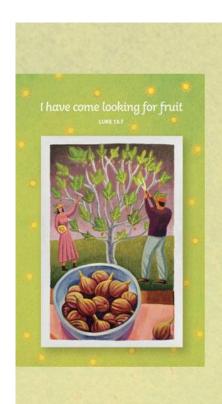
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 127 YORK STREET, HANOVER, PA



4TH SUNDAY IN LENT March 30, 2025

Rev. Dr. Daniel Yeiser, Intentional Interim/Bridge Pastor <u>pdyeiser06@gmail.com</u> 717-634-4025

Rev. Jack R. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus
Steven Ruppright, Director of Music Ministries
Lori Rebling, Director of Hand Bells
Gretchen Walter, Director of Children's Music
Ministers: The Members of St. Paul's

Missionaries: Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson and family

Church Office: 717-637-5941 Email: <u>stpaulsyorkst@comcast.net</u> Website: <u>www.stpaulsyorkst.org</u>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulsyorkst

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

If you are seeking a faith community, exploring faith, desire to be a part of our ministries, or have questions; please feel free to speak with the pastor.

Our Purpose:

We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously.

Guiding Principles:

As instruments of God's love, when you see us at our best you will see us:

- -Generously stewarding God's gifts of resources, time, and talents
- -Serving as God's hands & feet in ministries & missions of outreach to all
- **Providing** for the care of God's people, both physically and spiritually
- -Growing in Faith through worship, study, and discernment
- -Praising God through music, word, and service
- -Welcoming all people into fellowship with God

Important Worship Notes

All liturgies are printed within this bulletin.

Children's activity bags and children's bulletins are located on the podium in the hallway on the pulpit side of the sanctuary. Children's activity bags are also located on the coat rack behind the door of the choir loft side of the sanctuary.

P: Pastor C: Congregation L: Lay Reader A: Assisting Minister

If you are communing, please be sure to fill out a communion record card, for our church records, and place it in the offering plate. Thank you.

+ 4th Sunday in Lent + March 30, 2025

INTRODUCTION

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

THE GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.In

→ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

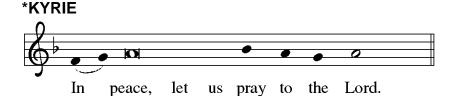




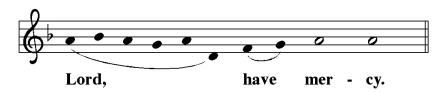


*GREETING

- 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.

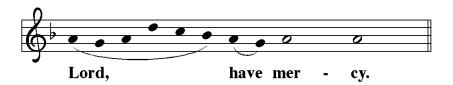


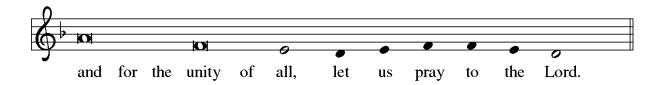
ELW pg. 156-157

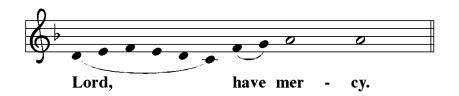




For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.

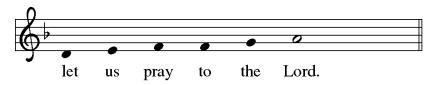


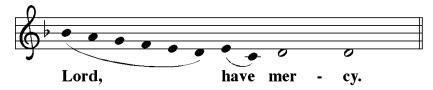




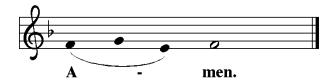


For this ho-ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and praise,









*PRAYER OF THE DAY P Let us pray,

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

C Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST READING Joshua 5:9-12

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

L The First Reading according to Joshua 5:9-12

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM Psalm 32 read responsively

- A ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!
- C ² Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!
 - ³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.
 - ⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
 - ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
 - ⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
 - ⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

- ⁸ "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."
- ¹⁰ Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.
- A Holy wisdom, Holy word.
- C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

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

- L The Second Reading according to 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 - ¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
 - The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord



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



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

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." 20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property

with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

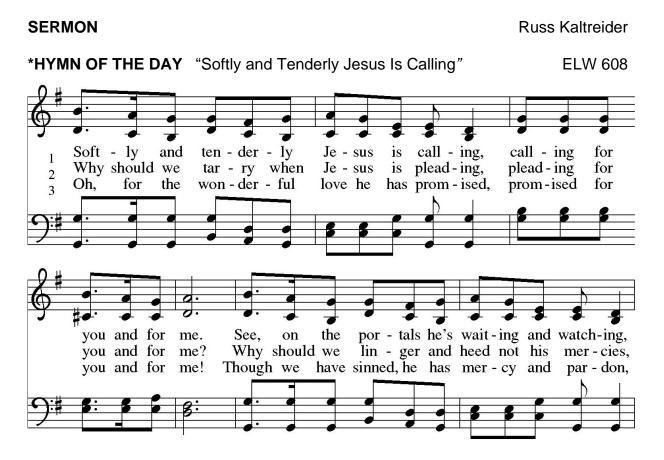
The Gospel of the Lord.

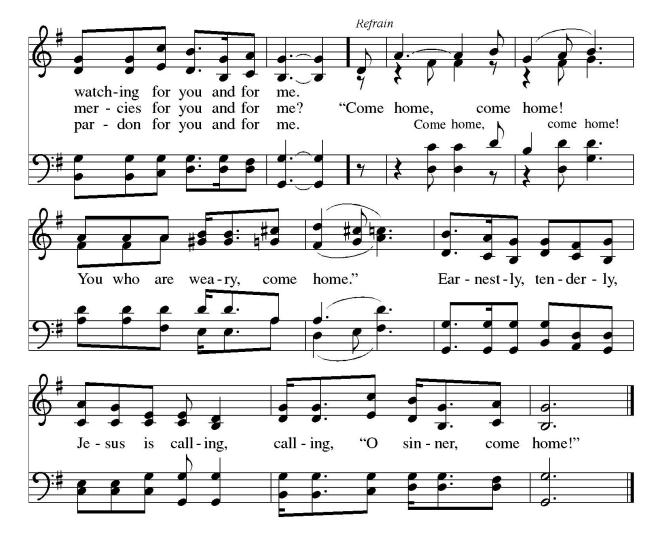
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Russ Kaltreider

Following the Children's Sermon, Children and Children's Choir leaders are dismissed to Children's Choir rehearsal and will return for the Sharing of the Peace.





*APOSTLES' CREED

A Let us affirm our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A Let us pray,

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

A brief silence.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. 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, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

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

Children will return and the assembly is seated.

THE MEAL

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Amazing Grace"

Women's Ensemble

This morning's anthem was purchased for the glory of God and in memory of Norman Saur by Frannie Saur.

(Use this time to reflect on your financial and spiritual offerings to God.)

There are a number of ways of making your offerings to God during this time. One is to place your offering in our offering plates in front of the pews or to give online at https://stpaulsyorkst.org/give. If you prefer not to give online, you may of course mail a check to St. Paul's. If you are not able to give monetarily during this time, know that your prayers and praise are a pleasing offering to God. If you are able to give a little more during this time, please consider doing so as a way of supporting your fellow disciples who are not able to.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

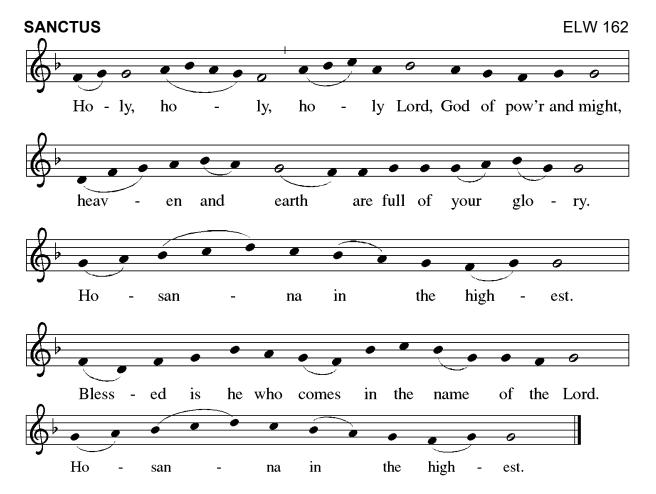
- P Let us pray, Gracious Provider.
- C you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

*DIALOGUE

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth.

burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity,

now and forever.

Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...
- Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

 Amen.

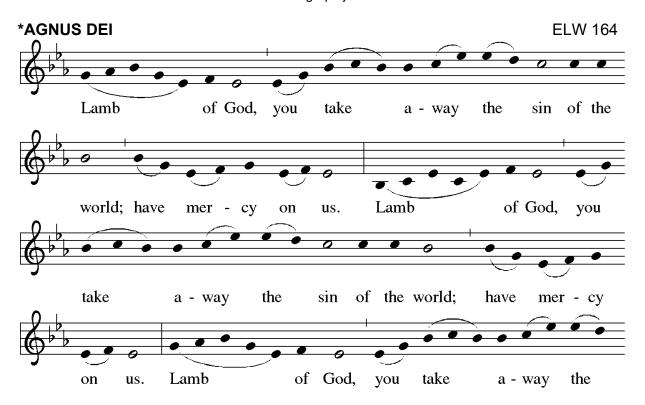
*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

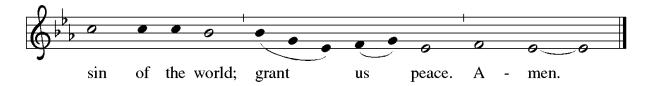
P All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

All are welcome to commune

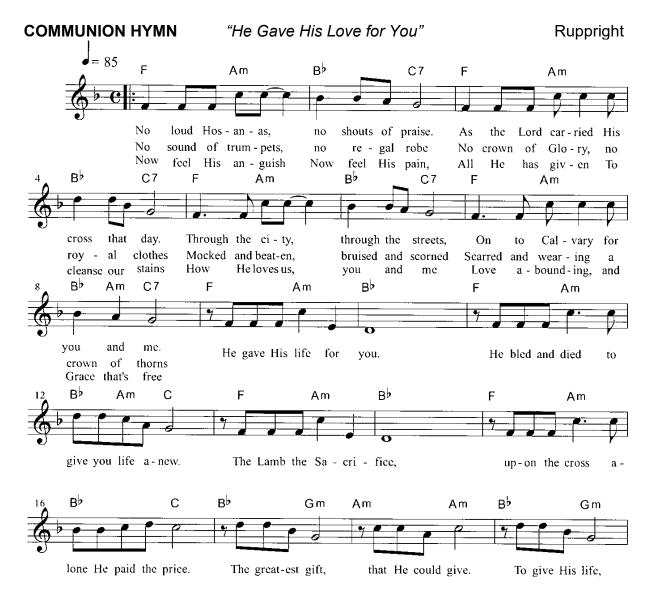
If you wish to receive communion from your seat, please let an usher know.

Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.



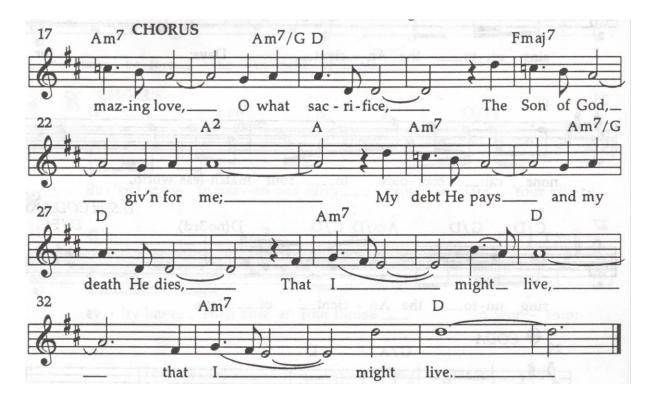


DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION









*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray,

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

C Amen.

*BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.





*DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
- C We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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	March 30	April 6
Saturday Night Worship	Russ Kaltreider (3/29)	Pastor Dan Yeiser (4/5)
Cantor	Diana Leppo	Deb Sowers
Assisting Minister	Frank Hueske	Russ Kaltreider
Acolyte	Dilynn Long	Jocelyn Fissel
Lay Reader	Norma Lucabaugh	Jon Shaw
Communion Distributors	Donna Lehman	Suzanne Butler Mary Yohe
Ushers	Sally Lovelace	Bob Colehouse
	Karen Mummert	Dan Fuhrman
Altar Committee	Amy Feeser	Linda Knapp
	Suzanne Butler	Sally Lovelace

THE WORSHIP BULLETINS are sponsored to the glory of God and in honor of Justin Hick's birthday on April 1st by Gary and Nancy Martin.

THE ETERNAL FLAME is sponsored to the glory of God and in memory of Walter Weaver by Laura Silver.

^{*} Stand if you are able

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FOLLOWING THE CHILDREN'S SERMON, Children and Children's Choir leaders are dismissed to Children's Choir rehearsal and will return for the Sharing of the Peace.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE, children going to Faith Formation should proceed directly up to the Science and Cooking room for snack. Parents can pick up their children in the Gathering Room at 11:30am. Thanks for noting this change!

JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR IN OUR CHURCH LOUNGE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE. Volunteers for Coffee Hour are still needed.

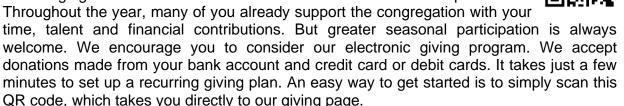
SOMETHING'S BREWING BIBLE STUDY - Monday evenings at 7:00pm in the Lounge. Join us!

LENTEN BOOK STUDY continues on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room on the 2nd floor until April 8. We will study the elements of the Crucifixion with the book *He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado.

PASTOR DAN IS OFFERING MID-WEEK DEVOTIONS ON WEDNESDAYS from 12:15 – 12:35 pm. This brief service consists of prayer, scripture reading and silent meditation. All are welcome to join us at 12:15 pm in the church lounge.

WE ARE JOURNEYING DURING LENT toward the blessed holiday of Easter, which has brought hope and joy to billions of people throughout history.

Make Lent and Easter offerings online during these liturgical seasons! It is encouraging to see both new and familiar faces at our worship services. Throughout the year, many of you already support the congregation with your time, talent, and financial contributions. But greater seasonal participation



SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE: Please contact Carmen Buckley in the church office or at <u>assistant@stpaulsyorkst.org</u>

Radio–April 6, 13, 20, May 4, 11, 18 & 25 (\$60 per date or any portion you desire per date) Altar Flowers-April 13 (1 vase at \$20); May 4, 18 & 25 (2 vases at \$20 each) Communion Bread and Wine- May 4, 11, 18 & 25 (\$12 each date) Worship Bulletins- April 6, 13, 17, 18, May 4, 18 & 25 (\$20 each date) Eternal flame-May 4, 18 & 25 (\$10 each date)

MARCH'S DESIGNATED GIVING will go to Lutheran Disaster Response, California Wildfires.

APRIL'S DESIGNATED GIVING will go to St. Paul's Family Crisis Fund.

RUTH'S HARVEST-- The Faith In Action Committee has selected Ruth's Harvest as their Lenten project again this year. With this program, each Friday participating students receive a bag of food for the weekend which usually includes 2 breakfast entrees, 2 lunch entrees, 3 dinner entrees, several snacks, and disposable drinks. The program requires single-serve fruit cups and vegetables, single-serve entrees, single-serve snacks, single-serve cereals, and single- serve drinks. Please bring your donations to the church and place them in the boxes found on the pulpit side of the hallway. This project will run during Lent until Sunday, April 20, 2025. All donations will be delivered to the Ruth's Harvest drop off spot at St. Matthews Lutheran Church after Easter. Thank you for taking part in this outreach project again this year. Your generosity is always amazing.

<u>MUSICIANS NEEDED!</u> - Do you play an instrument? Would you like to be more active at church? Then we have an opportunity for you! Our Saturday Evening worship service is seeking musicians to play accompaniment on the first and second Saturdays of the month. ANY instrument is welcome: piano, guitar, flute, trumpet, violin, etc! You can volunteer to play just one Saturday, or as many as you like. NO LONG-TERM COMMITMENT REQUIRED! The songs are the same ones we sing on Sundays. Carmen will send you the worship bulletin ahead of time so you can practice. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet across from Pastor Dan's office. If you'd like more information, please speak to Pastor Dan, Russ Kaltreider, Steven Ruppright, or Suzanne Butler.



PALM SUNDAY April 13

Festival Worship at 9:30 a.m. In person and by Facebook Live

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP
Thursday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m.
at 7:00 p.m.
With Holy Communion

GOOD FRIDAY Friday, April 18 at 8:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service of Shadows

Hear the Passion Story with music by the Senior Choir as we recall the final hours before Christ's crucifixion In person and by Facebook Live

EASTER SUNDAY April 20

Festival Worship at 9:30 am In person and by Facebook Live

SUN., MARCH 30 Following the Childre Immediately following		Radio Broadcast - 95.3 FM & 1280 AM Worship Service – 4 th Sunday in Lent Children's Choir rehearsal – Children's Music Room Faith Formation – 2 nd floor Coffee Hour - Lounge Daily Discipleship class – Nursery room (1 st floor) Adult Choir II rehearsal - Choir Loft in the Sanctuary
MON., MARCH 31	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Girl Scout Groups – 2 nd floor Something's Brewing Bible Study – Lounge
TUES., APRIL 1	10:30 am 7:00 pm	LIU #12 – Fellowship Hall Lenten Book Study – Conference Room-2 nd floor
WED., APRIL 2	12:15 pm 4:30 pm 5:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Mid-week Devotions – church lounge Evangelism Comm. Meeting – Fellowship Hall Property Comm. meeting – Conference Room-2 nd floor Christian Ed. meeting – location TBD Worship and Music Comm. Meeting - lounge
THUR., APRIL 3	6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bellchoir rehearsal – Balcony of the Sanctuary Cub Scouts – 2 nd Floor Boy Scout Troop 102 – Youth Room Adult Choir I rehearsal – Choir Loft in the Sanctuary
FRI., APRIL 4	3:00 pm	Grocery Ministry prep – Gym
SAT., APRIL 5	9:00 am 5:00 pm 6:15 pm	Grocery Ministry – Council Saturday Evening Worship Service - Iounge Narcotics Anonymous – Fellowship Hall
SUN., APRIL 6 Following the Childre Immediately following		Radio Broadcast - 95.3 FM & 1280 AM Worship Service – 5 th Sunday in Lent Children's Choir rehearsal – Children's Music Room Faith Formation – 2 nd floor Coffee Hour - Lounge Daily Discipleship class – Nursery room (1 st floor) Adult Choir II rehearsal - Choir Loft in the Sanctuary