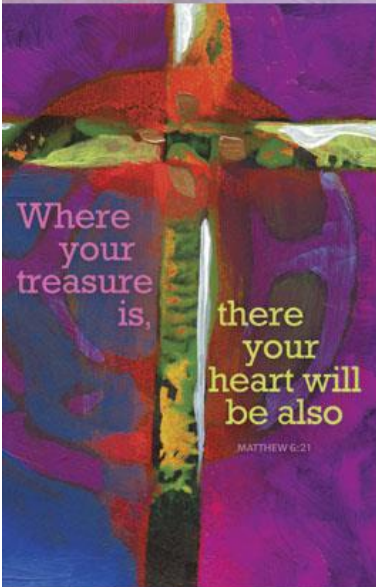


**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
127 YORK STREET  
HANOVER, PA**



## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**February 14, 2024  
7:00 pm**

Rev. Katrina Holland, Intentional Interim Pastor  
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  
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Website: [www.stpaulsyorkst.org](http://www.stpaulsyorkst.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stpaulsyorkst](http://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

***For the Season of Lent we are using the The Seed of Joy along with Setting V in the ELW. All liturgies are printed within this bulletin.***

P: Pastor

**C: Congregation responses in bold**

A: Assisting Minister

\*Stand if you are able

***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.***

**+ ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE +**  
**Imposition of Ashes**  
**February 14, 2024**

**INTRODUCTION**

*On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**P** People of God,  
we gather for worship to practice joy: not because our lives are perfect, but because joy is resilient, God’s gift for every season and the wellspring at the heart of our faith. When our sins feel heavy,

**C** **we practice joy.**  
When floods rise and fall,  
**we practice joy.**  
When hope surprises us,  
**we practice joy.**  
When God sets people free,  
**we practice joy.**  
When Jesus heals us,  
**we practice joy.**  
When we are called,  
**we practice joy.**  
When we endure,  
**we practice joy.**  
We practice joy together,  
**and God is with us.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray,  
God beyond time, you breathed life into our dusty bones. When we rush too fast, trying to escape our mortality, you slow us down and teach us to be still. Be present with our whirlwind impatience, our ash-strewn hopes and dreams. Set the stage for joy in our lives; wait with us until it comes.

## C Amen.

### INVITATION TO LENT

P Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

### HYMN

### *Just As I Am*

ELW 592

The musical score is written on two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, each corresponding to a different verse of the hymn.

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
 man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

**P** People of God,  
 the Merciful One already knows everything we confess. By naming our sins and hearing words of forgiveness, we are drawn deeper into relationship with God and one another. Let's bring before God what we have done wrong and what we've failed to do, trusting that we will receive the joy of being forgiven.

*Brief silence for reflection.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**P** God of abundant goodness,

**C** **we have hurt those we love, those far from us, ourselves, and your creation by what we do and by what we neglect. We cling to disappointments, judgments, and failures and refuse to enjoy what you give. We are too content when injustice, violence, and hardship plague our neighbors. We ignore the gift of your presence in times both tragic and triumphant.**

**Forgive us for what we have done and for what we have failed to do.**

**Pour out on us the joy of your presence and heal what we have harmed.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

- P Friends, receive these joyful words:  
You are entirely and completely forgiven for all of your sins. You are entirely and completely welcomed as God's beloved child. You are released to live out God's love in a world that needs such joy.
- C **Amen.**

## THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*(Blessing of the Ashes)*

- P Let us pray,  
Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C **Amen.**

*Those who desire to receive ashes come forward and kneel at the communion rail.*

**“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”**

*The Anthem will be sung during the Imposition of Ashes*

## ANTHEM

*Ashes*

Conry

“Ashes” Text and Tune by Tom Conry - ©1978 OCP - All Rights Reserved  
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- P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
C **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**  
By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**  
Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
- Amen.**

## FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

*Because of the coming day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community declares that God is gracious and asks God to spare the people lest the nations doubt God's power to save.*

- A <sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—<sup>2a</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.
- <sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. <sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?
- <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.
- <sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”
- A The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

*The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God’s reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.*

- A <sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. <sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill

repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

A 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,



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

**\*GOSPEL**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.*

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P [Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup>“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup>“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your



Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.  
<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Pastor Katrina Holland



**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Be Thou My Vision*

ELW 793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

**\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

A Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

A You call us to return to you, steadfast God. Renew a right spirit within the church and cleanse the hearts of your people. Strengthen those who proclaim your gospel in word and deed. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

You sustain your creation, generous God. Supply all that is needful for life to flourish. Protect endangered species and fragile habitats. Teach us to live lightly upon the earth and to honor it as our home. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You seek justice and peace, righteous God. Rebuild cities and homelands devastated by war (*regions in conflict may be named*). Provide welcome, help, and safety to refugees. Prosper negotiations that lead to lasting peace among the nations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You care for all people, loving God. Heal any who are scarred by violence, addiction, or trauma of any kind. Comfort those who grieve and bring relief to any in pain. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You gather this assembly, abiding God. Unite us in serving our neighbors and working for justice. We pray for caregivers and people who are hospitalized, in treatment, or recovering from illness (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You redeem us from death, faithful God. We give thanks for those who served you in the church. Bring us with all the saints into everlasting joy. Hear us, O God.

**our mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**C 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.**

### **\*CHARGE**

P Practice joy.

As you leave this place, go with the joy that sets the stage for life.

### **\*BLESSING**

- P** Go with blessing.  
The One who wove joy throughout the whole cosmos weaves joy within your own heart.  
The One who experienced all our human joys and sorrows travels right beside you.  
The One who whispers joy to our hearts is present within you.  
You are blessed in the name of God, Holy Three in One.
- C** **Amen.**

*[All depart in silence]*

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<b>Ushers:</b>	Wayne & Suzanne Butler
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