



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

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



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT Sunday, February 22, 2026

10 AM Service of Holy Communion



Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

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 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!

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

“Out of the Depths”

attrib. Christian Geist

AUS TIEFER NOT

(c. 1640-1711)

WELCOME & SCOUT RECOGNITION

Please stand, as you are able.

INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

ELW 321 (harmony)



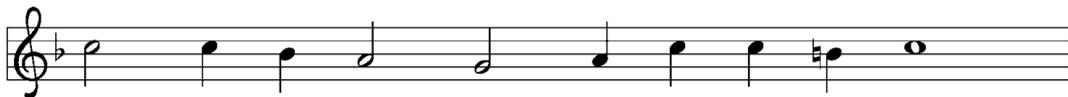
1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003
 Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551
 Text © Thomas H. Cain. Used by permission of estate.

LITANY FOR LENT

O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace.
 You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy;
 you are generous to all who call upon you.



Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.

O Christ, fountain of life and holiness, you have taken away our sins.
 On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions
 and were bruised for our iniquities.

Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.

O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort,
 our life and resurrections, our peace and reconciliation:

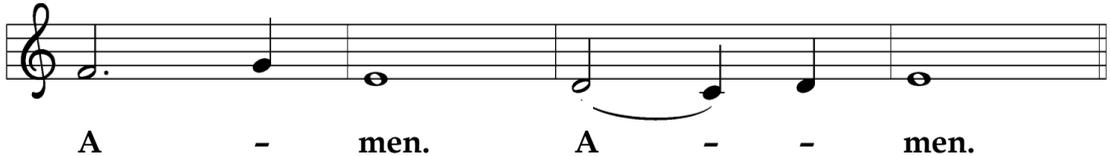
Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.

O Christ, Savior of all who trust you,
 Hope of all who die in you, and joy of all the saints:

Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.

A brief silence.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated.

✠ **WORD** ✠

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

FIRST READING

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

A reading from Genesis:

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her,

Remain seated, due to the length of the Gospel readings this season.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:1-11

The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'

and 'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him.' "

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Cris Frigm

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

When We Are Tested

ACS 922



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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LENTEN CREED

Traveling to Easter with Jesus as Our Guide

<http://www.patmosabbey.org>

Let us affirm our faith:

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.

We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.

We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ.

Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. Especially we pray for MaryAnne and David, those on our prayer list, and those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts...*((brief silence))*.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all ages, on this Scout Sunday, we come to you with grateful hearts. We thank you for the gift of Scouting and for the opportunities it provides young people to grow in mind, body, and spirit. We pray for all Scouts and their families, that they may continue to find joy and fulfillment in this organization. Help them to always live by the Scout Oath and Law, and to be of service to others. Bless their leaders and volunteers, who give so generously of their time and talents to guide them on their journey. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you, especially Dean... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The assembly exchanges signs and words
of God's peace, 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. There are also QR Codes at the end of this worship folder for attendance, prayer requests, and online giving.

ANTHEM

"Lead Us Out of the Wilderness"

Brad Nix

Sanctuary Choir

OFFERTORY

Now Is the Time of Grace

ACS 918

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains two measures of music, each starting with a first ending bracket labeled '1' and a second ending bracket labeled '2'. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics 'Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with the same notes and lyrics: 'Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta - tion.'

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on 2 Corinthians 6:2 and Isaiah 58:6-9
Music: TIME OF GRACE, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to
nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and
wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness
to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW 192a



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav' n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, b. 1937
Music © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We seek to do your will, to share your truth, to sing of your faithfulness, to proclaim the good news, as we follow Jesus into the wonder of your kingdom, praying as he taught us, saying,

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

Come to the table prepared for you.
 We come to feast on God's goodness and mercy.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Jesus, Lamb of God
 S417

The musical score is written on four staves of music. The first staff is for the Leader, with lyrics: "Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us. Je - sus,". The second staff is for the Assembly, with lyrics: "bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us." The third staff is for the Leader, with lyrics: "Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world,". The fourth staff is for the Assembly, with lyrics: "grant us peace, grant us peace." The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat.

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. Those who choose not to commune 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

Chief of Sinners, Though I Be

ELW 609 (harmony)



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!



died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.
deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.
peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.
When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;



As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.
Love that found me—won - drous thought—found me when I sought him not.
faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.
He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.
grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1870

Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

Cast Out, O Christ

ACS 1016

1 Cast out, O Christ, cast far a - way the
 2 Our rag - ing griefs, our jeal - ous fears are
 3 Once long a - go, from Gal - i - lee, you
 4 Your word breathes life and health and hope that
 5 So come, O Christ, and cast a - way the

de - mons that de - stroy: the haunt - ing dreads that
 Le - gion in their name. Our shack - led hearts im -
 sailed to storm - tossed shores. And still, in pow'r, you
 break through e - vil's thrall. You send us, strength - ened,
 de - mons that de - stroy. Trans - form our lives to

choke our souls, the hates that sti - fle joy.
 plore your grace to loose our bind - ing shame.
 brave new paths to breach our bolt - ed doors.
 home in peace to live your gos - pel call.
 sense your love and spread a - broad your joy.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929–2003

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Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org. All rights reserved.

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

BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW 326 (harmony)

Found on p. 17

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God!

Postludes, a festive element of worship, are not played during Lent.

Bless Now, O God, the Journey



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and w̄inds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Victoria Kenyon
Lector:	Barb Rhodes
Bread Provider:	Heidi Burch
Altar Guild:	Lynn Deschere

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22, 2026

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for St. Paul's Lutheran Church will be held today, **Sunday, February 22, 2026, at 11:15 AM**. Items on the agenda include approval of the budget, leader elections, and a property motion.

ADULT FORUM

Pastor Cris will spend some time with our Lenten Psalmody as we journey toward Holy Week. The rich readings this year include some favorites...Psalm 121, 95, 23, and 130.

Join the conversation on **Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM** (March 1,8,15,22). The study will also be held at **6:45 PM on Thursday evening** (March 5,12,19,26).

LENTEN SUPPER AND STUDY

The Reconciling In Christ (RIC) Committee invites you to a Lenten Supper and Study of the documentary "1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture." We gather for soup, screening, and study on **Wednesdays in March** (4, 11, 18, 25), **6:00-7:30 PM**. Join us for food, fellowship, and thought-provoking discussion.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

As we head into the season of Lent, you might want to consider adding some time of prayer to your routine. There are hard copies of a devotion from Renewing Works (an organization that sponsors the Reconciling in Christ program and works for LGBTQIA2S+ justice) and from ELCA World Hunger in the narthex.

ST. PAUL'S PRESCHOOL BLACK HISTORY MONTH ART SHOW

Our children have been learning about influential African American artists and exploring their unique styles and creativity. They have worked hard to recreate and be inspired by some of these powerful pieces, and we are so proud of their work! Come celebrate creativity, culture, and the incredible contributions of African American artists with us! We invite you to stop by the side hallway to view our Black History Art Show and see the children's beautiful masterpieces on display.

BOOKS & BANTER MONTHLY MEETING

Please join us for conversation and fellowship **Wednesday, February 25, at 1PM** when we will discuss "The River We Remember" by William Kent Krueger. Our March selection is "The First Ladies" by Victoria Christopher Murray

BOOKS & BANTER REPORT

This report from Books and Banter was missed in the Annual Report:

Books and Banter, St. Paul's diverse readers' ministry, met monthly in 2025 to discuss books chosen from a variety of genres. One selection was Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt, the 2025 New Castle County Reads choice. After reading this novel, several participants of B&B attended the author's presentations in Wilmington in April.

Books and Banter continues to support our registered Little Free Library located near the back door of the church. We encourage members of St. Paul's and the community to take a book or share a book.

We always welcome anybody wishing to join our book conversations!

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY FOOTPRINT IN THE SAND GIFT BAGS

Know someone who might be struggling with something in their personal life? The Membership Ministry Team has purchased little gift bags containing an inspirational verse and a pocket coin for you to share. These can be found on the table in the narthex along with pocket crosses, prayer squares, and greeting cards.



Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.



The Reverend Cris Frigm

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School Director stpaulschool701@outlook.com

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.

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast - articles are due by Wednesday morning at 10 AM to office@stpaulsnewarkde.org. Late submissions will be shared [the following week](#).



Worship Attendance



Prayer Requests



Electronic Giving

