



**March 16, 2025**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**8:15 am**

Saint Paul Lutheran Church  
250 Trinity Road  
York, PA 17408  
[www.saintpaultrinity.org](http://www.saintpaultrinity.org)

## Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025, 8:15 am

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

Gathering Music: Lord Jesus, Think on Me - Carlson

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer Concerns

Prelude: Give Me Jesus – Spiritual, arr. Ingram      Handbell Choir

(Acolyte lights the candles during the prelude music)

*(During the Prelude you may wish to reflect on the following prayer: Precious Savior, draw me near to you. Keep my mind focused on what you have to say to me and refresh me with your healing presence so that I may better serve you and live with your joy in my heart. In your holy name I pray. Amen.)*

*(If you desire special prayer, you are welcome to kneel at the altar rail during the prelude music)*

\*Invocation and Confession and Absolution

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

**C: Amen.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

P: 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.

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

P: Most merciful God,

**C: 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.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn:

# In the Cross of Christ I Glory

104

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, By the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, From the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872  
Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

RATHBUN  
87 87

Public Domain

\*Apostolic Greeting

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

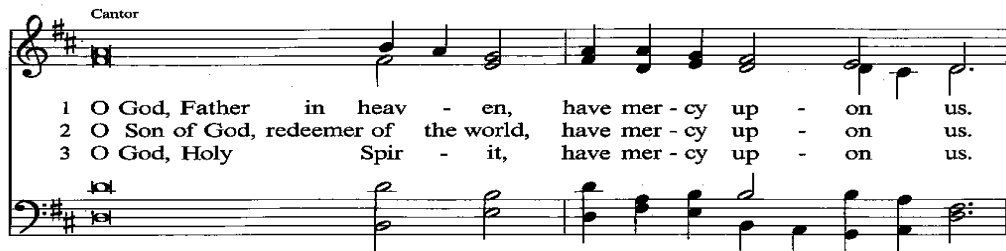
C: And also with you.

\*Kyrie Hymn:

96

# Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved

Cantor

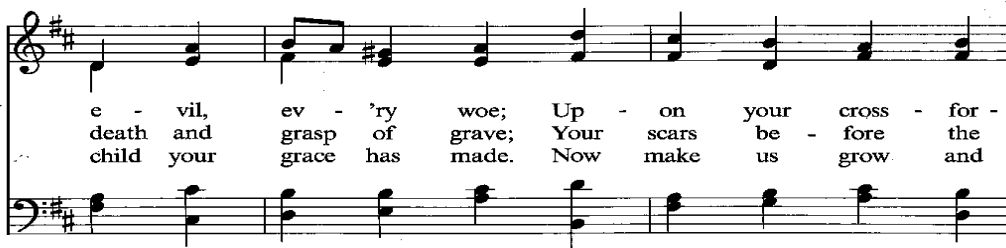


1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.  
2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.

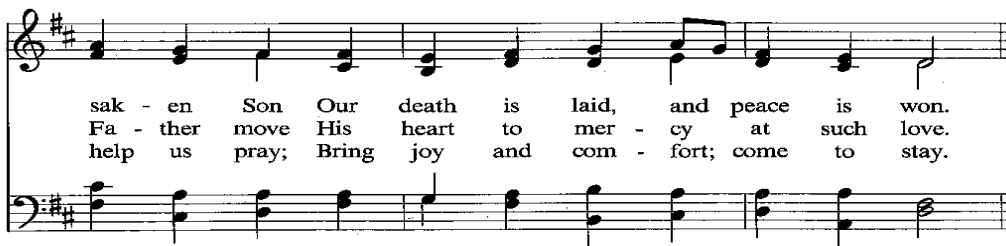
Congregation



Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, By ev - 'ry  
Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save From sting of  
O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid The fee - ble



e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; Up - on your cross - for -  
death and grasp of grave; Your scars be - fore the  
child your grace has made. Now make us grow and



sak - en Son Our death is laid, and peace is won.  
Fa - ther move His heart to mer - cy at such love.  
help us pray; Bring joy and com - fort; come to stay.

\*Salutation: (spoken)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

\*Prayer of the Day (spoken)

P: Let us pray... Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of your humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies. Grant this, we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### First Lesson: **Jeremiah 26:8-15**

(Jeremiah called the Israelites to repentance, warning them of the potential for disastrous consequences should the people not change their ways and live according to the will of God. The people rejected Jeremiah's prophesy and threatened his life.)

<sup>8</sup>When Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die!" <sup>9</sup>Why have you prophesied in the name of the Lord, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant'?" And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the Lord. <sup>10</sup>When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the Lord and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears." <sup>12</sup>Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, "The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. <sup>13</sup>Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and the Lord will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. <sup>14</sup>But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. <sup>15</sup>Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the Lord sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 4 (read responsively)**

(The psalmist cried out to God for deliverance from his enemies. So confident was he in the goodness of God, that while still in the midst of tribulation he declared that he would lie down and sleep in peace.)

L: <sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

**C: <sup>2</sup>"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?"**

L:<sup>3</sup>Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

C:<sup>4</sup>Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

L:<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed sacrifices and put your trust in the Lord.

C:<sup>6</sup>Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

L:<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

C:<sup>8</sup>I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

### Second Lesson: **Philippians 3:17 - 4:1**

(The saints who gathered in Philippi were reminded that the good news of God's saving action in Jesus' death and resurrection is a word that changes us and transforms our daily lives. they have been called to live as those who in all ways are to imitate Jesus Christ.)

<sup>17</sup>Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. <sup>1</sup>Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

\*Lenten Verse



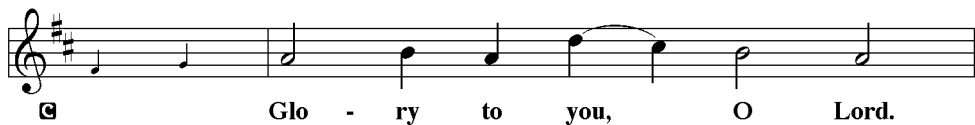
Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,



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

\*Gospel Announcement

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

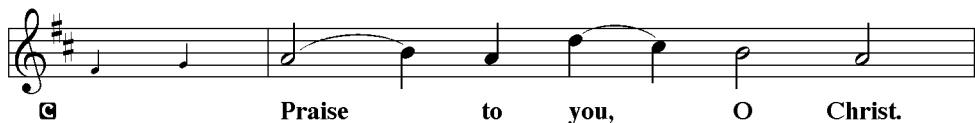


**Gospel: Luke 13:31-35**

(Jesus longed to gather the people to himself and grieved their refusal to hear his words and accept him. At the same time, the weight of Jesus' grief is clearly seen as people refused to come to him.)

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup>And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. <sup>33</sup>Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup>O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Children's Sermon: Pastor Shipman and Simon

Sermon: Pastor Shipman

\*The Votum

\*Hymn of the Day:

# Thy Holy Wings

741

1 Thy ho - ly wings O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me  
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast  
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.

and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.  
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.  
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.

Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,  
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,  
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy child - ren great and small,

and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.  
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.  
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell-Berg, 1832-1903, st. 1,3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2 and tr., st. 1, 3  
Music: Swedish folk tune, arr. *With One Voice*, 1995  
English text © 1983 Gracia Grindal  
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR  
7 6 7 6 D

OL A713240



**\*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 of the Church (Response: "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: I Want Jesus to Walk with Me - Cherwien**

**\*Offertory Response:**

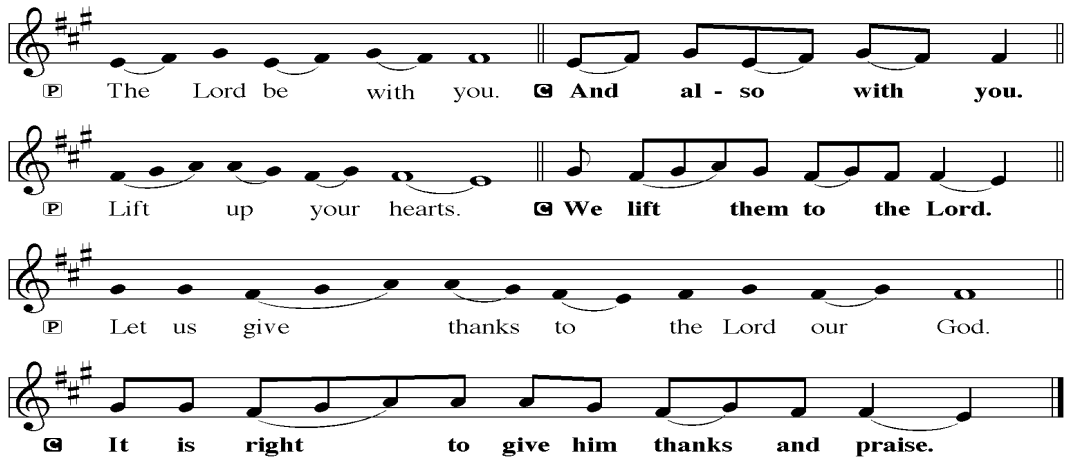
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -  
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the  
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

**\*Offertory Prayer**

P: Let us pray: Merciful Father,

**C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, 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**

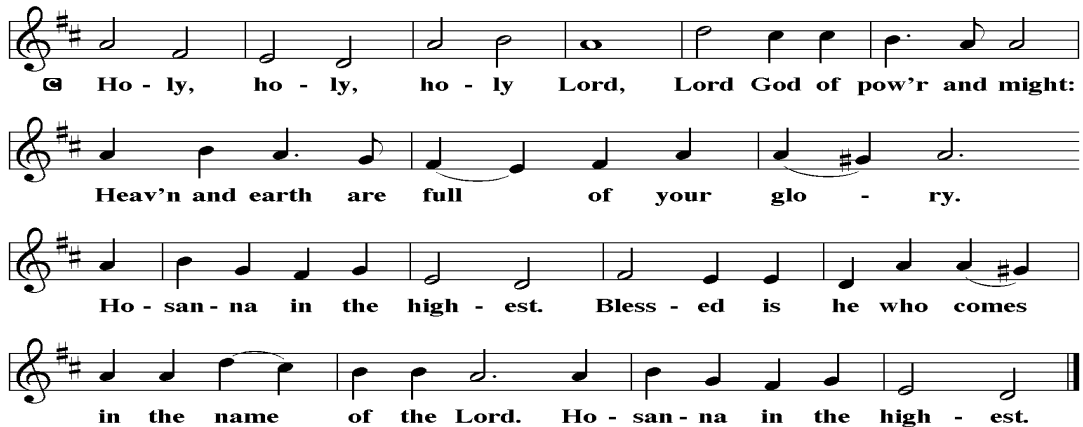
**\*The Great Thanksgiving**



The Great Thanksgiving musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a 'P' (Piano) or 'C' (Crescendo) dynamic marking. The lyrics are: '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 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 with joy for the pascal 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:



The Preface musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: '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.'

\*Eucharistic Prayer

P: Holy God...

Let us confess the mystery of our faith.

**C: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

P: ...both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

\*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 and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

\*P: Come, for all is now ready

Lamb of God



☞ 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.

Distribution of Holy Communion (at altar rail)

\*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.

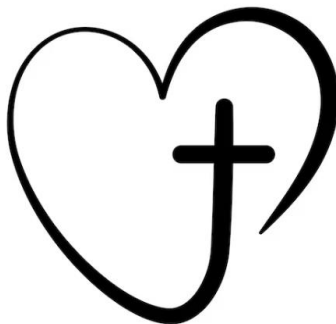
**C: Amen.**

\*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.**

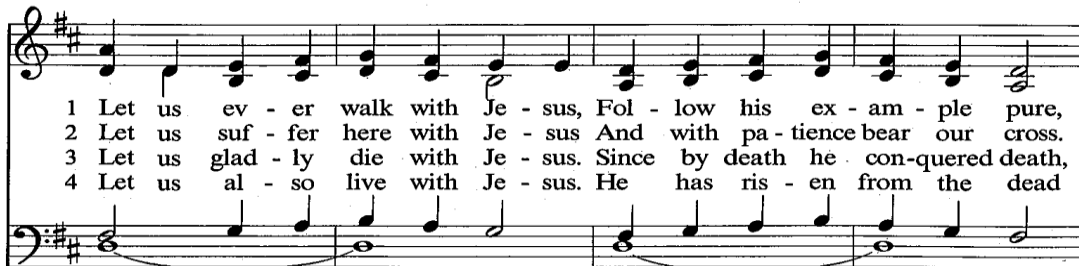
(The acolyte extinguishes the candles during the recessional hymn)



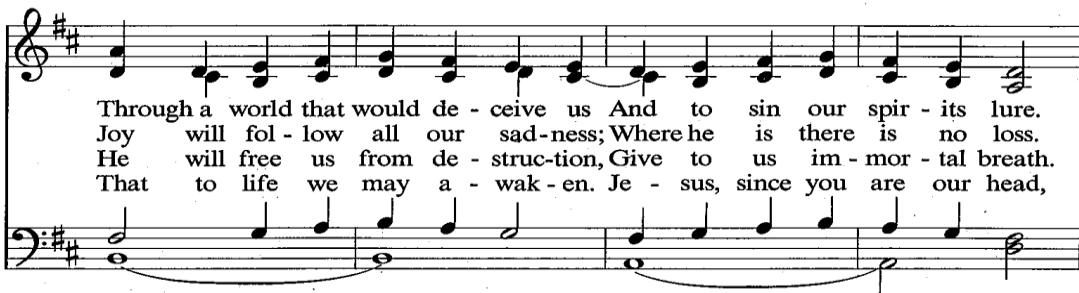
\*Recessional Hymn:

487

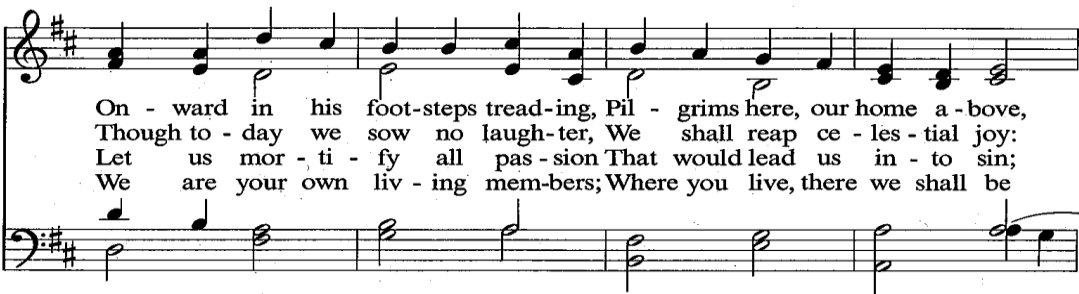
# Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,  
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience bear our cross.  
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,  
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



Through a world that would de - ceive us And to sin our spir - its lure.  
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where he is there is no loss.  
He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to us im - mor - tal breath.  
That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, since you are our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, Pil - grims here, our home a - bove,  
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, We shall reap ce - les - tial joy:  
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion That would lead us in - to sin;  
We are your own liv - ing mem - bers; Where you live, there we shall be



Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do our Fa - ther's bid - ding.  
All dis - com - forts that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.  
Then by grace we all may win Un - told fruits of his cre - a - tion.  
In your pres - ence con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.

OVER

Faith-ful Lord, with me a-bide; I shall fol-low where you guide.  
 Je-sus, here I share your woe; Help me there your joy to know.  
 Je-sus, un-to you I die, There to live with you on high.  
 Je-sus, if I faith-ful be, Life e-ter-nal grant to me.

© Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. hymnal version, 1978  
 Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN  
 PM

OL A713240

\*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Psalm XVIII - Marcello

~ Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License 7654-L. §Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish Series C Pt 4

**THEME OF THE DAY:** The overarching theme of the Scripture texts today point hearers to the abiding love of God in Jesus Christ. This love can be trusted above all else, and yet sinful humanity more often chooses to reject God than to embrace him. Only those who have ears that are willing to hear and respond to Christ will know his tender love and sheltering presence. When we offer that same love to others, we imitate Christ.

**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!

### **SPONSORSHIPS to the Glory of God:**

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** in loving memory of our parents, Ethel & Alfred Freed by Brenda Shorts and Zana Krout

**BULLETINS:** in loving memory of Katie Bare by Glenn & Mary Ann Bare and family

**BREAD & WINE:** in memory of Delores & Carl Smyser by Cindy & Gerry Roth

**MAILING:** to the Glory of God by Al & Sue Dickensheets

**PARISH MESSENGER:** to the Glory of God by Bob Yeater

**SANCTUARY LAMP:** in memory of Pauline Hoffman by her family

**SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**250 Trinity Road York, PA 17408 717-792-1650**

PASTOR: Rev. W. Stevens Shipman E-mail: [pastor@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:pastor@saintpaultrinity.org)  
Cell phone: 570-916-7780  
ADMIN ASST: Jane Thoman Church office: 717-792-1650  
E-mail: [parishadmin@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:parishadmin@saintpaultrinity.org)  
Website: [www.saintpaultrinity.org](http://www.saintpaultrinity.org)  
WIFI: John3:16  
OFFICE HOURS Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Carol Moscony [musicdirector@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:musicdirector@saintpaultrinity.org)  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Carol Frey [financialsecretary@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:financialsecretary@saintpaultrinity.org)  
MINI SEXTON: Jack Hall [minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org)  
CYC DIRECTOR: Malinda Grube [CYCdirector@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:CYCdirector@saintpaultrinity.org)  
MISSIONARIES: Andy Stump in Haiti, Luke & Ruth in the Philippines  
PASTORS EMERITI: Reverends Sally & Paul Gausmann  
Contract Pastor: Linda Shipman

**Our Lord's Helpers on March 16, 2025 – 8:15 AM**

**Greeter(s):** Sharon Sell **Acolyte:** Harvey Jones  
**Head Usher:** Ron Sell **Lay Reader:** Daphne Conn  
**Altar Guild (set-up):** Joyce Hall **Livestream:** Colton Masemer  
**Altar Guild (clean-up):** Deb Smyser  
**Communion Assts.:** Lawrence Smyser / Connie Dunklebarger  
**Assisting Minister:** Terri Masemer

**Our Lord's Helpers on March 23, 2025 – 8:15 AM**

**Greeter(s):** Barb & Dean Eisenhart **Acolyte:** Lawrence Smyser  
**Head Usher:** Lawrence Smyser **Lay Reader:** Larry Rinehart  
**Altar Guild (set-up):** Malinda Grube **Livestream:** Colton Masemer  
**Altar Guild (clean-up):** Linda Sherman  
**Communion Assts.:** Donna Rinehart / Cindy Renehan  
**Assisting Minister:** Deb Smyser

**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: \$1,315.00

**We will be celebrating** Holy Baptism at our 10:45 am service on March 23.

### Activities for the Week of March 16, 2025

- Sun. 3/16 **Second 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. 3/17 CYC No School  
9:00 am Social Ministry  
6:00 Pickleball
- Tues. 3/18 6:30 pm Girl Scouts  
7:00 pm Hilltop AA
- Wed. 3/19 11:00 am Harvest of Hope  
1:00 pm Women of the Word  
6:00 pm Lenten Potluck Meal  
7:00 pm Lenten Service
- Thurs. 3/20 6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal  
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Fri. 3/21 9:00 am Our Daily Bread Items Due  
7:00 pm Hilltop AA
- Sun. 3/23 **Third Sunday in Lent**  
**8:15 am Divine Worship with Holy Communion**  
9:40 am Faith Builders  
**10:45 am Divine Worship with Holy Communion & Holy Baptism**

**LIVESTREAM – Volunteers** are still needed for our services. Please contact the church office or Rodney Smyser if you would like to volunteer.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS** are available for the 2025-2026 school year. Please see the packets on the table in the lobby area for information regarding qualifications for consideration. All applications are due by **May 30<sup>th</sup>**. Interviews will be held on **June 8<sup>th</sup>** between services.

**WOMEN OF THE WORD** will meet **Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm**. We will continue our Bible study “Finding Rest in a Busy World.” Barb Sloat will lead us in “Moments of Retreat”. We invite all ladies to join us for Bible study and fellowship!

**OUR DAILY BREAD** - dessert for March is white cupcakes with white frosting & green sugar sprinkles. We need 30 dozen by **9:00 am on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**. Please individually wrap all Our Daily Bread snacks. If you can contribute, please sign up on the sheet in the lobby area.

**BOOK CLUB - Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 AM**, we will be discussing “Faith of My Fathers” by Lynn Austin. King Manasseh drifts away from true worship of the only God.



**Our mid-week services** take place each Wednesday at 7:00 pm from March 12-April 9. A pot-luck meal begins at 6:00 pm. A free devotional booklet is available on the table in the lobby for each day of Lent.

Join the Fellowship Committee for **Easter Breakfast April 20, 2025, from 8:30 to 9:45 am** (note time change). Sign up in the narthex by Sunday April 13, 2025.

**FRIENDS IN CHRIST** will be touring the Warehime-Myers Mansion and the Neas House in Hanover on **Wednesday, March 26**. The cost will be \$12 for adults, \$8.00 for Seniors, and a Group of 10 or more will be \$8. Lunch will follow at the Dutch Country Restaurant. We will meet at the Church at 9:15 am.

**CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER** - We, as the congregation at Saint Paul Lutheran Church, humbly pray to you our Most Holy God to guide and lead us in searching for our new pastor, who has a strong faith and a mind like Christ. Please share your vision for our church and the desired leadership which you have already chosen for us. Keep our faith strong and hearts open to your future plans for our congregation, church, and community. Help us to continue to be your disciples and to be your shining light every day as we embark through this process. We pray for your wisdom and for the ability to discern who you have called to serve our beloved church for the foreseeable future. Father, we also pray for the Call Committee that will be giving of their time and effort through prayer and support to find God's chosen pastor for our church. Help us to accept and understand your timeline to determine the call for our next pastor, and to not rush the process through our sometimes-limited patience. We pray for all of this in Jesus Name, Amen.

**The Call Committee** is excited for the congregation to meet the pastoral candidate during the **weekend of April 4 – 6, 2025**. A biography of the candidate's experience will be published in this month's newsletter and included in the bulletin. An open house will be held in Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, April 5th**, from 1pm to 3pm for the congregation to meet the candidate and his wife. Light refreshments will be provided. At 2 pm, our candidate will address those in attendance and have an opportunity to answer questions from the congregation. On Sunday, the candidate will lead worship at both services. During the Faith Builders hour, the candidate will briefly visit each classroom. The Call Committee is hoping to have a sizeable attendance at Saturday's open house and at the Sunday services to meet the proposed candidate.

After the weekend is concluded, Church Council members will determine if a special congregational meeting will be held two weeks after the candidate's visit. The purpose of this meeting will be to vote on extending a call to the candidate to become our new pastor. If a congregational meeting is called, the vote will be taken by paper ballot and must have a two-thirds majority of members present at the meeting in agreement to extend a call to the candidate. Please mark your calendars and plan to get acquainted with our potential pastoral candidate.

## Pastoral Candidate Biography

I grew up in Clear Spring, Maryland, the second of five siblings. I decided in sixth grade that I wanted to be an architect. When I graduated high school in 1981, I went to The University of Maryland to study architecture. I graduated in 1985 and worked in architectural practices in the Washington, D.C. area.

Ever since high school, I always had a feeling that God was calling me into the ministry. I had many people over the years try to encourage me. But in 2004, after talking with my wife and visiting the seminary for a weekend event, I decided to give up my career as an architect and enroll in Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. My four-year seminary studies were amazing. I enjoyed so much studying theology.

I graduated in May of 2008, and my first call was to Grace Lutheran Church in Warminster, Pennsylvania (a suburb of Philadelphia). Grace was a wonderful congregation, very warm and caring people. I was there for three years when I received a call back to Concordia Theological Seminary as an admission counselor.

I was so excited to be called back to my alma mater that I gladly accepted the call. It only took me a short while to realize that being an admission counselor was not what I wanted to be doing. I very much missed being in the congregation, preaching and teaching and visiting the sick and shut-in. I only stayed at the seminary for one year until I received a call to St. Paul Lutheran Church in McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania in 2013.

St. Paul Lutheran was the congregation in which my parents and grandparents grew up attending, and I was baptized at St. Paul Lutheran in 1964. I still had several family who were members of St. Paul. I was very happy at St. Paul, but unfortunately my wife was not. She did not like living in a small town and decided to divorce me in 2015.

I met Jennifer in 2017, and we married on December 29, 2018. Jennifer had a daughter and a son, and we enjoy our four grandchildren, who live in Chambersburg.

I have a 32 year old son, Kenneth, who is a geologist and lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana. My daughter is 30 years old, and lives in New York City and works as an event coordinator for the Singapore Embassy.

**EASTER FLOWERS:** The Worship & Music Committee would like to fill our church nave with flowers on **Easter Sunday, April 20th**. The cost of all flowers listed below is **\$13 each**. Payment is due when ordering. Please indicate whether the flower is in memory of or in honor of a loved one. **Deadline for orders is Sunday, March 23rd.**

**Daffodils** (6" pot) \$13.00 each  
Memory / Honor of (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_

**Lily** (white) \$13.00 each  
Memory / honor of (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_

**Tulip** (6" pot) \$13.00 each  
Memory / honor of (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation to Andy Stump - Missionary**  
Memory / honor of (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Total plants ordered \_\_\_\_\_  
Total paid \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please place your order with payment in the offering on Sunday.  
**If you want additional quantities of any flowers, please fill out another form from the narthex.** Thanks!  
Contact Cindy Roth 717-578-9808 with questions.





## **TAKING FAITH HOME – March 16, 2025**

**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 Luke 13:31-35 Jesus' sorrow over Jerusalem  
Monday Zechariah 8:1-8,14-23 The Lord is jealous for Zion  
Tuesday Hosea 11:1-11 God's love for Israel  
Wednesday Jeremiah 31:1-14 The Lord will rebuild Israel  
Thursday Romans 11:25-32 All Israel will be saved  
Friday Revelation 21:1-14, 22-27 The new Jerusalem  
Saturday Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 God remembers his covenant  
Sunday Luke 13:1-9 Parable of the fig tree

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

In times of trouble, you will protect me. You will hide me in your tent and keep me safe on top of a mighty rock. **Psalm 27:5 (CEV)**

### **SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

O God, help us to look beyond earthly things, and focus us on the greater things you have in mind. Amen. (Philippians 3:18- 21)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

All things below, all things above, are gifts of your amazing love. Thanks be to you, O God. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God gather you into loving arms. May God hear your prayers for help and answer you with kindness. Amen.

### **CARING CONVERSATION**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt sad. In his life on earth, what caused Jesus to feel sad? (read Luke 13:34).
- What do we do and say that makes Jesus sad?
- Jesus longed to gather the people of Jerusalem to himself like a mother hen gathers her chicks. What does this tell us about him?
- Have you ever felt Jesus “gather” you close to him? When and how?

### **DEVOTIONS**

To distinguish Lent from “ordinary” time, call the household to meals in a new way. Have family members take turns ringing a small bell as the call to meals. Light a candle and have a few moments of silence before saying grace.