

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

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



**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**April 6, 2025**

**10 AM Service of  
Holy Communion**



God is brazen in turning tears into joy. Not so long after their brother, Lazarus, dies and is raised from the dead, Mary pours out the fragrant perfume and it fills the whole room. This is a brazen act of beauty. Beauty is resistance to death; beauty is an act of love. 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.

## WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

We 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!

**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.**

## ✠ 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

"Lord, Thee I Love"

arr. David Cherwien

HERZLICH LIEB

### WELCOME

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

### CALL TO WORSHIP

May we find courage here —

**courage to follow our call, courage to live out our faith.**

May we find hope here —

**hope for a better world, hope that refuses to let us go.**

May we find truth here —

**truth that lives in sacred community, truth that lives in ancient stories.**

May we find all that we seek.

**And in our seeking, may we know God.**

Come, let us worship the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who turns tears into joy.

**Amen.**

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**Making Their Way**

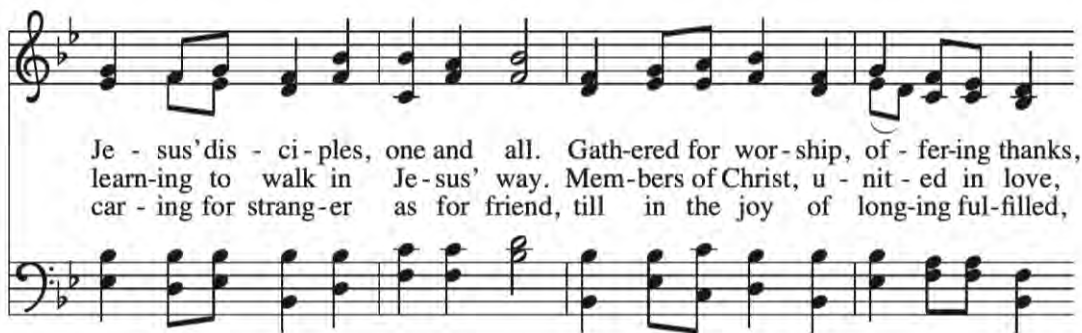
ACS 979

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

1 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have  
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble  
3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,  
 on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,  
 till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks,  
 learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,  
 car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,



the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.  
 they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.  
 to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclank*, 1626; arr. Adrian Engels, 1906–2003

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Arr. © 1967 Gooi en Sticht, BV, Baarn, The Netherlands, admin. OCP, 5536 N. Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

There are very few things as powerful as a group of people that admits they are not perfect, and asks for grace as they grow. Imagine what our world might be

like if every institution had such a weekly rhythm? Friends, we can light the way. Let us be brave in our truth-telling and honest in our confession. For we will always be met by grace.

*Silence for reflection.*

Let us pray. Jesus of Nazareth,  
**we admit that often we tuck our faith into our pockets, hiding in a place of comfort rather than proudly declaring: yes we are Christian, yes we believe, yes this faith has changed me. We are so afraid of offending others or embarrassing ourselves that we have established rules: no faith at the dinner table, no faith in politics, no faith with strangers. Forgive us for whispering when we could be singing. Forgive us for staying quiet when we could be part of rewriting the narrative. We want to be brave. We want to pour out perfume over your feet. These things we pray. Amen.**

Family of faith, hear this good news:

Even in our silence,

**God loves us.**

Even in our fear or shame,

**God chooses us.**

Even when we sin,

**God wraps us in grace.**

You are free – to be bold, to be brazen, to be exactly who God called you to be.  
**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: Holy God, sometimes our waking is a prayer. Sometimes the song we have stuck in our heads, rumbling around on repeat, is a prayer. Sometimes the way we talk to children and the way we hug the dog is a prayer. Sometimes the way we take our phones out to get a picture of the sunset or of the people we love – that is a prayer. Other times, prayer is moments like this – heads bowed, eyes closed, hearts quiet for just a moment. And in all of it, we trust you to hear us. Help us to hear you in return. Gratefully we pray,

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

✠ WORD ✠

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

**FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 43:16-21**

*The LORD gives water in the wilderness to the chosen people*

A reading from Isaiah:

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD,  
    who makes a way in the sea,  
    a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse,  
    army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
    they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things,  
    or consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;  
    now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
    and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me,  
    the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
    rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
    <sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Sung in unison to Psalm Tone 9*



<sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

## Philippians 3:4b-14

*To know Christ and his resurrection, to share in his sufferings*

A reading from Philippians:

<sup>4b</sup> If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing

of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

<sup>13</sup> Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

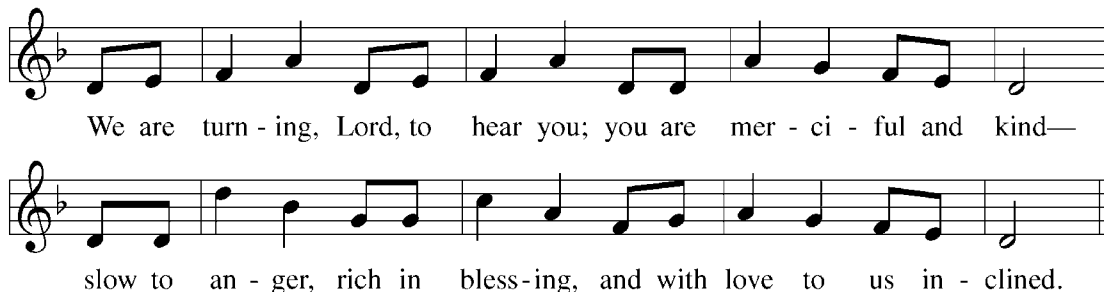
Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 10



## HOLY GOSPEL

### John 12:1-8

*Mary anoints Jesus for his burial*

The Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for Jesus. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?"

<sup>6</sup> (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he

kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup> Jesus said,  
 “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.  
<sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

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**

**Holy Woman, Graceful Giver**  
 ACS 1002



1 Ho - ly wom - an, grace - ful giv - er, proph - et,  
 2 How the fra - grance filled the dwell - ing! How the  
 3 Lov - ing - ly Christ stilled the scoff - er who would  
 4 Though dis - dained or though con - test - ed, acts of



ser - vant, and be - liev - er, Mar - y with the oint - ment  
 act of beau - ty well - ing blest all those with - in the  
 grasp - ing guard the cof - fer, point - ing to a hid - den  
 love are nev - er wast - ed: beau - ty is a face of



jar, sought by Christ, by scorn un - daunt - ed, knelt in  
 place! How the act of pure de - vo - tion, whis - p'ring  
 trove: not all trea - sures gain and pro - fit, feed the  
 God. Grace - ful Mar - y, by your giv - ing, you have



love, his feet a - noint - ed for his com - ing bur - ial  
of his com - ing pas - sion, blest the heart of Christ with  
poor, and feed the spir - it acts of beau - ty, acts of  
shown a way of liv - ing: acts of beau - ty, love, and

hour, for his com - ing bur - ial hour.  
grace, blest the heart of Christ with grace!  
love, acts of beau - ty, acts of love.  
good, acts of beau - ty, love, and good.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
Music: ALABASTER JAR, Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960  
Text © 2016 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin, Augsburg Fortress  
Music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us profess our faith:

**I believe in beauty – beauty pulled into being by our Creator,  
beauty that catches our breath,  
beauty that turns us toward awe.**

**I believe in courage – courage to believe,  
courage to stand up for the people we love,  
courage to love without hesitation.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit  
who prays for us when we cannot,  
who is brave for us when we are not.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ who stood up for Mary,  
who quieted the voice of critique,  
who welcomed every bid for relationship.**

**I believe in God.**

**I believe in God who believes in us.**

**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.*

The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands.

Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground.

God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need, especially Denise, those on our prayer list, and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts... (*brief silence*). May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel, especially Albrecht Dürer, Matthias Grünewald, and Lucas Cranach. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

This congregation and our partners in ministry, especially Bethel Lutheran Church in North East and Unity Church in Wilmington, declare your praise, O God. Help us recognize your hand working miracles beyond our imagining. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new things you are doing, so that our

lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love for all. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, especially Trudy and Loretta, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. 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**

"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"

Franklin Ashdown

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

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: '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.'

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

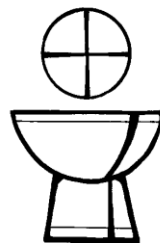
Jesus has always been one to invite,  
and that has not changed.  
So friends, you are invited to this Table.  
**Each and every one of us —  
with our doubts, our fears, our scars,  
our joy, our dreams, our hopes, our questions —  
we are invited to God's table.**  
And here we will be met. Here we 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

## Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

LBW 336



1 Je - sus, thy bound - less love to me no thought can reach, no  
2 Oh, grant that noth - ing in my soul may dwell, but thy pure  
3 This love un - wea - ried I pur - sue and daunt - less - ly to thy  
4 In suf - f'ring be thy love my peace, in weak - ness be thy



tongue de - clare; u - nite my thank - ful heart to thee,  
love a - lone; oh, may thy love pos - sess me whole,  
thee as - pire. Oh, may thy love my hope re - new,  
love my pow'r; and when the storms of life shall cease,



and reign with - out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly, thine a -  
my joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness from my  
burn in my soul like heav'n - ly fire! And day and night, be  
O Je - sus, in that fi - nal hour, be thou my rod and



lone, I am; be thou a - lone my con - stant flame.  
heart re - move; my ev - 'ry act, word, thought, be love.  
all my care to guard this sa - cred trea - sure there.  
staff and guide, and draw me safe - ly to thy side!

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. John Wesley, 1703–1791, alt.  
Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953

# Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

ELW 833 (harmony)



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es to praise my  
 2 Let ev - 'ry pow'r in me im - plant - ed a - rise, keep  
 3 You for - est leaves so green and ten - der that dance for  
 4 All crea - tures that have breath and mo - tion, that throug the  
 5 Cre - a - tor, hum - bly I im - plore you to lis - ten



God with thou - sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -  
 si - lence now no more; put forth the strength that God has  
 joy in sum - mer air, you mead - ow grass - es, bright and  
 earth, the sea, the sky, come, share with me my heart's de -  
 to my earth - ly song un - til that day when I a -



joic - es, would then pro - claim in grate - ful songs to all, wher -  
 grant - ed! Your no - blest work is to a - dore! O soul and  
 slen - der, you flow'rs so fra - grant and so fair, you live to  
 vo - tion, help me to sing God's prais - es high! My ut - most  
 dore you, when I will join the an - gel throug and raise to



ev - er I might be, what great things God has done for me!  
 bod - y, join to raise with heart - felt joy your mak - er's praise!  
 show forth praise a - lone. Join me to make God's glo - ry known!  
 pow'rs can nev - er quite de - clare the won - ders of God's might!  
 you with joy - ful cry ten thou - sand hal - le - lu - jahs high!

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734; tr. composite

Music: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

*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

**Faith Begins By Letting Go**

ACS 1004

*Found on p. 18*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace, full to the brim.

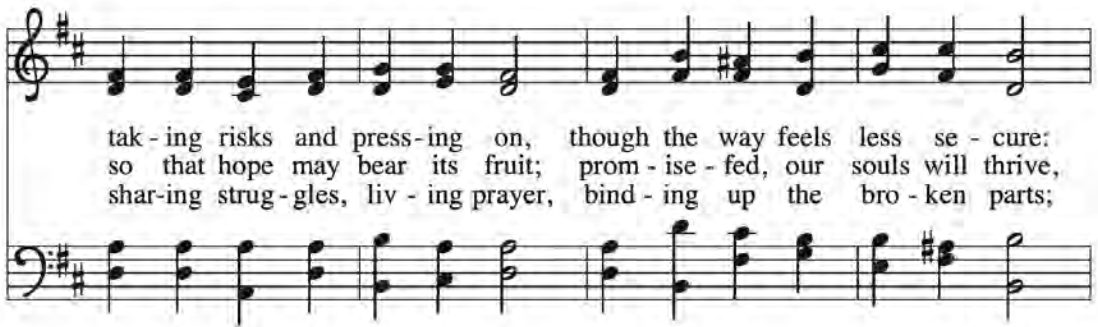
**Thanks be to God.**

<p>Postludes, a festive element of worship, will not be played during the season of Lent.</p>
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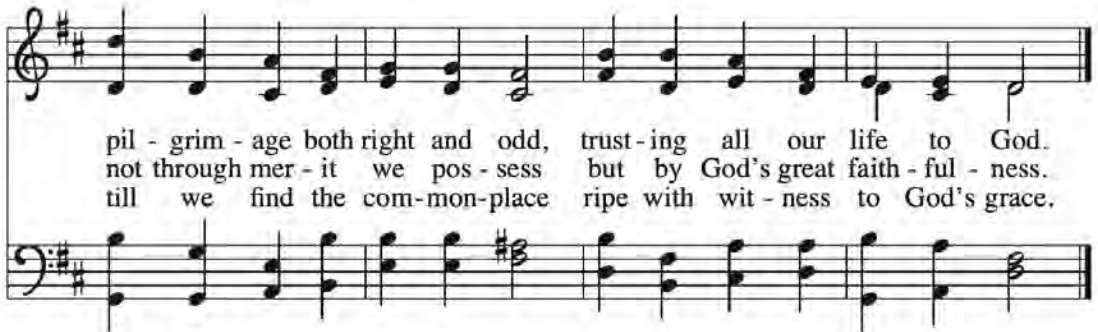
# Faith Begins By Letting Go



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,  
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ry's roots a - live  
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure;  
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,  
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.  
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.  
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace,

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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*Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press  
on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 3:13-14

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: Linda Grund  
Lector: Belinda Johnson  
Crucifer: Lorraine Fett  
Bread Provider: Heidi Burch  
Altar Guild: Janet Mease

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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## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

April 13, 2025

*Even the stones cry out*

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.

# ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

## IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 6, 2025

### FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

### PASSION SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

The RIC Committee will be hosting a special Coffee Hour next **Sunday, April 13**, as a celebration of becoming a Reconciling in Christ partner congregation. As part of our commitment, we agreed to make a financial gift to Reconciling Works. To support their ministry of advocating for LGBTQIA2S+ inclusion in the Lutheran Church, please consider giving a special offering using a rainbow envelope that will be available that day.

### 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 to care for those who are hungry through our participation in the Hope Dining Room. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

### 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](mailto:office@stpaulsnewarkde.org) or Pastor Cris at [pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto: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**

The next "Holy Hikers" hike will be with the DSB, German Club "Wandervoegel". We will hike the "Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenways Trail" at 10 AM on Saturday, April 12. We will meet at Fisherman's Park just below the Conowingo Dam and hike along the Susquehanna River to view the Virginia Bluebells. The hike is a relatively flat out and back hike of between four and four and a half miles total. After the hike some of us will be heading to the Hopkins Farm Brewery for refreshments.

Hope you can make it ... for members, families and friends.

## **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.

## **ST. PAUL'S QUILTERS**

The quilters will be meeting on **Saturday, April 12**, beginning at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We usually meet until about noon. You can come for all, or part, of that time as your schedule allows. We will be assembling quilts for Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Community Services. Please contact Lorraine Fett if you have any questions.

## **EASTER FLOWERS**

We'd like to have a few more flowers for our Easter celebration and it always feels like the deadline sneaks up on us. We have a new, absolutely must be into the office deadline of **TODAY**.

# HOLY WEEK

## *Worship Services*

**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://www.tithe.ly), 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://www.tithe.ly) 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

[office@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto: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

**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)

**St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry**

Send prayer requests to:

[prayonstpauls@gmail.com](mailto:prayonstpauls@gmail.com)

**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**

