

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

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



**SUNDAY OF THE PASSION**  
**Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025**

**10 AM Service of  
Holy Communion**



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?

## 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 ✠

*On this Sunday of the Passion, the Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God. Ritually and symbolically the church becomes Jerusalem for the time of the service, and Jesus again enters his city. The past becomes present and the future is foreshadowed when Jesus will lead his people into the new Jerusalem, the heavenly city in which the Easter celebration will find its fulfillment.*

### PRELUDE

“Ain’t No Rock Gonna’ Shout for Me”

Larson

Sanctuary Choir

### WELCOME

*Please stand, as you are able.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

It is holy to gather.

**It is holy to sing.**

It is holy to be generous, to throw our coats on the road.

**It is holy to celebrate justice when we see it.**

It is holy to shout, “Hosanna!”

**It is holy to remember.**

It is holy to gather.

**It is holy to sing.**

Here and now, we do all of these things

in the name of the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, sometimes life feels like a parade rushing by us as we stand on the sidelines and try not to miss it! There are hundreds of things that catch our eye, but the thing we fear missing the most is you. So slow down the speed on this parade. Paint the colors of this world a little brighter. And dance through the words in our scripture passage until it is almost impossible for us to miss you there. God we are here. We are trying to pay attention. Gratefully we pray,

**Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION OF THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM     Luke 19:28-40

<sup>28</sup> Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

<sup>29</sup> When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent departed and found it as Jesus had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

**"The Lord needs it".**

<sup>35</sup> Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen,

**"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"**

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." <sup>40</sup> He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*The ministers process in during the introduction to the hymn.*

*The people come forward by the center aisle to receive your palm from the presiding minister, all the while singing the hymn found on page 4.*

*Return to your pew by the side aisle as during communion.*

*Those unable to process should raise their hands at the end of the procession and a palm will be brought to you.*

**All, Glory, Laud, and Honor**

**ELW 344**  
(harmony)



*Refrain*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Refrain*



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.  
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

*Repeat the verses of the hymn as necessary, until all have received their palms  
and returned to their places in the pews.*

*The presiding minister concludes; the assembly waving their palm branches:*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please be seated.*

## THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS

Luke 22:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near.  
<sup>2</sup>The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people. <sup>3</sup>Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; <sup>4</sup>he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. <sup>5</sup>They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. <sup>6</sup>So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

While we started off singing ‘hosanna’ with joy and glee on this day, the truth is, the word ‘hosanna’ actually means, “save us.” The people so many years ago were crying out to Jesus for help, because they knew – this world is not as it should be. They were crying, “Save us!”

In the prayer of confession, we have our own hosanna moment, because we cry out to God, admitting the ways in which we have fallen short, and we ask for God’s saving hand. So, friends, we pray together, for there is still too much hurt here.

God of street parades and hosannas,  
**we know that you are counting on us to speak out against oppression,**  
to speak up for love and to speak hope to fear,  
**but so often we are silent.**

We worry that we’ll say the wrong thing,  
**so we don’t say anything at all.**

We worry that we’ll offend,  
**so we keep our convictions to ourselves.**

We worry that we’ll speak up and won’t be heard,  
**so we stay silent.**

And meanwhile, the parade marches on.

**Unravel our fears. Spark conviction in us. Give us the courage to yell,  
“Hosanna!”**

Gratefully we pray,  
**Amen.**





won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.  
 Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Luke 22:14-23

<sup>14</sup> When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; <sup>16</sup> for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the dominion of God." ... <sup>19</sup> Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>20</sup> And Jesus did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. <sup>21</sup> But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. <sup>22</sup> For the Son-of-Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" <sup>23</sup> Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to 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

All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.

## 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.*





1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,  
 2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;  
 3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;  
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.  
 but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.  
 re - sound-ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.  
 He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail  
 But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his  
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they  
 Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



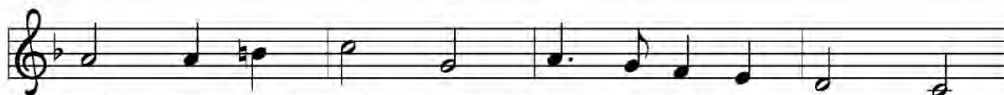
flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
 life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!  
 thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.  
 'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>5 They rise, and needs will have<br/>             my dear Lord made away;<br/>             a murderer they save,<br/>             the prince of life they slay.<br/>             Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes,<br/>             that he his foes from thence might free.</p> | <p>6 In life, no house, no home<br/>             my Lord on earth might have;<br/>             in death, no friendly tomb<br/>             but what a stranger gave.<br/>             What may I say? Heav'n was his home;<br/>             but mine the tomb wherein he lay.</p> |
|--|---|
- 7 Here might I stay and sing—  
 no story so divine!  
 Never was love, dear King,  
 never was grief like thine.  
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
 I all my days could gladly spend!

## There In God's Garden ELW 342 (harmony)



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it,  
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending  
this my resurrection;  
into your hands, Lord,  
I commit my spirit.  
This have I searched for;  
now I can possess it.  
This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,  
"Thanks to Christ whose passion  
offers in mercy  
healing, strength, and pardon.  
Peoples and nations,  
take it, take it freely!"  
Amen! My Master!

<sup>24</sup> A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. <sup>25</sup> But Jesus said to them, "The rulers of the Gentiles are domineering; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. <sup>26</sup> But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. <sup>27</sup> For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

<sup>28</sup> "You are those who have stood by me in my trials; <sup>29</sup> and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a dominion, <sup>30</sup> so that you may eat and drink at my table in my dominion, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

<sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, <sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen the community." <sup>33</sup> And Simon Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!" <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me."

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to [the disciples], "When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?"

**"No, not a thing."**

"But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell a cloak to buy one. <sup>37</sup> For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled."

**"Lord, look, here are two swords."**

"It is enough." <sup>39</sup> He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." <sup>41</sup> Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, <sup>42</sup> "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." <sup>43</sup> Then an angel from heaven appeared to Jesus and gave him strength. <sup>44</sup> In his anguish Jesus prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. <sup>45</sup> When he got up from prayer, he came to the

disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## 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.*

Guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for their faith. Humble those who would use faith to dominate others and reinforce their own power. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Make your creation a living witness to Christ’s passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Let your face shine upon the leaders of nations and let the same mind be in them as was in Christ Jesus, so that those with the most power may humble themselves to serve the most vulnerable. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Sustain the weary with a word. Grant perseverance to political prisoners and to any who are exploited, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted. Abide with all who are in jails, detention centers, or prisons. Console all who experience times of trial or suffering, especially Michael, those on our prayer list, and those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts... (*brief silence*). God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pastors and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks to you for our beloved dead, especially Dominic, trusting that as the cross of Jesus led to the empty tomb, so you welcome those who have died into the paradise of your presence. 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.**

## **THE SENTENCING AND CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS**

**Luke 22:47 – 23:56**

<sup>47</sup> While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. Judas approached Jesus to kiss him; <sup>48</sup> but Jesus said to him, “Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son-of-Man?” <sup>49</sup> When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, **“Lord, should we strike with the sword?”**

<sup>50</sup> Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

<sup>51</sup> But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And Jesus touched the slave’s ear and healed him. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, “Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? <sup>53</sup> When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!”

<sup>54</sup> Then they seized Jesus and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house. But Peter was following at a distance. <sup>55</sup> When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

<sup>56</sup> Then a servant, seeing Peter in the firelight, stared at him and said,

*(Treble/high voices of the congregation)* **“This man also was with him.”**

“Woman, I do not know him.” <sup>58</sup> A little later someone else, on seeing [Peter], said,

*(Bass/low voices of the congregation)* **“You also are one of them.”**

“Man, I am not!” <sup>59</sup> Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, “Surely this man also was with Jesus; for he is a Galilean.” <sup>60</sup> But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about!” At that moment, while he was still

speaking, the cock crowed. <sup>61</sup> The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, who had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." <sup>62</sup> And he went out and wept bitterly.

<sup>63</sup> Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; <sup>64</sup> they also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

**"Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?"**

<sup>65</sup> They kept heaping many other insults on him.

<sup>66</sup> When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought Jesus to their council.

**"If you are the Messiah, tell us."**

Jesus replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; <sup>68</sup> and if I question you, you will not answer. <sup>69</sup> But from now on the Son-of-Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

**"Are you, then, the Son of God?"**

"You say that I am."

**"What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

<sup>23:1</sup> Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. <sup>2</sup> They began to accuse Jesus, saying,

**"We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king."**

<sup>3</sup> Then Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "You say so." <sup>4</sup> Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." <sup>5</sup> But they were insistent...

**"He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."**

<sup>6</sup> When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup> And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, Pilate sent Jesus off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. <sup>8</sup> When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about Jesus and was hoping to see him perform some sign. <sup>9</sup> Herod questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> The chief priests

and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. <sup>11</sup> Even Herod with his soldiers treated Jesus with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

<sup>13</sup> Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. <sup>16</sup> I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

<sup>18</sup> Then they all shouted out together,

**"Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!"**

<sup>19</sup> (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) <sup>20</sup> Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; <sup>21</sup> but they kept shouting,

**"Crucify, crucify him!"**

<sup>22</sup> A third time Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." <sup>23</sup> But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that Jesus should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. <sup>25</sup> He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

*Be seated.*

<sup>26</sup> As they led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> A great number of the people followed Jesus, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. <sup>28</sup> But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup> For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' <sup>30</sup> Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' <sup>31</sup> For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

<sup>32</sup> Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Jesus. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him,

**"He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, the chosen one!"**

<sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine,

**"If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"**

<sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding Jesus and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him,

**"Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."**

<sup>43</sup> "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

<sup>44</sup> It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup> When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

**"Certainly this man was innocent."**

<sup>48</sup> And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup> But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

<sup>50</sup> Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, <sup>51</sup> had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the dominion of God. <sup>52</sup> This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>53</sup> Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. <sup>54</sup> It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was



beginning. <sup>55</sup> The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. <sup>56</sup> Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

**ANTHEM**

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

arr. Sean Paul

Sanctuary Choir

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Philippians 2:5-11

Let us profess our faith.

**Christ Jesus,**

**though he was in the form of God,**

**did not regard equality with God**

**as something to be exploited,**

**but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,**

**being born in human likeness.**

**And being found in human form,**

**he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—**

**even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him**

**and gave him the name that is above every name,**

**so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,**

**in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**

**and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:**

**Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

As you leave this place, may you be awestruck by the power of the cross.

May you overflow with love for those around you. 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

# Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ELW 338 (harmony)



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me,  
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869

Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

## 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.

*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**

Lectors: Victoria Kenyon  
Eric Mease

Bread Provider: Linda Brammer

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.

The passion liturgy was adapted by the Rev. Christine Therriault-Merkel;  
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*Fill to the Brim: An Expansive Lent* worship resources written by The Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

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# ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

## IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 13, 2025

### PASSION SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

The RIC Committee is hosting a special Coffee Hour **TODAY**, 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.

### EASTER BRUNCH

We will be having an Easter brunch following service next **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!

### BREWING THEOLOGY

For everyone 21 and older, please join us on Wednesday, **April 23, 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 "Christian Response to Climate Change".

### PASTOR CRIS OUT OF THE OFFICE

Pastor Cris will be out of the office for Navy training from **April 21 - May 2**. He will have access to email and his cell phone for most of that time. If there is an urgent pastoral need, please contact the church office and you will receive contact information for Pastor Greg.

## 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.

April 23

"Horse" by Geraldine Brooks.

May 28

"Tomorrow Will Be Different" by Sarah McBride

## HOLY HIKE

The next "Holy Hikers" hike will be on Sunday, May 18, at Carousel Park off Limestone Road in Wilmington. This is a four-mile trail, with mixed terrain and some hills.

## OLDER WISER LUTHERANS FOR MAY

On Thursday, May 15, the OWLS will tour the Air Mobility Command Museum in Dover, DE. Our free guided tour begins at 10:00 AM. Following the visit to the museum, we'll have lunch at the Olive Garden restaurant in Dover (lunch is on your own). If you'd like to join us, please RSVP to Sue and Rich Wallden at [slwallden@gmail.com](mailto:slwallden@gmail.com) by May 7. Please let them know if you'd like transportation or can provide transportation to others.

## FISH IN APRIL

Our schedule looks a little different this week due to Holy Week worship services. The Food Bank pickup will be on Thursday, April 17, at 1 PM, and we will pack boxes immediately after, with no evening hours. On Friday, April 18, from 2:30 PM until 4 PM, we will have the monthly distribution, also in Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Keith Bart at 302-345-6107/[keith.m.bart@gmail.com](mailto:keith.m.bart@gmail.com).



# “Hosanna!

*Blessed is the one who comes  
in the name of the Lord!”*

*~ Mark 11:9 (NRSV)*

**O**ur congregation is proudly waving Eco-Palms in partnership with Lutheran World Relief. We are helping palm harvesters in Latin America, their families and communities find pathways out of poverty.



## HERE'S WHAT MAKES ECO-PALMS DIFFERENT:

### ECOLOGICALLY FRIENDLY



Fair prices for quality palms encourage sustainable harvesting, meaning better income long into the future.

### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES



Eco-Palms are sorted and packed within the harvesting community, extending income opportunities to even more people.

### SUSTAINABLE INCOME



Eco-Palms harvesters often earn five to six times more per frond than traditional palms, and a portion of the purchase price goes directly back to the community.

Let us proudly wave our Eco-Palms, giving thanks to God and inviting palm harvesters, their families and communities to our celebration!



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

[lwr.org/palms](http://lwr.org/palms)

# 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**



# 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

## 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**

