

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
March 29/30, 2025



St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
*The People of St. Paul's, the Ministers*  
474 Yalick Road - PO Box 802 – Dallas, PA 18612  
Phone: 570-675-3859; email: [stpaul@epix.net](mailto:stpaul@epix.net)  
Website: [www.stpaulsdallaspa.org](http://www.stpaulsdallaspa.org)

Rev. Charles H. Grube, Pastor  
Margaret Quintanar, Director of Music/Organist  
Senior Choir & Chimes  
Jean Grube, Youth Choir Director

Church Office Hours:  
Monday through Thursday: 9:30 am till 4:00 pm

## **TODAY'S WORSHIP**

**WELCOME!** Like a loving father welcoming a prodigal child home and inviting the other to join the feast, God welcomes us all. Let us celebrate such amazing grace.

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

**WORSHIP BEGINS** in our gathering. Please enjoy greeting and conversation in the Narthex, and respect those who have entered the Sanctuary to pray, meditate, and listen to the prelude with silence and an atmosphere of reverence and peace as we all prepare to hear God's word.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE** devices are available; please ask an usher for help.

**THE BLUE WELCOME PAD** in the pew rack is our record of your attendance and communion (or you may leave a message for Pastor Grube, note a new address or phone number). Please take a moment to complete it.

**LEAVING THE SANCTUARY** during worship, please use the side doors with the panic bar latches; they open and close silently. **TURNING OFF** cell phone and other electronic devices is greatly appreciated.

**IF YOU'D LIKE** someone's name to be added to our prayer list spoken in worship and printed in the bulletin, please be sure to contact the church office or complete the prayer request card on the table in the Narthex before worship. Cards added after worship will be included in the following week's prayer list. In either case you will continue to have the opportunity to say aloud or remember silently that person's name during the intercessory prayers.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** for April 5/6 are: Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:4b-14 and John 12:1-8.

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## GATHERING

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*Please note: Parts of this service are omitted for Saturday's worship.*

**PRELUDE**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Michael Burkhardt

### **BELL, WELCOME, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Kneel or remain seated for the confession.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others as you receive us with open arms. We oppress others, even though you mercifully set us free. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth, though you provide for us graciously. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

*Stand.*

**GATHERING HYMN #807**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER FOR ENCOURAGEMENT**

Merciful and most high God, creator and life-giver of all that is, you have called all people from darkness into light, from error into truth, from death into life. We ask you, grant grace to us and bless us. Raise us by your Spirit. Revive us by your word. Form us by your hand. Renew in us the water of life and feed us with the bread and cup of blessing, that with all your people we may bear witness to your grace and praise you forever through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Sit.*

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## **WORD**

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### **CHILDREN'S SERMON [SUNDAY]**

#### **FIRST READING**

**JOSHUA 5:9-12**

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.*

A reading from Joshua:

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they

ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 32**

*Sung by all in unison to Tone 9*



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

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

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

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

**Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."  
Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.**

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

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

*(Continues on next page)*

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

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

**Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.**

**Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.**

## **SECOND READING**

## **2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21**

*One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

A reading from 2 Corinthians:

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL

**Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.*

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said

to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit.*

**SERMON**

*Stand as you are able for the Hymn.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY #608**    *Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling*



## APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith with the creed of our baptism.  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**  
    **who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,**  
    **suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;**  
    **he descended to the dead.**  
    **On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,**  
    **he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**  
    **and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**  
    **the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,**  
    **the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,**  
    **and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say Peace be with you or similar words. Sit.*

## ANTHEM

*Come to Me, O Weary Traveler*  
Senior Choir

Sylvia Dunstan and  
William P. Rowan

*Please sign the blue pew pads as you listen to the anthem.*

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## MEAL

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*Stand as you are able as the offering is presented.*

**OFFERTORY #188**

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERING PRAYER

*The assisting minister leads the prayer.*

Let us pray.

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The presiding minister unveils the paten and chalice and prepares for the communion.*

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.**

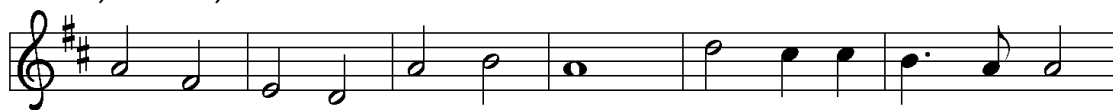
*The presiding minister continues:*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . .

*Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:*

. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The presiding minister continues:*

Blessed are you, O God.....With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection...blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

## **COMMUNION**

All who are hungry, come!

The feast of grace is spread for you.

*The bread is broken for the communion and the assembly is seated. Online worshipers receive the word The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.*

### ***Distribution around the predella step***

*We invite you to come forward to stand on the floor at the predella step beginning with the person seated closest to the ambo. The communion ministers will come to you, beginning with the bread. Then, take an empty glass from the tray to be filled with wine from the pouring chalice or a prefilled glass of juice for those who cannot or prefer not to receive wine. When you have communed, return to your seat by the opposite end.*

*We invite all Baptized Christians and those who commune in their own churches to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Small children and those not communing may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come forward to receive Holy Communion, please inform an usher or neighbor of your desire to commune so they can inform the communion ministers, and they will bring the sacrament to you in your seat.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say,  
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
and each person may respond Amen.*

*During the distribution, Lamb of God is sung:*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*When all have communed and the ministers have communed, the table is re-dressed and the assembly stands.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*The assisting minister leads the prayer.*

Let us pray.

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love, mercy, and grace in our community, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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## SENDING

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*The service concludes with the blessing and the dismissal.*

### BLESSING

God our compassionate Father, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, +  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN # 779**     *Amazing Grace*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

*Amazing Grace*

David Chewien

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## SERVING AS WORSHIP LEADERS

Greeter:	Ellen Babuscak
Acolyte:	Morgan Holbrook
Assisting Minister & Lector:	Gail Smallwood
Communion Bread:	Martha Kush
Saturday Altar Set Up:	Cookie Fetterman
Sunday Altar Clean Up:	Gail Smallwood
Minister of Technology:	Marissa Miller

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT:** St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family called together by God and united by a common faith. Our mission is to share with all people God's Love and Grace through Word and Sacrament. Through the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to witness and serve, treating one another with love, compassion, forgiveness, and understanding. By our commitments, actions, deeds, and resources, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ, reaching out to our community, nation and world.

— Adopted, May 1993

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**ECUMENICAL SOUP AND SCRIPTURE** – This Lenten season local churches have renewed the practice of coming together for mid-week Ecumenical Soup and Scripture evenings. Each event begins at 6:00 pm, and will include a soup supper followed by a teaching from scripture. The schedule is as follows:

April 2	Maple Grove UMC, 5876 Main Rd, Hunlock Creek
April 9	Lehman Idetown UMC, 1011 Mountainview Dr., Lehman

**A ROAST BEEF DINNER** has been scheduled for Saturday, April 5; take-outs from 3:30 pm – dining in from 4 to 6:30 pm. Volunteers needed for various duties ranging from setting tables, helping with take-outs, making desserts, working the steam tables, waiting on tables, dishwashing and clean up. Please check out the sign-up poster in the Narthex. Tickets for the dinner will be available at the door the night of the dinner.

**EACH MONTH** when Pastor Grube leads worship at Pyramid, he often receives requests from residents for a Bible. To support them in their recovery journey, Pastor would like to provide copies of a helpful version, the Life Recovery Bible. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of one of these Bibles, you can make a donation in the basket/box/receptacle located in the Narthex.



# PIG



# ROAST

It may seem rather early to have a sign-up poster for our May 25 Pig Roast Picnic, but by April 15, we need to give an approximate number attending to our Pigmester. As soon as you know how many in your household will be attending, please sign up. Thank you!

**IT'S FLEECE BLANKET MAKING TIME**— Please join the Social Ministry Committee to make blankets for the children attending Grief Camp at Hillside Farm this summer. We will meet in the social hall at 10:00 a.m. on the following dates: April 7, 9, 14, 16, and 23; May 5, 7, 12 and 14. If you have any questions, please contact Marianne Mancke.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to portray the characters in our Narrative Gospel for Palm Sunday, "The Passion of Our Lord According to Luke." If you are interested, please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex, and add your name to a part. A copy of the script will be given and/or mailed to you prior to the service.

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE:** This year marks our second annual exchange with our sisters and brothers of Prince of Peace Episcopal Church for Holy Week. Following Palm Sunday worship on April 13 we will offer worship on Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:00 pm with Holy Communion and Individual Absolution. Good Friday service, April 18, will be at Prince of Peace at noon with Father Rafferty presiding and Pastor Grube preaching. The Easter Vigil service, April 19, will be at St. Paul's at 7:00 pm with Pastor Grube presiding and Father Rafferty preaching. Please note that our usual Saturday service at 5:30 will not be held that evening. We will celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday, April 20 at 9:30 and there is no Sunday School that day.

**THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE** is busy planning upcoming events and wants to remind you of the next event on April 20: An Easter Breakfast! Sausage, French toast sticks, fruit, juice, coffee, muffins, etc. will be served from 8:00-9:00 am. Please sign up to attend by April 13(Palm Sunday). Price is \$5.00, payable at the door. The committee is looking for members to help with setup and clean up; please look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Thank you!

### **THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

Today:           8:30 am Chime Practice  
                  9:30 am Worship  
                  10:45 am Sunday School  
                  5:00 pm Den Meeting;  
                  6:30 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday:       10:30 am Bible Study  
                  11:00 am Card Group  
                  7:00 pm Council Meeting

Thursday:      10:00 am Alzheimer's Support Group  
                  7:00 pm Choir Practice

Saturday:      3:30 pm Roast Beef Dinner Take Outs begin  
                  4:00 – 6:30 pm Roast Beef Dinner  
                  5:30 pm Worship

Sunday:        8:30 am Chime Practice  
                  9:30 am Worship  
                  10:45 am Sunday School  
                  11:45 am 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting  
                  5:00 pm Cub Scouts;  
                  6:30 pm Boy Scouts

**PRAYER LIST** - Please remember to ask permission from the person you are placing on the prayer list. **Pray for the Congregations –St. James, Hobbie and St. James, Zenith.**

**Pray for those suffering illness:** *Members:* Chris Bellezza, Annie & Marty Bisher, Mary Lou Button, Pam Cyphers, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Marge Fritzinger, Jean Grube, Robert Kline, Emilia Policare, Rachele Pryor, Greta Ruckno, Betty Schray, Gerald Siperko, Carol Swanson, John Thomas, Jack Traver, Anita Weiss, Alyson Wood, Shirley Zimmerman.

**Please note:** Those people listed as Family and Friends will be listed here for a four-week period. Please contact the church office at 570-675-3859 or [stpaul@epix.net](mailto:stpaul@epix.net) if you desire a name to remain on the list beyond that time.

***Family & Friends:*** Robert Binger, Judy C., Marjorie Catania, Janice DeFebo, John Diel, Manfred Diel, Gene Eyerman, Jeffrey Farley, Thomas Fortner, Rich Fufaro, Nancy & Christopher Gillies, Jenn Hubbard, Christine Ide, Michael Kaminski, Joe Kerestes, Bradley Kessler, Elsie Kosmach, Rebecca & Ryan Kozloski, Alice Laskowski, Carl London, Todd Lozo, Audrey Mace, Carol Marker, Debbie Maskalis, Sue & Dan McConnell, Dwight McKee, Bryant Mesick, Rob Merritt, Patty N., Tim Nulton, Helen O'Brien, Peg O'Brien, Alice O'Neil, Nancy Ott, Megan Sheehan Palmer, Ryleigh Phillips, Paul Pryor, Toni Quinn, Febe Quintanar, Lisa Rowe, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, Marilyn Roll Shaver, Nancy Shymanski, Debbie Smith, Mark Sokolowski, Sandy Sprau, Sandra Stankiewicz, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Benjamin Szostak, Raymah Tasco, Abigail Thomas, Arnold Thompson, Judi Vietz and family, Jere Vietz, Bill Ward, Karen Wise, Woody Wolfe, Peg Wyda, Mary Z., Paul Zawadzki, Ashley, Bethann, Bruce, Cindy, Keith, Kim, Diane, Mary, Rosemary, Morgan, Lori, Greg, Josh, Justin (no last names given).