



When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” *John 11:43–44*

March 26, 2023, AD
Fifth Sunday in Lent
8:15 am

Saint Paul Lutheran Church
250 Trinity Road, York, PA 17408
www.saintpaultrinity.org

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023, AD 8:15 am

(P=Pastor, C=Congregation. Please silence all electronic devices as we give our attention to God's presence in this holy place.)

Gathering Music: My Song is Love Unknown – Vaughan Williams

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer Concerns, Joys, and Concerns

(At this time, you may wish to reflect on the following prayer: Almighty God, stir within us today to bring us to new life. Open our hearts to receive the good news of your love and forgiveness and make us into lively witness to your reign of salvation through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

(Acolyte lights the candles during the prelude music)

Prelude: In Thee Alone, O Christ, My Lord - Pachelbel

*Invocation and order of Confession and Forgiveness +

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

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Amen.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and you forgive the iniquity of my sin.

(Please kneel or stand and observe a moment of silence for self-examination.)

C: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Most merciful God, You have given your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. 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.

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn:

355 Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row On - ward
2 One the light of God's own pres - ence On his
3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands Lift as
4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; On - ward,

goes the pil - grim band, Sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
ran - somed peo - ple shed, Chas - ing far the gloom and
from the heart of one; One the con - flict, one the
with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its

ta - tion, March - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
ter - ror, Bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the
per - il, One the march in God be - gun. One the
bat - tle Till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall

fore us through the dark - ness Gleams and burns the
ob - ject of our jour - ney, One the faith which
glad - ness of re - joic - ing On the far e -
come the great a - wak - 'ning; Soon the rend - ing

NEXT PAGE

guid - ing light; Pil - grim clasps the hand of
 nev - er tires, One the ear - nest look - ing
 ter - nal shore, Where the one al - might - y
 of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all

pil - grim Step - ping fear - less through the night.
 for - ward, One the hope our God in - spires.
 Fa - ther Reigns in love for - ev - er - more.
 shad - ows, And the end of toil and gloom.

Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789-1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924
 © Tune: Thomas J. Williams. 1869-1944

EBENEZER
 87 87 D OL-A-713240

*The Apostolic Greeting +

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

C: And also with you.

*Kyrie

(A) In peace, let us pray to the Lord. (B) Lord, have mer - cy.

(A) For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.

(B) Lord, have mer - cy.

A 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.
 G Lord, have mer - cy.
 A For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord. G Lord, have mer - cy.
 A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. G A - men

*Salutation(sung)

B The Lord be with you. G And al - so with you.

*Prayer of the Day:

P: Almighty God, look favorably upon your family. Graciously rule our bodies lest we are enticed to love the world and guard our spirits lest we fail to recognize your love. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

(God revealed through a vision to the prophet Ezekiel his promise to restore the decimated and exiled nation of Israel: a valley of dry bones was brought back to life. Ezekiel was then told to prophesy to Israel revealing God's promise, and that, through God's faithfulness, Israel would know that God is the Lord of life.)

¹The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold,

they were very dry. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." ⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. ¹¹Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 130 (read responsively)

(The psalmist cried from the depths of despair, acknowledging that although none are worthy to stand before the Lord, God is a merciful and forgiving Lord.)

L:¹Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

C:²If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?

L:³For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared.

C:⁴I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.

L:⁵My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

C:⁶O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy;

L:⁷With him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Second Lesson: Romans 8:1-11

(Paul contrasted life in the Spirit with living according to the flesh, which leads to death. He reminded the church in Rome that if the Spirit of God dwells in them through Jesus Christ, then just as Jesus was raised from the dead, so also would their mortal bodies be given resurrection life.)

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own

Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

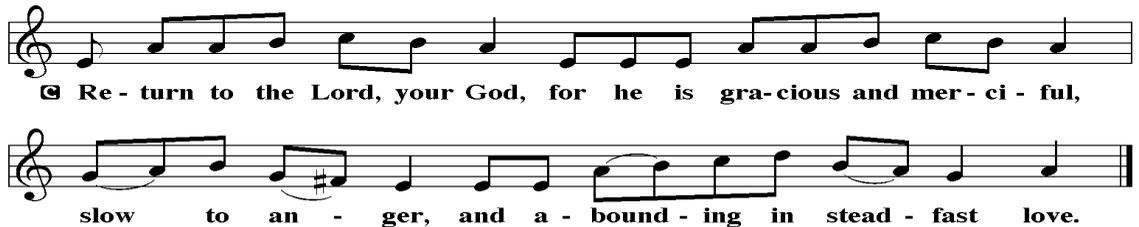
L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(All children ages 2 - grade 4 are invited to come forward and join the Pastor on the altar steps)

Children's Sermon: Pastor Sally

*Lenten Verse



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 Announcement

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 11th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 11:17-27, 38-53

(When Lazarus became ill and died, Jesus was days away from Bethany. When he finally arrived four days after his friend's death, Jesus brought him back to life. This miraculous action amazed all those gathered around the tomb of Mary and Martha's brother. When word of Jesus' last and most extraordinary miracle reached the Pharisees, they realized they would not be able to control Jesus' growing impact on the people, and thus they began to plot to have him killed.)

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that

Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. ⁴⁶But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done. ⁴⁷So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council, and said, "What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. ⁴⁸If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation." ⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all! ⁵⁰You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed." ⁵¹He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, ⁵²and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God. ⁵³So from that day on they planned to put him to death.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon: Pastor Paul
*The Votum

*Hymn of the Day:

What Wondrous Love Is This

385

G Dm C Am C Dm F Em Dm

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

Am Am7 F Em Dm Dm7 G Am Am7 Dm G

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

Am Bbmaj7 C Dm G Dm C F Em

caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my
neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown for my
is the great I Am, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing
sing his love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

Dm G Em Dm Am Am7 F Em Dm

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

Text: American folk hymn, alt.
Tune: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

WONDROUS LOVE
129 66 129

*The 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 worshipped 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.

*The Prayers (Please respond "Hear our prayer.") **C: Amen.**

*Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you. (We share the peace with one another.)

Offertory: The Wounded Rose – Nolan / Choir

*Offertory Response:

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 to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

*Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you,

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Great Thanksgiving

Ⓟ 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 him thanks and praise.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with a square box containing a 'P' for the first staff and a square box containing a 'C' for the second and fourth staves. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values and rests.

*Preface §

P: 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 for the Easter feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fulness 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:

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

Heav - en 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 musical notation for the Preface consists of five staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with a square box containing a 'C' for the first staff. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values and rests.

***Eucharistic Prayer #33**

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world, you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

***The Words of Institution**

***The Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Lamb of God

The musical score for the Lamb of God prayer is presented in six staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: "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. A - men".

Glory Be to Jesus

1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who, in bit - ter pains,
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;

Poured for me the life - blood From his sa - cred veins.
Blest be his com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind.
Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem.
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

5 Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.

6 Lift we then our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood.

Text: Italian, 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878

Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804-1876

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WEM IN LEIDENSTAGEN

65 65

*Blessing

*Post Communion Hymn: **O Lord, Now Let Your Servant LBW #339 Vs-1**

O Lord, now let your servant depart in heav'nly peace, for I have seen the glory of your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles unto your holy hill, the glory of your people, your chosen Israel. Text ©Ernest E. Ryden b 1996 alt. Oxford University Press CCLI License 1757631

*Post Communion Prayer: +

P: 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.

C: Amen

*Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the ✠Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(Acolyte extinguishes the candles during the hymn)

*Recessional Hymn:

Awake, O Sleeper

745

1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
4 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.

so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (D#). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the bass clef provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. The lyrics are printed below the treble clef staff.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984
Music: Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829
Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House

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*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: When Jesus Wept - Schelat

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Theme of the Day: Today we are reminded of the blessed promise that God brings life out of death. Whether it is breath to dead, brittle, dry bones or hope for those stuck in sorrow and despair, new life emerges by God's mighty hand. Jesus demonstrates this power to those around him as he raises Lazarus from the dead after four long days. This miracle foreshadows his own impending death and resurrection.

WELCOME! Thank you for joining for worship! **In the name of Jesus Christ, Saint Paul Lutheran Church is committed to praising, praying, and proclaiming the Word of God.** All baptized Christians who have received their first communion are invited to join us for Holy Communion believing as we do that Christ is truly present in this holy meal. Please join us again.

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

250 Trinity Road York, PA 17408 717-792-1650

PASTORS Rev. Sara "Sally" Gausmann e-mail: pastorsally@saintpaultrinity.org

Cell phone: 717-487-1790

Rev. Paul Gausmann

e-mail: pastorpaul@saintpaultrinity.org

Cell phone: 717-495-6582

ADMIN ASST: Jean Strine

Church office: 717-792-1650

E-mail: parishadmin@saintpaultrinity.org

Website: www.saintpaultrinity.org

WIFI: John3:16

OFFICE HOURS

M-Th 8:00am-2:30pm, Fri 8:00-12 noon

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Carol Moscony

musicdirector@saintpaultrinity.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Carol Frey

financialsecretary@saintpaultrinity.org

MINI SEXTON: Jack Hall

minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org

CYC DIRECTOR: Malinda Grube

CYCdirector@saintpaultrinity.org

Missionaries: Andy Stump in Haiti, Luke & Ruth in the Philippians

SPONSORSHIPS to the Glory of God

ALTAR FLOWERS: in loving memory of our parents, Lillian Spickler, Ray T. Eisenhart and Anna Mary Eisenhart by DeAnn & Rodney Eisenhart

BULLETIN: In memory of past friends and family by Donna & Randy Barshinger

BREAD & WINE: In memory of past friends and family by Donna & Randy Barshinger

MAILING: In memory of our parents by Carl & Sandy Bender

PARISH MESSENGER: in memory of Delores and Carl Smyser by the family

SANCTUARY LAMP: In memory of Pauline Hoffman by her family

Our Lord's Helpers on March 26, 2023

Greeter: Sharon Sell

Acolyte: OPEN

Head Usher: Ron Sell

Sound: Doug Masemer

Lay Reader: Larry Rinehart

Altar Guild: Lyn Greco

Communion Assts.: Cindy Renehan / Larry Kaetzel

Our Lord's Helpers on April 2, 2023

Greeter: OPEN

Acolyte: Brynn Myers

Head Usher: OPEN

Sound: OPEN

Lay Reader: OPEN

Altar Guild: Trudy Waltersdorff

Communion Assts.: Ron & Sharon Sell

You may sign up to be a Lord's Helper on line by clicking [here](#).

Activities for the week of March 26, 2023

- Sun. 3/26 **Fifth Sunday in Lent**
8:15 am Divine Worship with Holy Communion
9:40 am Faith Builders
10:45 am Divine Worship with Holy Communion
- Mon. 3/27 9:00 am Office Staff Meeting
6:00 pm Veterans' Outreach Meeting
6:00 pm Pickleball
- Tues. 3/28 6:30 pm Girl Scouts
7:00 pm Hilltop AA
- Weds. 3/29 10:00 am Bible Study
6:00 pm Lenten Meal
7:00 pm Lenten Worship Service
- Thurs. 3/30 9:30 am Pastors' Pericope Study – Camp Hill, PA
6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Fri. 3/31 7:00 pm Hilltop AA
- Sat. 4/1 11:00 am Knitting Class
- Sun. 4/2 **Palm Sunday**
8:15 am Divine Worship with Holy Communion
9:40 am Faith Builders / Stations of the Cross
10:45 am Divine Worship with Holy Communion

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR MARCH - BORDERLESS HOPE

Borderless HOPE is a ministry that exists to serve Christ and be the voice that brings HOPE to children in rural areas of Barahona, Dominican Republic. This ministry purchases the required uniforms and school supplies so children living in poverty can attend school. Education is the key to enable them to one day be self-sufficient and no longer need a helping hand. Education equips leaders and brings change to their communities, their country, and eventually there is a ripple effect into the world. Funds to date: \$1,555

ARTWORK DONATIONS: The art sub-committee has formulated a plan for adding various types of wall hangings to the new wing. The plan includes icons for the parlor and banners similar to our worship area banners for some of the other walls. We are also exploring a commissioned piece for the conference room wall. To get started, we are looking for sponsors for the artwork. The total for all the pieces is approximately \$3,275 and includes the brackets to hang them. This does not include the commissioned piece (which is yet to be determined). This covers three hallway walls and three parlor walls. If you would like to donate to the artwork, please use an envelope and clearly mark that you are contributing to wall hangings. **We have received approximately \$1,000 toward the project so far.** Thanks so much!



EASTER FLOWERS: The Worship & Music Committee would like to fill our church nave with flowers on **Easter Sunday, April 9th**. Order forms are available on the table in the library area. **Deadline for orders is TODAY, Sunday, March 26th**. Please place your completed order form, with payment, in the basket in the library area. If you have questions or need more information, call Cindy Roth 717-578-9808.

We are producing our own church directory. Pictures will be taken on Sunday mornings after worship. See Joyce Hall or one of her helpers to get your picture taken today or on an upcoming Sunday.

Outside property clean-up day will be held on Sat., April 1, at 8 am (Raindate: April 8). If you are able to help trim trees, pick up branches, etc., we'd greatly appreciate your assistance! Please see Dan Waltersdorff for more information.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF-TÜRKIYE EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE: Our congregation can help build a container house in Kirikhan, Türkiye. Each container will include two rooms, a bathroom with a shower and toilet, a cooking area with a small sink, and a small garden plot. Each container costs \$5,300 and will provide safety and shelter for a family for up to three years. Church Council would like to see if our congregation can raise funds for one or more container houses. Make checks payable to: "St. Paul Lutheran Church" and write "LWR:Container House" in memo and on your envelope please.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY will be on Wednesdays at 10 am. We will be studying the miracles of Jesus using the same format as we had for the Philippians study. Come on out to be enriched by the study of God's word and see how Christ continues to work miracles in our lives. Please sign up on the sheet in the library area.

CEMETERY NEWS: The Cemetery Board continually takes steps to maintain and improve the appearance of our grounds. A revised policy concerning flowers and decorations was recently approved and will be posted at the entrances. Everyone is asked to support these efforts by adhering to the following: All arrangements must be in a headstone saddle, trimmable container or vase and placed not to impede mowing during the mowing season between March 15th and October 15th. No planting of any flowers, shrubs, trees. Funeral flowers will be removed 1 week after service. Arbors, basket hooks, tripods, rustic or iron works, architectural items, wires, glass containers, stakes, and furniture are prohibited.

KNITTING CLASS: Interested in learning a new skill? Want to be able to help others in need? Sue Kinney is offering a knitting class **Saturday, April 1 at 11:00 am.** If you are unable to provide your own needles and yarn, contact Sue. The goal is to make a scarf for a loved one or to donate to Harvest of Hope to help those in need. All skill levels welcome. Come and join the fun!

Sermon Notes

Son of man can these bones live - Ezekiel 37:3

Spring has arrived and with it, new signs of life have emerged.

- Dormant trees, drab and seemingly lifeless, for months now show traces of color as buds emerge
- Flowers beds, which through winter displayed no life, are covered in bright daffodils
- And even vines, severely cut back practically to the ground, show the first signs of fruit

Writing centuries ago the church father, Cyril of Jerusalem, stated that if God orchestrates new life in these parts of creation, which largely exist to benefit humanity, then surely he will provide for the Resurrection of His people whom he holds so dear.

Cyril makes a good point but of course life for us humans is more complex than that of the natural features that surround us.

Our Old Testament lesson addresses the despair and depression that people fall into when what they focus on is the wreckage left by human folly and evil, when they feel cutoff largely abandoned by God and unable to move forward.

The people Ezekiel addresses are those led into captivity by the Babylonians who had savagely conquered and laid waste to Judah the remaining Kingdom of the Jews, part of the promised land.

- A remnant of these people longed to return to the Promised land - See Psalm 137
- But they saw no way of getting there, they felt largely entangled in the web of their past mistakes, unclean and abandoned by God.

But God has greater plans for them as he reveals in his prophesy to his prophet Ezekiel.

- The vision of the Valley of Dry Bones. This huge unending pile seems to represent the total sum of God's peoples' folly, their defeats, their inability to stay faithful, the consequences of their mistakes, all mixed up and lifeless. Can these dry bones live?
- And God answers YES! The bones rattle, the skeletons reformed, the flesh added, and the Spirit of God in the wind breathes new life.
- The days of the Canaanites, the Moabites, the Edomites, the Assyrians, the Babylonians ended but the Jews would be restored and be a light unto others. The Savior would emerge to rescue us from sin death and the devil.

The Gospel is the last of the seven signs in the Gospel of John in which Jesus reveals His perfect humanity and divinity. Up to now, Jesus has changed water into wine, healed a sick man from afar, lifted a man from paralysis and despair, fed thousands by multiplying next to nothing to abundance, walked on water and stilled the storm, brought sight to a man who never had any. But after four days, can Lazarus live again? Jesus is the Resurrection, He is life, He is the source of the new creation, and He will give his own life to break through the tangled messes humanity has created.



TAKING FAITH HOME – March 26, 2023, AD

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday John 11:1-45 The raising of Lazarus
Monday 1 Kings 17:17-24 Elijah raised the widow's son
Tuesday 2 Kings 4:18-37 Elisha raises a dead child
Wednesday Acts 20:7-12 Paul raises a young man
Thursday Matthew 9:18-19, 23-25 Jesus raises a dead girl
Friday Ephesians 2:1-10 Made alive with Christ
Saturday Psalm 6 Deliver me, O Lord
Sunday Matthew 21:1-11 Jesus enters Jerusalem

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will have life even if they die. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25-26 (NCV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, fill us with your resurrection life today. Help us to live for you. Amen. (John 11:25; Romans 8:5)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, through this food you give us life for today, and through your Son you give us life forever. All praise to you! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Spirit of God live in you. May God fill you with new life, now and forever. Amen. (Romans 8:9-11)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt sad.
- Mary and Martha were very sad because their brother, Lazarus, had died. What did Jesus say to comfort them? (Read John 11:23-25.)
- How do Jesus' words make you feel? Why?

DEVOTIONS

When Jesus was confronted with Mary and Martha's grief, he also wept (John 11:35). In your home devotion times this week, make a point of praying for people who are experiencing times of sadness (e.g. those who are sick or who have recently lost a friend or loved one). Decorate cards to send to these people.

SERVICE

Make up a bouquet of flowers for someone who has recently lost a loved one. Deliver it yourself or ask your pastor to deliver it for you.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus said that he was the “resurrection and the life” and illustrated that by raising Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus came out of his tomb, still wrapped in his grave clothes. As this week’s symbol, place a rolled-up strip of white cloth or gauze into your prayer space. Say this prayer together: *Lord Jesus, thank you for coming into our world as the resurrection and the life. Thank you for the wonderful hope we have because of you. Amen.*

People and issues to pray for in your devotions this week: for those preparing for Holy Week, those suffering from natural disasters, and for those mentioned today including _____ and _____.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Kids will love our 2023 Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 am on Easter Day. Kindly bring your **donated bagged candy** by the Weds., March 29, 7 pm Lenten Service. Youth and Family will place candy in plastic eggs. Thanks!



EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST

Please join the Fellowship Committee on **Sunday, April 9, 2023.** Serving times are between 8:30 -10:15 am. The menu will include: Egg Casserole, Baked Oatmeal, Fruit, Muffins, Cereal, Coffee, Juice & Tea. Please let us know if your family will attend by signing up on the paper in the library area by April 2. This will help the committee to make preparations.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Mon., Apr 3 & Tues., Apr 4	10 am Holy Week Prayer Services
Weds., April 5	11 am 70+ Spring Communion Service & Luncheon
Maundy Thursday, April 6	7 pm Holy Communion & Stripping of the Altar
Good Friday, April 7	Noon and 7 pm Worship Services
Easter Sunday, April 9	7:30 am Celebration Worship with Holy Communion 8:30 am Easter Breakfast 9:30 am Egg Hunt 10:20 am Prelude Music 10:30 am Celebration Worship with Holy Communion