



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

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



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION Sunday, March 29, 2026

10 AM Service of Holy Communion

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

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, you 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 IN THE SANCTUARY ✠

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

“Hosanna to the Son of David”

Allen Pote

Sanctuary Choir

Please stand, as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Psalm 118:26

Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, as we enter Holy Week and gather at your house of prayer, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that united with Christ and all the faithful we may one day enter in triumph the city not made by human hands, the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens, where with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in glory forever.

Amen.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

The presiding minister processes forward slowly during the reading of the processional gospel.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵“Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PROCESSION

Let us go forth in peace,

in the name of Christ. Amen.

Come forward by the center aisle to receive your palm from the presiding minister, all the while singing the hymn found below.

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

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.

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 procession:

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Be seated.

✠ WORD ✠

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

The suffering servant

A reading from Isaiah:

¹³ See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up
and shall be very high.

¹⁴ Just as there were many who were astonished at him
— so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals —

¹⁵ so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

^{53:1} Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity,
and as one from whom others hide their faces

he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases,
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹ They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with affliction.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

¹¹ Out of his anguish he shall see;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out himself to death
and was numbered with the transgressors,
yet he bore the sin of many
and made intercession for the transgressors.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 31:9-16

Antiphon: Ps. 31:5

Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit.

Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit.

⁹ Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰ For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

¹¹ I am the scorn of all my enemies,
a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹² Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.

Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit.

¹³ For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴ But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, "You are my God.

¹⁵ My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."

Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit.

Please stand.



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es
 4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly
 stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior
 sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to our
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to



be. Oh, who am I that for my sake my
 know. But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who
 king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all our breath, and
 slay. Yet cheer - ful he to suf - f'ring goes that



Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 at my need his life did spend!
 for his death we thirst and cry.
 he his foes from thence might free.

5 In life no house, no home
 my Lord on earth might have;
 in death no friendly tomb
 but what a stranger gave.
 What may I say? Heav'n was his home
 but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 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!

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.

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally, especially Bishop Curry, Bishop Gohl and Pastor Frigm. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day, especially Pat and Sarah, 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.

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you. 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.

Be seated.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH – ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ 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

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
Sanctuary Choir

John Carter

As the gifts are brought forward and the table is set, please stand and sing.

OFFERTORY

In This Feast of Love

ACS 962, Vs. 3

3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us
peace, O Lord; fill us with the
joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics '3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics 'peace, O Lord; fill us with the' are written below. The third staff continues with quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics 'joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.' are written below. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Text: Jarkko Maukonen; tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954

Music: TÄSSÄ PÖYDÄSSÄ, Jarkko Maukonen; arr. Mark Sedio

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. Great God,
we thank you for Jesus, who was punished for our sins, and suffered shameful death to rescue us. We praise you for the trust we have in him, for mercy undeserved, and for the love you pour out on us, and on all. Give us gratitude, O God, and a great desire to serve you, by taking our cross and following in the way of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ who taught us 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 COMMUNION

The supper is ready; our Lord is host and servant.
We come to share in the bread and cup of salvation.

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. 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.

During the season of Lent, our communion bread is gluten-free. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available upon request.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

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



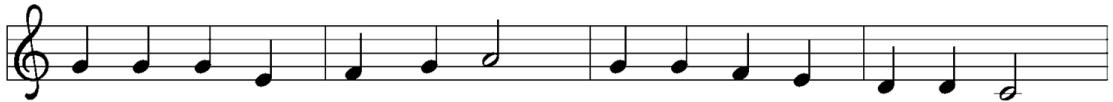
On My Heart Imprint Your Image
ELW 811 (harmony)



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.
Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

After all have returned to their places, please stand.

BLESSING AND PRAYER

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

Amen.

Let us pray.

God, our help and strength, you have satisfied our hunger with this eucharistic food. Strengthen our faith, that through the death and resurrection of your Son we may be led to salvation, for he is Lord now and forever.

Amen.

✠ THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ✠
ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

PRAYER OF THE DAY

And now as we enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, and burial, let us pray:

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Be seated.

PROCLAMATION OF THE PASSION IN WORD AND SONG

THE BETRAYAL OF JUDAS: Matthew 26:14-16

THE LAST SUPPER: Matthew 26:17-29

HYMN

In This Feast of Love

ACS 962, vss. 1-2

In this feast of love,
in this feast of love,
Lord, you share your blood and your body,
Jesus, Lamb of God.

In this bread and wine,
in this bread and wine,
you have promised, Lord, to be with us,
Lamb of God divine.

Text: Jarrko Maukonen, tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Text © 2020 Jarrko Maukonen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

THE MOUNT OF OLIVES: Matthew 26:30-35

GETHSEMANE: Matthew 26:36-56

HYMN

Go To Dark Gethsemane

ELW 347, vss. 1-2

Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
your Redeemer's conflict see.
Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall,
view the Lord of life arraigned;
oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
learn from him to bear the cross.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

TRIAL BEFORE CAIAPHAS: Matthew 26:57-67

PETER'S DENIAL AND JUDAS' DEATH: Matthew 26:68 – 27:10

HYMN

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

LBW 93, vss. 1 & 3

Jesus, refuge of the weary, blest redeemer, whom we love,
fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
often have your eyes, offended, gazed upon the sinner's fall;
yet upon the cross extended, you have borne the pain of all.

Jesus, may our hearts be burning with more fervent love for you;
may our eyes be ever turning to behold your cross anew;
till in glory, parted never from the blessed Savior's side,
graven in our hearts forever, dwell the cross, the Crucified.

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452-1498; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826-1896, alt.

JESUS BEFORE PILATE: Matthew 27:11-31

GOLGOTHA: Matthew 27:32-44

HYMN

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

ELW 337, vss. 1, 3

Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
and did my sov'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head
for sinners such as I?

Well might the sun in darkness hide
and shut its glories in
when God, the mighty maker, died
for his own creatures' sin.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Please stand, as you are able.

JESUS' DEATH: Matthew 27:45-56

*Silence will be kept following
"Then Jesus...breathed his last."*

JESUS' BURIAL: Matthew 27: 57-66

Be seated.

VOLUNTARY

"Passion Chorale"

arr. Sondra K. Tucker

Handbell Ensemble

Reflect on the text of "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (ELW 351).

✠ **SENDING** ✠

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world as we begin the
Great and Holy Week, marking Jesus' suffering, death, and burial for our sakes.*

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, † the Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The ministers leave in silence.

**Worshippers may remain for prayer and meditation on
the mystery of the crucified Savior, the mystery of redemption.**



TRUE HUMILITY

The servanthood of a teacher in Isaiah, the outcast in the psalm: today's readings teach humility. On this day we move from Christ's triumphant ride on a humble donkey to the humiliation of the cross. The humility of the characters in the passion story is in question: Judas, Pilate, the Twelve, chief priests and elders, Barabbas, the crowd, the soldiers, two bandits. Among other things, their lack of humility is what brings about the passion of Christ. There is only one truly humble person in this story: Jesus the Christ. Matthew's humble Jesus cries out from the cross to ask God why he has been forsaken.

Only in the stories of the resurrection do other humble characters appear: the centurion, the women, Joseph of Arimathea. A careful look at the complexity of humility in the palm and passion stories could set up a reflective theme carried through to Easter. Who in each story do we regard as humble? Why? How does our humility compare? Are there characters who seem to gain or lose humility in the course of the story from the triumphant entry to the resurrection? A deep and meaningful understanding of humility is a worthy and lasting gift to take away from the season of Lent and the celebration of Easter.

Joseph of Arimathea is a particularly good character on which to base an understanding of humility. A close look at all references to him in the Gospels, and a bit of creative narrative, create an image of a truly humble believer. He is referenced in both canonical and apocryphal texts. His devotion represents deep humility that leads to the very finest of good works as he cares for the body of Jesus.

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 29, 2026

EASTER BRUNCH

We will be having an Easter brunch following the service next **Sunday, April 5**. To aid in our planning please use the sign-up posters in the narthex. Any questions, please call 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 feeding the needy through our participation in the Hope Dining Room.

LUNCH AND LEARN & ADULT FORUM

There is no Adult Forum this Sunday or next Sunday. We'll kick off our next series with a special **Lunch and Learn on Sunday, April 12**, with Pastor Carla Cristopher as our guest to lead us into a conversation about Queer Theology. Pastor Christine will continue that conversation on **April 19 and 26 at 8:30 AM**.

We will conclude our forum year in May with a series titled, "One If by Land' Churches of the American Revolutionary War." And yes, some of them are in Delaware!

CONSIDERING WORSHIP ASSISTANCE?

Would you be interested in signing up to read from the lectionary, lead the prayers and distribute Holy Communion, or set up the altar for Holy Communion? Or perhaps you bake and would like to make communion bread? Would you like to place flowers in the chancel or perhaps arrange them? Use the SignUpGenius link below to submit your name as Bread Provider, Lector, Worship Assistant, Bread Baker, Altar Guild. You can also submit your flower dedication through this link: <https://bit.ly/StPaulsWorshipAssistants>

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

We will have seven guest musicians on Good Friday for our evening service, "What Wondrous Love," along with four member musicians. In furtherance of our budgets, we are seeking contributions to the Friends of Music fund to cover the stipends for these instrumentalists. Your gift provides for "beautiful music in a beautiful space" and can be made using the QR Code in this worship folder, selecting Friends of Music in the drop-down menu. Or you can simply write a check to St. Paul's with Friends of Music in the memo. Need more information, speak to Mike Bareham, Director for Music and Worship.

RAISE THE ROOF UPDATE

Last Sunday we revealed the current status of the "Raise The Roof (Funds)!" campaign that we've been running during the season of Lent. At the roughly three-quarters mark we have thirty-three pledges (or contributions) for a total of \$52,300! That's amazing - thank you to everyone who has made a commitment to this urgent need. The campaign will continue through Easter with hopes to have all of the monies received by Pentecost (Sunday, May 24).

Wait a minute - didn't you just say we've got \$52K already? Then why is the campaign still continuing? Well, we don't know for certain what the other costs associated with the repairs will be - the ceiling being the biggest unknown. And, if there is any money left over after the roof and ceiling are all done, we plan to review some other Property needs that have cropped up recently - including the replacement of the air conditioner for the office area that was stolen last week.

The work on the roof can commence once we have a majority of the funds in hand, which we hope will be shortly. You don't need to make a pledge in order to contribute, but if you would like to, pledge cards are still available in the Narthex near the Gold Box.

If you have any questions, please reach out to a member of Stewardship: Rich Wallden, Natalie Stevenson, Emily Mascaro and Keith Bart.

Once again, thank you to everyone who has responded to our appeal!

BREWING THEOLOGY

For everyone twenty-one and older, please join us on **Wednesday, April 1, 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 "Turning Point Stories- specific moments when God's will became clear to us".

BOOKS AND BANTER

At our monthly meeting this past Wednesday, we discussed the historical fiction novel "The First Ladies" by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. This selection is a New Castle County Library Reads choice and co-author Victoria Christopher Murray will lead a discussion of the book at an "Evening with the Author" event on **April 8, 2026, at 7:00 PM** at the Chase Center at the Riverfront.

Our book selection for the Wednesday, April 22, meeting will be "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon.

KOINONIA DINNER FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Calling all young adults in the congregation (18 to thirty-something) to gather together for our next potluck dinner on **Friday, April 10, at 6 PM**. We use the Greek work for community, "Koinonia," to represent what we are trying to build and strengthen as we navigate life together. Whether you've been to our last two monthly dinners or not, you are welcome to join us for some good company and delicious food! In need of more details or have questions? Reach out to Laura Blenderman at ljblenderman@comcast.net.

SIGN UP FOR THE KACZMARCZYKS' MEAL TRAIN

Baby Kaczmarczyk is due on April 3! Please help us support Kyra and James as they step into their new roles as parents. We are hoping to provide them with a month's worth of meals so that they can focus on spending time with their new baby girl. Please keep in mind that dates may change depending on when the baby arrives. Sign up at this URL: <https://mealtrain.com/me7z4l> or reach out to Jordan & Phillip Gerecke for help signing up (family.gerecke@gmail.com).

OWLS VISIT LONGWOOD GARDENS

Join the OWLS (Older Wiser LutheranS) on Tuesday, April 21, when we visit Longwood Gardens during their Spring Blooms season. We will meet at Longwood Gardens at 10:30 AM, for a one-hour guided tour starting at 11 AM. After the tour we will have time to explore on our own, and then lunch will be at Floga Bistro at 2:30 PM.

The tour is a flat rate for the group and is limited to 14 people. With 14 people the tour will be about \$11 per person. Admission to Longwood Gardens is also required and is \$32, \$28 for seniors. Kathy will reserve the tour and admission for all those who sign up and will notify attendees of the final cost after the reservations are made.

Please RVSP to Kathy Palmer @ elie2220@comcast.net or 302-547-5168 by this **Sunday, March 29**, and provide your email address, cell phone number and if you are using your Longwood Gardens membership for admission or would like to carpool.

SYNOD DELEGATES

The Delaware-Maryland Synod will gather for its annual assembly on June 4-5 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, MD. If you are interested in representing St. Paul's for this enjoyable and informative event, please let Pastor Cris or Susie Olson (Council President) know.

PRESCHOOL SILENT AUCTION

Join the excitement of the St. Paul's Lutheran School Silent Auction, **Sunday April 5th-Sunday, April 12th!** Bid on great items online while helping us raise funds that directly support the children and programs at our school. Every bid makes a difference and helps us continue providing a nurturing, faith-filled environment for our students. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dr. Rae by phone at (302)368-0064 or email at stpaulschool701@outlook.com.

ST. PAUL'S GAME NIGHT

Please join us on **Wednesday, April 8**, from **6 PM to 9 PM** for a Game Night. Bring your favorite card or board game to the Fellowship Hall for some friendly competition. Bring a snack to share, if you'd like.



Thursday, April 2

MAUNDY THURSDAY

We hear about Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his death, and how we are transformed by the mercy received in the meal and carry it into the world. Finally, we strip the chancel bare, to ready ourselves for Good Friday.

*7 PM Service of Holy Communion with Corporate Confession
and the Stripping of the Altar – Live Streamed*

Friday, April 3

GOOD FRIDAY

Why do we call this day Good? In John's telling of Jesus' passion, Jesus is "I am," the God who reigns from the cross, the king who discusses theology with Pilate. Listen for the differences between John's passion and Matthew's narrative heard on Passion Sunday. At this service we confess that it is our sin that crucified Christ and we behold the life-giving cross, coming forward in veneration.

7 PM Service with Adoration of the Cross – Live Streamed

Sunday, April 5

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

What does it mean to be Christian? Christians are those who believe that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and that he continues to enliven his people with his Spirit. On every Sunday we remember Christ's resurrection, but once a year we have a blowout celebration of this central mystery of the faith. Come to celebrate with us!

*10 AM Festival Service of Holy Communion – Live Streamed
11 AM Easter Brunch in Fellowship Hall*



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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Church Council

Susie Olson (*President*), Anne Sullivan (*Vice President*), Phillip Gerecke (*Secretary*), Mary Collins (*Treasurer*), Laura Blenderman, Heidi Burch, Kristine Cassar, Mark Deschere, Ian Kenyon.

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

