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye.

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near
you.”



¹⁰ Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.
¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

The mystery and ministry of reconciliation

A reading from Second Corinthians:

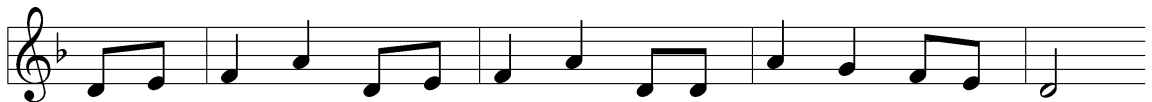
¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us through Christ to God, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to God's own self, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is appealing through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made Christ to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God.

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 15:1-3, 11b-32

The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son

The Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So Jesus told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons.

¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So the father divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷The slave replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then the elder brother became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

One There Is Above All Others

LBW 298



1 One there is, a - bove all oth - ers, well de - serves the name of friend;
 2 Which of all our friends, to save us, could or would have shed his blood?
 3 When he lived on earth, they scorned him; “friend of sin - ners” was his name.



his is love be - yond a broth - er's, cost - ly, free, and knows no end;
 But this Sav - ior died to have us rec - on - ciled in him to God;
 Though the an - gels have a - dored him, still he an - swers to that claim;



they who once his kind-ness prove find it ev - er - last - ing love.
this was bound-less love in - deed; Je - sus is the friend we need.
still he calls them dear - est friends and to all their needs at - tends.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: AMEN SJUNGE HVARJE TUNGA. Andreas P. Berggren, 1801–1880

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us profess our faith:

We believe in a God who waits in the driveway for us.

**We believe in a God who leaves the porch light on
and throws a feast when we are found.**

We believe in a God who doesn't stop looking for us when we get lost.

**We believe in a God of prodigal grace –
excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.**

In response to this grace, we hold tighter to each other.

**We remember that humans are not meant to go through life alone;
so we look for ways to welcome each other in, to live like we are family,
and to lead with grace – excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.**

We believe that this is our call. Let it be so. 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.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion, especially Denise, those on our prayer list, and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts... (*brief silence*). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of patient waiting, give us and our partners in ministry, especially Reformation Lutheran Church in Milford and Hilltop Lutheran Community Center in Wilmington, generous hearts to receive all who seek a place at the table of your unconditional love with open arms. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died, especially Trudy and Loretta. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. 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

"Restoration"

arr. Heather Sorenson

Music based on a Kievan Synodal Chant by Pavel Chesnokov (1877-1944)

Sanctuary Choir

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

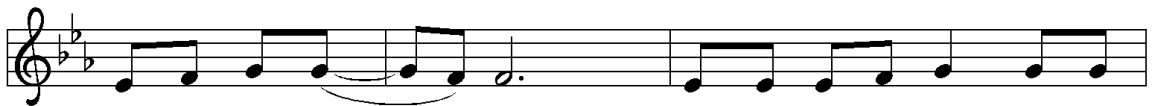
OFFERTORY

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

God Bestows on Every Sense

ACS 1069



1 God be - stows on ev - 'ry sense beau - ty as hope's
2 Catch a fleet - ing glimpse of grace in an un - ex -
3 Vi - brant pic - tures in our dreams, brushed with crys - tal
4 In a burnt and black - ened field bro - ken ground be -
5 God makes all cre - a - tion new, turn - ing back what



ev - i - dence: signs of what the earth will
 spect - ed place: just a taste, the small - est
 col - or schemes, van - ish from a wak - ing
 gins to yield ti - ny, frag - ile sprouts of
 peo - ple do, build - ing up what we de -



be just be - yond what we can see.
 crumb of the ban - quet yet to come.
 mind, leav - ing just a trace be - hind.
 green: hints of for - ests yet un - seen.
 stroy, sing - ing sor - row in - to joy.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: ALL CREATION NEW, Anthony Giamanco, b. 1958

Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Music © 2018 Augsburg Fortress

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

ELW 608 (harmony)



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me.

You who are wea-ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

*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

I Lay My Sins on Jesus

LBW 305



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, the spot - less Lamb of God;
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; all full - ness dwells in him;
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, this wea - ry soul of mine;



he bears them all and frees us from the ac - curs - ed load.
he heals all my dis - eas - es; my soul he does re - deem.
his right hand me em - brac - es; I on his breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus to wash my crim - son stains
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, my bur - dens and my cares;
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



clean in his blood most pre - cious till not a spot re - mains.
he from them all re - leas - es; he all my sor - rows shares.
like fra - grance on the breez - es his name a - broad is poured.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889

Music: MUNICH. *Neu-vermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

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.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: Mary Beth Bergstrom
Lector: Kaye Tyson
Crucifer: Janet Mease
Bread Provider: Sherry Mench
Altar Guild: Cheri Simons

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.

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103532.

Readings are from Readings for the Assembly © 1995, 1996, 1997 Augsburg Fortress. Citations from Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Scripture quotations from NRSV Bible © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, adapted and edited with permission by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw.

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

© 2022 A Sanctified Art LLC. www.sanctifiedart.org.

Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from OneLicense.net with license #A-719656. All rights reserved.



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT, April 6, 2025

Brazen Acts of Beauty

God is brazen in turning tears into joy. Not so long after their brother, Lazarus, dies and is raised from the dead, Mary and Martha joyfully welcome Jesus into their home. Mary pours out the fragrant perfume (perhaps originally intended to anoint her brother's body after death) and it fills the whole room. This is a brazen act of beauty. Beauty is resistance to death; beauty is an act of love. Her anointing of Jesus' feet is also a public act of worship. Her faith does not hide; it is not frugal. It is embodied, broken open, and poured out. This isn't a frugal faith – it is an abundant, extravagant faith. Mary's act is also risky – she puts her full body into it, sort of like a protest. She exhibits a shameless and brazen faith.

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 30, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

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.

SOUNDING BRASS REHEARSAL

If you play a brass instrument – trumpet, horn in F, baritone, trombone, or tuba – it’s not too late to join our brass ensemble for Easter. Please contact our Director for Music and Worship, Mike Bareham, at music@stpaulsnewarkde.org. The Sounding Brass rehearse on Tuesdays from 4:15 – 5:30 PM, through Holy Week.

PRAYER LIST

Our prayer list is being published in our weekly email that goes out every Thursday. If you’d like a paper copy of the list, please contact Jerilynn at office@stpaulsnewarkde.org or Pastor Cris at pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org. We will not be publishing the prayer list in the bulletin so that it is not published on our webpage. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Cris.

HOLY HIKE

Our next Holy Hike will be on Saturday, April 12, when we will join the Delaware Saengerbund Hiking Club for a 4 - 5 mile beautiful, wooded, flat hike on the Susquehanna Greenway "Bluebell" Trail. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Grund at lgrund923@gmail.com or Rudy Schock at rschock324@gmail.com.

EASTER BRUNCH

We will be having an Easter brunch following service on Sunday, April 20. **To aid in our planning, please use the sign-up posters in the narthex.** If you have any questions, please contact Cheri Simons 302-345-6573.

We will be collecting a free-will offering during the brunch to aid those in our community who need our help. All the donated funds will help us to continue care for those who are hungry through our participation in the Hope Dining Room. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

BREWING THEOLOGY

For everyone 21 and older, please join us on Wednesday, April 9, at 7:00 PM at the Delaware Saengerbund for a tasty beverage, some snacks, and some hearty conversation. Our topic for this week will be "Finding Purpose and Meaning in Life".

BOOKS AND BANTER

St. Paul's avid readers meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM 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. The book for our April 23 gathering is "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks.

NAC SPRING CONCERT

Come hear the New Ark Chorale as they present "The Great Poets Sing" on Saturday, April 5, at 3:00 PM. Tickets available at the door.

Vital Signs

	Feb. 2025 Activity (\$)	YTD Balance (\$)	Budget YTD (\$)	Over/Under YTD + (-) (\$)	Feb 2025 Avg. Sunday Attendance	YTD Average Sunday Attendance
TOTAL INCOME	27,547.91	27,547.91	36,504.00	(8,956.09)	107	107
TOTAL EXPENSES	34,647.21	34,647.21	36,304.00	(1,656.79)		
DIFFERENCE	(7,099.30)	(7,099.30)	200.00			

- **Income:** YTD is 25% (\$8,956.09) behind YTD budget projections. Both pledged and unpledged income lag behind budget estimates.
- **Personnel Expenses:** YTD are 4% (\$382.78) above budget due primarily to increased benefit and FICA expenses.
- **Utility Expenses:** YTD are 57% (\$1540.54) above budget YTD due to high natural gas charges.
- **All Other Expense Categories** (Administration, Worship & Music, Faith Formation, Property Maintenance, Committee, Mortgage and Benevolence): are running at or under budget.

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

Sunday, April 20

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

When the women find the tomb empty, they are stunned by the presence and words of the men in dazzling clothing—and yet, they remember. Even in utter shock, they return to their deep knowing and allow themselves to receive the expansiveness of resurrection. Many of the disciples won't open themselves up to this expansiveness and reject their testimony. Peter is curious enough to return to the tomb, and as a result, he is filled with amazement and awe. How do we carry forth what we have learned this Lent? Can we be curious enough to return and remember? Can we allow ourselves to be filled with expansive hope? Can we trust in the expansive promise of new life, and carry that promise with us wherever we go?

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

Easter brunch to follow worship in Fellowship Hall





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

302-368-0064 ext. 104

pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org

Jerilynn Hinrichs

Office Administrator

302-368-0064 ext. 101

office@stpaulsnewarkde.org

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**

