

*Mary anointed  
Jesus' feet,  
and wiped them  
with her hair*

JOHN 12:3



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

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[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

**WELCOME** Thank you for being with us.

**We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition** (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 189 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Offerings** Offerings are received during the liturgy. They are presented along with gifts of bread and wine at the altar. You may also donate via our website at [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org) or use the QR Code provided.



**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery which is accessed through the double doors front right.

**The Nursery** is accessed through the front right double doors. The liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Quiet activities are also available in the Narthex for infant through preschool children to use with an adult.

**Lutheran Church in York, PA - St. Paul's Lutheran...**

[stpaulsyork.org](http://stpaulsyork.org)

**An AED/Defibrillator** unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.

**Parents**, please do accompany your child to the restroom during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.

**Please switch off all electronic devices both in and out of the nave during the service.**

***We extend a special welcome to our preschool families. We are delighted that you are here today. Preschool classrooms on the Upper Level are open following the Liturgy. Take this opportunity to see art work displayed and the spaces in which the children learn and grow. A reception follows the 10:30 AM liturgy in the Good Shepherd room.***

## STAFF

Pastor

Youth Director

Organist, Choir Director

Children's Music Director

Bell Choirs Director

Secretary

Sexton

Preschool Director

Rev. Stanley Reep

Kelly Moore-Spencer

Victor Fields

Julianna Jones

Leah McComas

Patee Pizzirusso

Ted Weikert

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**April 6, 2025**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.**  
*Musical setting #9 Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

**TEMPLE TALK**

Camping at Kirchenwald

Zach Weiss

**PRELUDE**

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

Karl Osterland

*Stand*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

**APOSTOLIC 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.**

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

### RESPONSE

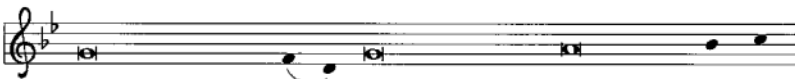


Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

### RESPONSE



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of

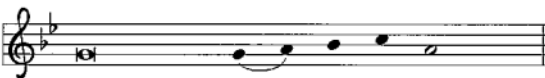


God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

### RESPONSE



For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.

### RESPONSE



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

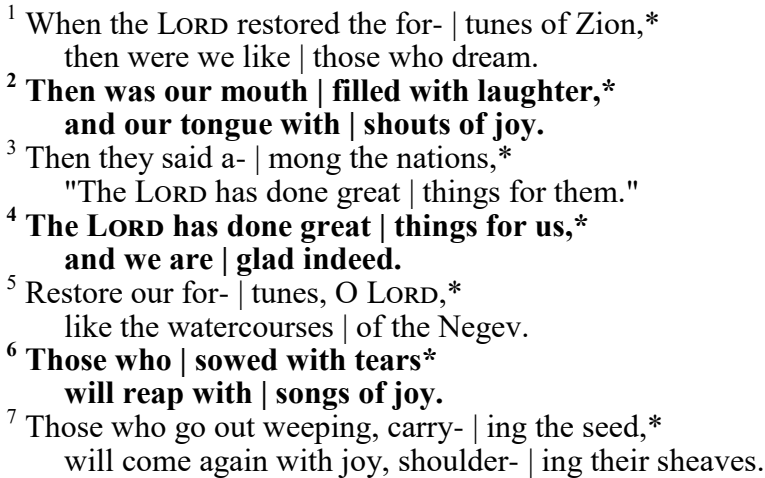
## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray....Almighty God, our redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope in the world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

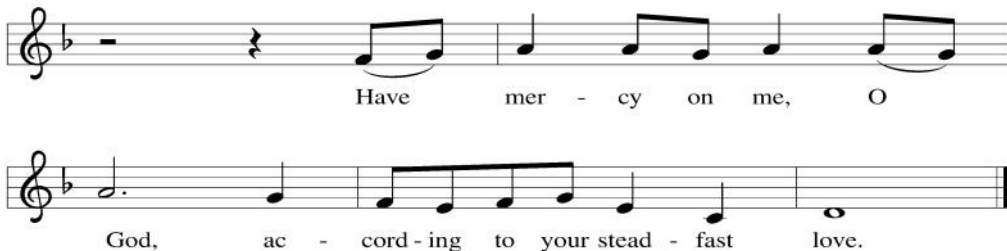
## PRESCHOOL CHILDREN PRESENT SONGS

(back cover)

*The Organ introduces the tone, then it is sung unaccompanied.*

Philippians 3:4b-14 *(back cover)*

## VERSE



**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Pastor Reep

Stand

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## Take My Life (ELW 583)

*Refrain/Estribillo*



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -  
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón  
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

*To stanzas* *Last time*



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.  
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.

1 *Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té*  
1 Take my hands and let them move  
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,  
3 Take my voice and let me sing  
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;  
at the im - pulse of thy love;  
not a mite - would I with - hold;  
al - ways, on - ly for my King;  
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -  
take my feet and let them be swift and  
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry  
take my lips and let them be filled with  
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

*Refrain/Estribillo*



pul - so de tu a - mor.  
beau - ti - ful for thee.  
pow'r as thou shalt choose.  
mes - sag - es from thee.  
be thy roy - al throne.

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**  
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**  
**Through him all things were made.**  
**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin  
Mary, and was made man.**  
**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**  
**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**  
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**  
**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**  
**He has spoken through the prophets.**  
**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**  
**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**  
**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*A brief silence.*

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

**receive our prayer.**

Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

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

**receive our prayer.**

Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need (*especially*). May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel (*especially Albrecht Dürer, Matthias Grünewald, and Lucas Cranach*). Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for those who have lived and died in you.. We trust in the promises of life eternal made sure through Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

*Sit*

<b>OFFERING</b>	8:00 AM	<i>A Lamb Goes Forth Uncomplaining</i>	Paul Kickstatt
	10:30 AM	Chancel Choir <i>Lord, for They Tender Mercy's Sake</i>	John Hilton

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY** *Create in Me a Clean Heart (ELW 188)*

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a key of two flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, with the Bass clef providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your". The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and bar lines.



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.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,  
**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

## PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

**FRACTION** *A brief silence is kept.*

## AGNUS DEI



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.

## COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL *Sit*

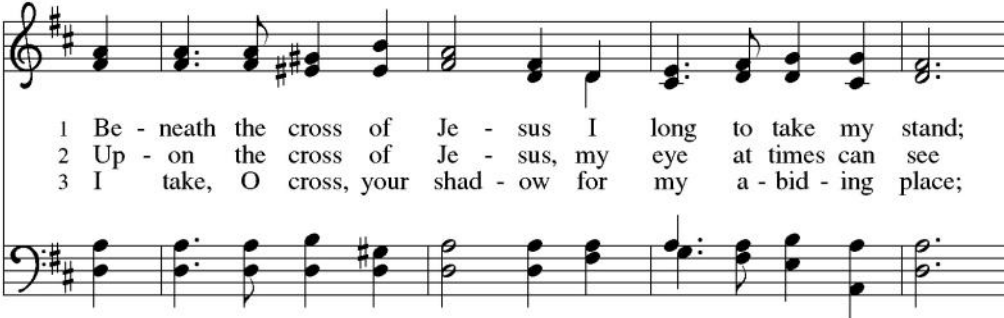
Holy Communion at St. Paul's Church is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

*Procedure for receiving Communion:*

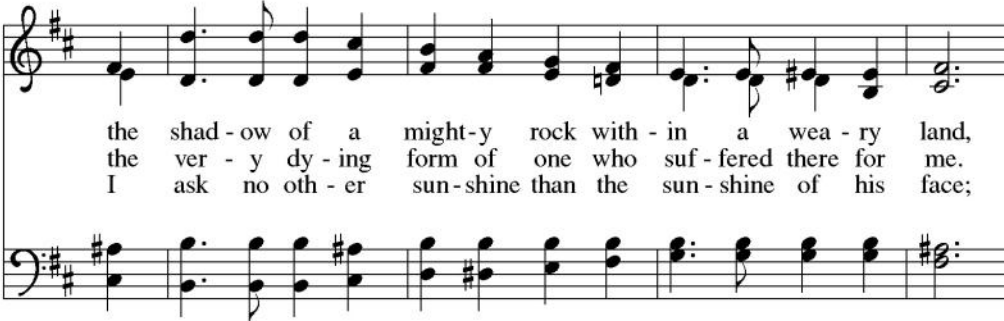
- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle.*
- 2. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 3. Take your place along the chancel step.*
- 4. The ministers will bring the host and wine to you.*
- 5. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 6. Return to your pew using the side aisle*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

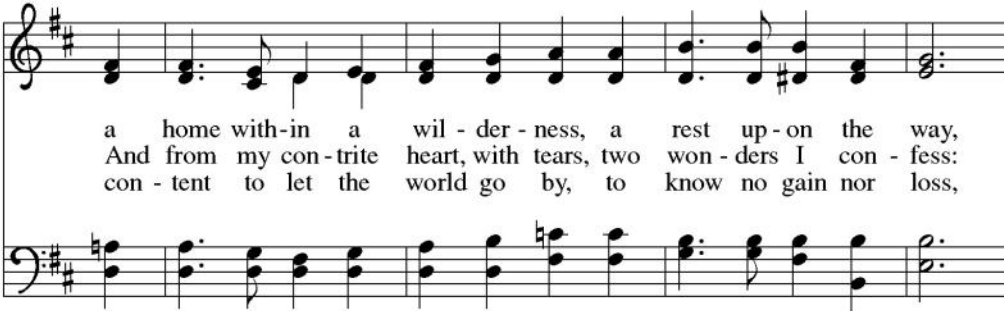
### *Beneath the Cross of Jesus (ELW 338)*



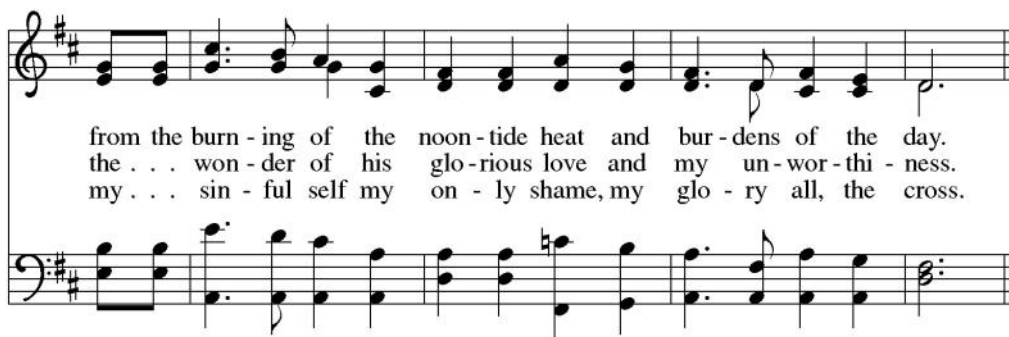
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



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,

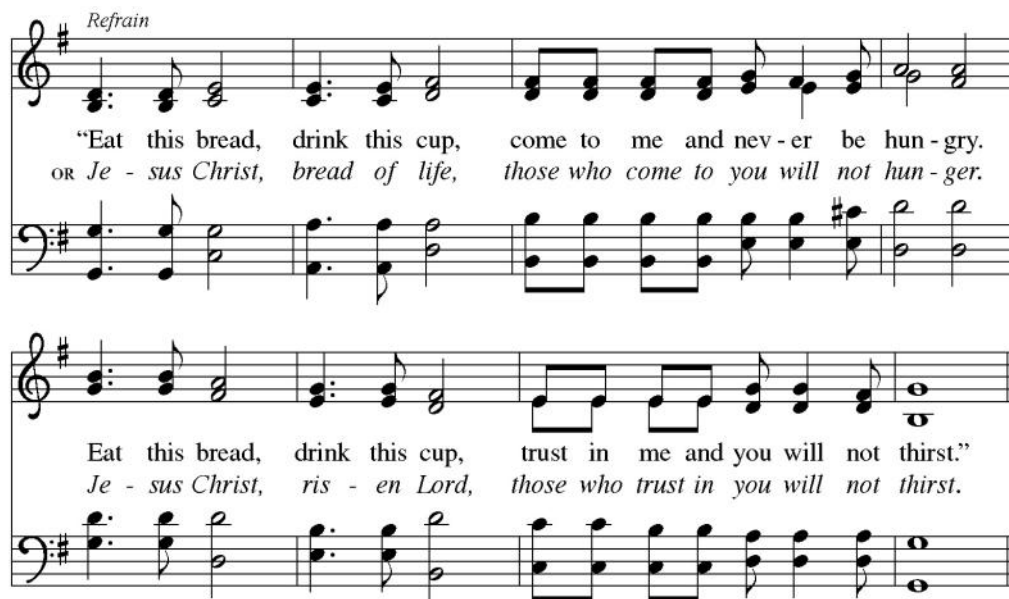


from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

## HYMN

### *Eat this Bread (ELW 472) Sung in 4 part harmony*

*Refrain*



“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.  
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”  
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

## Stand

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**



# HYMN

## *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (ELW 596)*



- 1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
- 2 Whendark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
- 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
- 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
in ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.  
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

# DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

*The congregation remains standing until the ministers and servers have left the chancel.*

*Sit*

# POSTLUDE

*We Thank You Lord Jesus Christ*

J. S. Bach

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**Call for Benevolence Applications**—by April 30. Request the online application from Patee in the office or use the green application form available in the Springettsbury Entrance. Remember, you may support local, reginal, national, or international ministry opportunities. Each applicant should have a connection to the project or ministry. Call Pastor Snyder with any questions, 717-880-0350.

**Food Pantry Needs:** Plastic and paper grocery bags. Peanut butter. Monetary donations can be placed in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”. Volunteers on: Tuesday (distribution day), Thursdays (food delivery days) and some Sundays (pantry stocking days) Contact Teresa Rohrbaugh, Patty Snyder, or the church office (717-843-8155) with questions.  
The “Pantry Grocery Cart” in the Good Shepherd Room is for bags and food donations only.

## ***Baskets of Grace* Vacation Bible School July 20-24**

April fool's Day starts the month and the Christian Education Committee is thinking about the middle of summer and VBS! No fooling, it is time to register children for Bible school week at St. Paul's. *Baskets of Grace* weaves together 5 Bible stories involving baskets and how they were used to make a way forward to save and rescue God's people. One of the crafts during the week will involve weaving your own basket. For those who desire it, a simple supper will be ready for hungry participants at 5:30 PM. We simply ask that you check the days you would like to have a meal. The story, activity and craft portion is held from 6:00 – 7:30 PM. VBS is designed for children age 3 through grade 6. **Registration closes on May 20th.** If you are so inclined to help with this year's program please contact the church office. Thank you for your support, prayers and encouragement as preparations are made for *Baskets of Grace*.

## **Music and Create** —Age 3 through Grade 6—Tuesday evenings 6:00 PM—7:15 PM

We provide this opportunity for our families with young children to engage in music and art while also having the opportunity to connect with other families. Last evening is April 15.

## ***Serving the Lord with Gladness***

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Bread Bakers	Greeters	Ushers -	Altar Early: Set-up Late: Clean -up
4/6	8:00 AM	Harold Sargeant	James Palmer	Ann Ulrich	Ann Ulrich	Linda & Mike Hanson	Team 1E: Jeff Riese, John Monk, Alex Bastian	Pat Scarborough, Kat Lemke
4/6	10:30 AM	Aaron Jacobs	Larry Becker	Allison Lehr	Emily Reep	Chris & Amy Lipp	Team 1L: Dave Kopp, Christian Kopp, Darren Smith, Kass Keleta	Deb Becker, Isabella Lehr

## **This Week at St. Paul's**

Church office open Mon—Thurs, 8:00 AM—4:00 PM, Friday 8:00 AM—11:30 AM

### **Sunday, April 6   Preschool Sunday**

8:00 AM   Holy Eucharist  
9:15 AM   Sunday School for all ages  
9:15 AM   Zach Weiss, Lutheran Camping Christ Hall  
10:30 AM   Holy Eucharist—Live-Stream  
6:30 PM   AA Meeting—Community Room

### **Tuesday, April 8   Council Reports due to Secretary**

9:30 AM   Pantry  
6:00 PM   Create for Preschool thru Grade 6  
6:00 PM   Preschool Committee Mtg in person

### **Wednesday, April 9**

10:00 AM   Preschool with Pastor—Nave  
10:30 AM   Bible Study—Christ Hall  
6:00 PM   Lenten Supper  
7:00 PM   Lenten Vespers

### **Thursday, April 10**

10:00 AM   Preschool with Pastor—Nave  
6:30 PM   Handbell Choir  
7:30 PM   Chancel Choir

### **Sunday, April 13   Palm Sunday**

9:15 AM   Holy Eucharist—Live Stream  
10:45 AM   Second Sunday Sandwiches  
3:00 PM   York College Choral Concert & Orchestra  
6:30 PM   AA Meeting—Community Room

*“You will always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”* What would prompt our Lord to say such a thing at a dinner party? Especially at a gathering of close friends comprised of; Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead, Martha who served the dinner, Mary who anoints him with perfume and other guests including Judas Iscariot. Certainly we can conclude that it was Judas who asked why the perfume wasn’t sold and the money given to the poor. It certainly sounds admirable. And perhaps had it come from someone other than Judas it may have carried more clout. Judas has a reputation. His previous actions indicate that he would add the 300 Denarii to the purse. It was doubtful that the poor would ever see even a penny spent on their need. It also prompted our Lord to announce for all to hear that they should leave Mary alone. Do not try to manipulate her generosity, affection, devotion, and grief.

I think that Mary may be the only one at the dinner party who seems to grasp something of what is to come. Regardless of what may or may not happen, in the very moment, at that time, she pours out abundantly all that she has been keeping. She pours out the perfume in celebration; she has just gotten Lazarus her brother back from the dead. She pours out the perfume in grief; she has some idea of the authorities and how they are working to put Jesus to death. She pours out perfume in affection; for she has learned from Jesus, his teachings, his generosity, his acceptance of the community’s outcast, and his longing for all people to live differently. And so Mary took a pound of costly perfume and anoints Jesus’ feet and wipes them with her hair. The entire house was filled with fragrance. At this point we have identified two traits among Jesus’ closest followers; Judas who acts with greed and Mary who acts with generosity. The juxtaposition of the two is notable. The poor it seems will always be with us because of humanity’s penchant for greed. And how actions of extravagant generosity will always be criticized by those who are held by greed’s suffocating grip.

Years ago a congregation had established a “New Church” building fund. Their building was old and in need of many repairs. It was also landlocked and had little parking for congregants. The vision was to relocate out of town where land was plentiful and parking along with a sleek new edifice would improve attendance and membership. Contributions designated for the newly established fund were deposited into the fund. And over time the fund grew. Designated offerings for the “New Church” building fund continued to be given even when the general fund languished and current expenses could not be met. As time went on the congregation seemed to divide itself between those who contributed primarily to the “New Church” building fund and those who contributed primarily to the current expense general fund.

Then one day a visitor from the History and Landmarks Foundation arrived on the scene and identified the church building as exemplary work of a renowned local architect. With this news the congregation rallied. They developed a plan and completed repairs and awaited the day for the large bronze plaque to be placed on the building adjacent to the corner stone. It was a proud moment for the congregation.

Years passed. The “New Church” building fund continued to receive designated gifts. Its balance grew. Then, the original pipe organ failed. Repairs were needed. Organ builders advocated the purchase of a new instrument to meet the needs of the congregation and they provided estimates of projected cost. The congregation had plenty of money in reserve. The dilemma; it was in the “New Church” building fund. As you may suspect, it didn’t take long for some in the congregation to propose utilizing a portion of those designated funds to purchase an organ. It didn’t take long for others to protect the “New Church’ building fund advocating that the fund be kept honoring the donors’ intentions. Everyone knew that with the large bronze plaque placed by the History and Landmark Foundation that the congregation was not planning to abandon the site, relocate or build.

As congregations do, the day of the annual meeting arrived where this now contentious proposal would be put to a vote. The motion was “to use a percentage of the money from the New Church building fund to purchase an organ.” The turnout for the annual meeting exceeded the Fellowship Committee’s wildest dreams; they were busy in the kitchen cutting meatloaf slices and baked potatoes in half. The Property Committee guys were hustling to put up tables and add more chairs in Fellowship Hall. The president of the congregation called the meeting to order and the agenda items flew passed until arriving at the proposal.

To counter the group wanting to spend money from the “New Church” building fund to purchase a pipe organ a gentleman spoke against spending such a large sum for a pipe organ. He put forth a compelling argument, that instead of the instrument that was from the Worship Committee’s report going to help them in praise of God, that they should rather reach out to feed the hungry in the world. He advocated that the congregation give more generously to the “World Hunger Appeal.” He proposed that everyone stop giving to the “New Church” building fund and redirect their gifts to the World Hunger Appeal. The room was silent. Church members knew that he and his extended family and friends had been designating offerings for the New Church building fund for decades. Who would speak against generosity towards the World Hunger Appeal and global poverty? The president stood quietly at the podium.

Then, rising to speak favorably to what was just advocated, was the man, the staunchest supporter of a new organ for the congregation. A man who sang in the choir, played in the brass ensemble at Christmas and Easter, and who had researched pipe or-

started “Where as we support the work of feeding the hungry through the World Hunger Appeal, and where as the old pipe organ could be repaired for a modest sum, and where as the congregation has no future plans to relocate, build or abandon our site with such historical prominence, and where as we have no current or future need of a “New Church” building fund established 34 years ago by the congregation, let us remove the designation and direct the treasurer to forward the entire balance of the former “New Church” building fund to the World Hunger Appeal. Silence encapsulated the hall. Then there was a second to his motion. Debate ensued. That day the congregation relinquished the equivalent of \$3,032,858. The most generous gift the World Hunger Appeal had ever received from one congregation.

That day in Bethany when Mary did an extravagant thing for her guest, the guest recognized the kindness. She was serving Bethany’s guest by providing what was needed at that very moment in time. She wasn’t counting the cost, estimating if this was the best time to pour out the perfume, or if she would get anything in return. She acted in that moment. Judas, who spoke a good line, had no intention of doing anything at that moment or in the future to help the poor.

Jesus will stoop down and wash feet. He will be wrongfully accused. He will suffer death on a cross. And he invites us to dine with him in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. All of this he does, giving his all for the likes of us, who left to our own would make greed the default setting of daily life and living. In Christ we are a new creation. God, proclaims the Prophet Isaiah, is about to do a new thing *“now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”* God forms us and claims us as his people so that we might declare God’s praise and through that praise live for others. Judas was caught trying to live for self. Mary declared God’s praise, anointing Jesus, pouring out the pure nard, filling the room with fragrance. And we as God’s beloved people recognize that the poor are always with us, and in them we find our way to continue serving Bethany’s guest. Amen.



**FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21**

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

**Psalms 126****SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14**

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

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found

in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own; because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

**GOSPEL: John 12:1-8**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup>There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup>Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup>(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup>Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup>You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49.

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