

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, HANOVER, PA

Rev. E. Robert Burkhart, Senior Pastor

Rev. Jack R. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

Steven Ruppright, Director of Music Ministries

Lori Rebling, Hand Bell Director

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Prayer of the Day

Leader: Lord God, your loving-kindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Cong.: Amen.

The First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,

on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶the people who sat in darkness

have seen a great light,

and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death

light has dawned."

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Prayers of the People

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

(A brief silence.)

Leader: Holy God, you call us to fish for people. Unite the church universal in your mission, and grant us the same mind and purpose for our service and worship of you. Lord, in your mercy,

Cong.: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Nurturing God, you call us to care for creation. Breathe into us the joy and wonder of stewardship with you, and teach us to love all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

Cong.: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Compassionate God, you call us to care for the needy and bring good news to the lost. In this dangerous world show us how to truly and faithfully love our neighbors as ourselves. Lord, in your mercy,

Cong.: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Redeeming God, you break the oppressor's rod. Bring an end to tyranny and oppression. Comfort and dry the tears of your children who live in fear. Abide with all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Especially we ask your presence 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: Loving God, you call us into relationship with you. Raise up leaders in your church who will risk the slings and arrows of culture and society to speak the truth of your Holy Word and the gospel of everyone's salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

Cong.: Hear our prayer.

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

Leader: Ever-living God, when our work with you is done, you call us to rest in your arms. Keep us faithful to you as we journey here on earth, and bring us to life everlasting with all the saints of every time and place. 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.