

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, HANOVER, PA**

Rev. E. Robert Burkhardt, Senior Pastor

Rev. Jack R. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

Steven Ruppright, Director of Music Ministries

Lori Rebling, Hand Bell Director

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: [stpaulsyorkst@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulsyorkst@comcast.net)

Website: [www.stpaulsyorkst.org](http://www.stpaulsyorkst.org)

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023**

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**Prayer of the Day**

Leader: Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Cong.: Amen.**

**The First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. <sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." <sup>4</sup>But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God." <sup>5</sup>And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—<sup>6</sup>he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." <sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

**The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, <sup>2</sup>To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: <sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of

the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **The Gospel: John 1:29-42**

<sup>29</sup>[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”<sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup>And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup>And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

<sup>35</sup>The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup>He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup>He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

## Prayers of the People

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

*(A brief silence.)*

Leader: Gracious God, speak to your church and give us ears to hear, that we may know you and your life giving presence in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**Cong.: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Renew the face of the earth. Heal the wounds of human carelessness and rouse us to fuller stewardship of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

**Cong.: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Restore and strengthen our leaders. Give to them a clear vision of your will and purpose for the people they govern, and enable us all to act with justice and compassion. Lord, in your mercy,

**Cong.: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Grant relief to the depressed and despairing. Comfort those who weep and mourn, or are lonely and sick. Abide with those who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Especially with all those we lift before you now in the earnest prayers of our hearts. *(P-A-U-S-E)* Lord, in your mercy,

**Cong.: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Fill our congregation with renewed zeal to love one another and our neighbor as you have commanded. Help us to share your "Good News," and to invite our friends and neighbors to come and follow you. Lord, in your mercy,

**Cong.: hear our prayer.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

Leader: We give you thanks for revealing yourself in the lives of your saints. Bring us with them, in our time, into the fullness of your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

**Cong.: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Cong.: Amen.**