

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 10, 2024  
8:30 am Service is live, 11:00 am is live, live-streamed, and recorded  
Holy Communion, Setting One

*Hymns will be found in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book.*

Prelude - *Adagio from Sonata no. 6 by Alexandre Guilmant*

**GATHERING**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**C Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

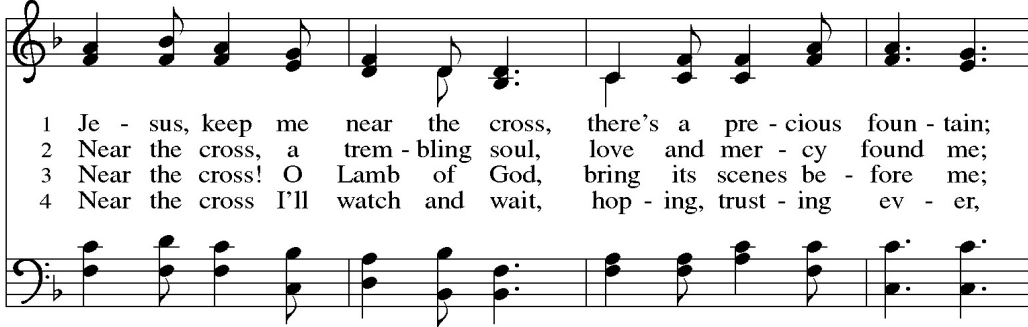
P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we are captive 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.**

**C Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

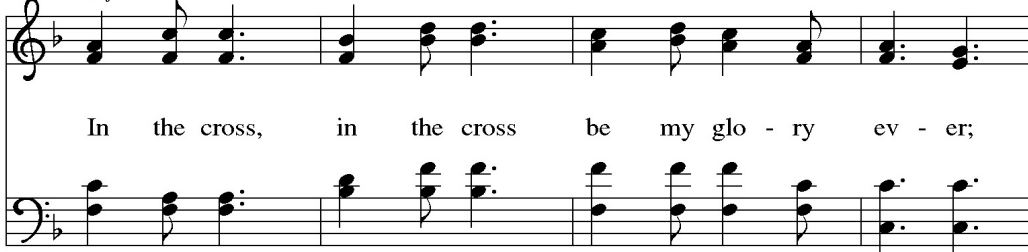


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915  
 Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

**APOSTOLIC 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.

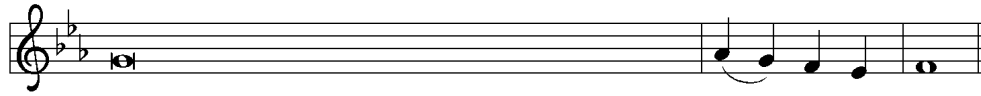
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



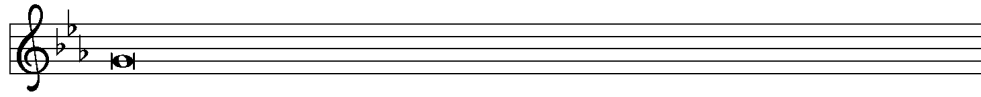
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



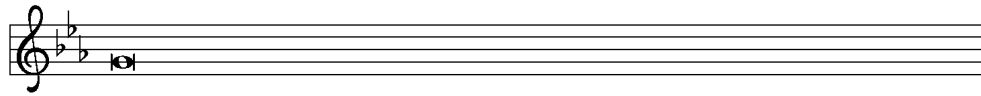
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

**Canticle of Praise – All Glory be to God on high** (on insert) (from Setting Five)



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -  
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes  
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,  
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to  
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we  
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.  
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.  
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

P The Lord be with you

C **And also with you**

P Let us pray

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

### First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

### Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Congregation sings *Refrain* and bold verses

*Refrain*



You de - li - ver your peo - ple from their dis - tress.

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God’s mercy en- dures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took re- bellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.**

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all man- ner of food  
and drew near to death’s door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD  
and you delivered them from their distress. *Refrain***

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.**

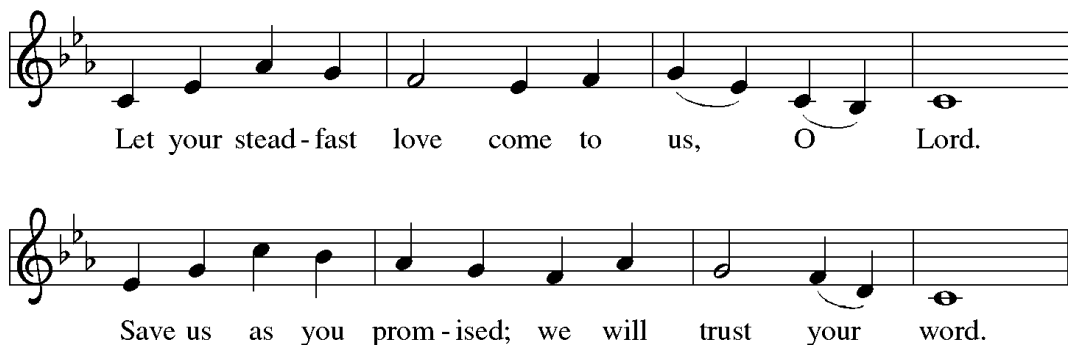
<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy. *Refrain*

### Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,<sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast.<sup>10</sup> For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

**Gospel Acclamation** (*during Lent*)



*After the Gospel is announced, the people say: Glory to you, O Lord.*

**Gospel: John 3:14-21**

[Jesus said:]<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,<sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.


<sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.<sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.<sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.<sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.<sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

*After the Gospel is read, the people say: Praise to you, O Christ.*

**Children’s Message**

**Sermon**


Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till




all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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## APOSTLES' CREED

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 INTERCESSION

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

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.*

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war (*areas in crisis may be named*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers (*local water sources may be named*). Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love (*especially Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, renewers of society, whom we commemorate today*). Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain (*especially*), Barbara, Jan, Janet, Joyce, Phyllis and Larry, Bob and Ellie, Mary, John, Tom, Doug, Alice, Charlie, Pat, Karl and Otti, Larry, Karen,



Anna, Deb, Fran, Pat, Bill, and others we may name aloud or quietly in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

**MEAL**

**Offering**

Offertory - *God So Loved the World* by Libby Larsen (choir at 11:00)

## Offertory - Create in Me a Clean Heart



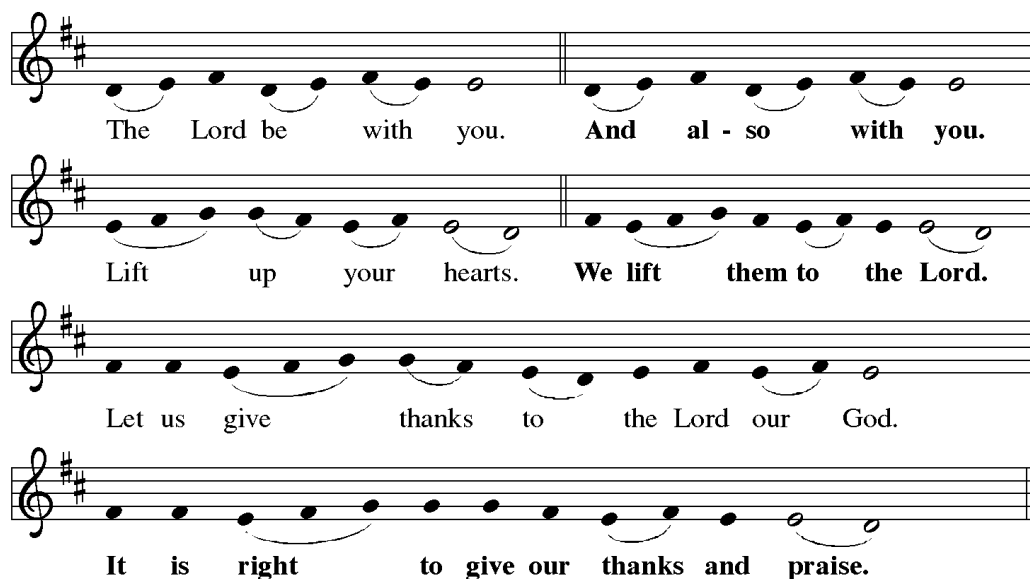
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER *(during the season of Lent)*

Let us pray together

**God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life.  
Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



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 our thanks and praise.

## Preface

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Holy Holy Holy

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.  
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.  
 Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
 we await his coming in glory.  
 Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
 and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
 the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

P Come to the banquet for all is ready.

**COMMUNION SONG – LAMB OF GOD**

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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." The music consists of a single melodic line on a five-line staff.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*And each person may respond Amen.*

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## Communion Hymn – What Wondrous Love Is This

666

### What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

C Amen.

**SONG AFTER COMMUNION**



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Let us pray.

A God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

**SENDING**

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

## Give to Our God Immortal Praise!



1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and  
 2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and  
 3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of



truth are all his ways; won - ders of grace to  
 dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to  
 kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er



God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.  
 God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.  
 shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
 Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

### DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
 C We will. Thanks be to God.

Postlude - *Praeambulum in g* by Dieterich Buxtehude

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**The Altar Flowers** are not placed during the season of Lent.

**Altar Flowers** – If you would like to make a recognition through a request for Altar Flowers, please stop by the credenza under the TV monitor in the atrium. Sign up for the day(s) you would like to request, pick up an envelope and form in the lower box and turn in your request form(s) which should indicate your announcement for the bulletin, and payment (\$40) at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, speak with a staff person.

**Prayer of the Church (Members):** Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazey, Phyllis and Larry Jenkins, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Mary Bader, John Friedrich, Tom Kraska, Doug Whitfield, Alice Barnes, Charlie Bock, Pat Casper, Karl and Otti Freundt, Larry Grovenstein, Karen Shoaf (on deployment in Iraq), Anna Snyder, Deb Tabert, Fran Whitfield, Pat Cashwell, Bill Dahl

**Our Sympathy** to the family and friends of Ida Norris Elliott, who died on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Her funeral and interment will take place at St. Paul's on Saturday, March 16 at 1:00 pm. A reception in Trinity Hall will follow the interment. To view the service live on our Vimeo site, here is the link: <https://vimeo.com/event/4141980>

**Prayer List Changes** – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time**, email staff, or call the office.

**Prayer of the Church (Friends):** Kay Matthews and Robert Meissner [Tony Perrotte's mother and uncle], Diane Johnson (Penni Perrotte's friends), Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Eric Tabert (nephew of Deb Tabert), Armenia and Artsakh (friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (parents of Bill Wilson), Linda Leslie (mother of Sean Slane), Paul DeVries (brother of Bob DeVries), Gini Rinkus (friend of the Dominicks), Elaine Williamson (sister-in-law of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Paul (son-in-law of Jan Huntley), Richard Dominick (brother of Ted Dominick), Burr Hasselbeck, Josephine Economy and John Bigsby (friends of Bess Line), Ruth Parker (aunt of Pat Casper), Ashley Collins (niece of Deb Tabert), Holly Cashwell (by Pat Cashwell), Patrick Howell (son of a friend of the Waughs), George and Pat Rose (friends of Debbie Fullbright), John and Connie Heinz, Gregory and Colleen Davidson, Richard and Claudia Steele (friends of Dean and Marcia Redman), Kirk Temple (brother-in-law of Deb Tabert), Debra Jetton (sister of Bill Wilson), Penny Wagner (niece of Marcia Wilson), Lynn Hladak (grandmother to Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Cole Cashwell (grandson of Pat Cashwell), Twila Dahl (sister-in-law of Bill Dahl and Martha Dahl), Dirk Davis (by Debbie Fullbright), Lynn and Ray Slabaugh (friends of the Foremans), Dirk Davis (by Debbie Fullbright), Scott Duncan (stepdad of Bill Elkin), Lindsay Marchell-Holman (family of Deb Tabert), Dave and Missy Pepper (brother and family of Joan Pepper), Chuck Johnson and family (husband and family of Leslie Johnson), Keith and Vernice Knudsen (father and mother of Ken Knudsen), Sara (sister of Marlene Coulter), Olga Nikitin (by Patrick Chappel), Joan Mayfield (aunt of Pat Casper)

**Adult Sunday School classes** February 11 through Mar 24, will be led by Vicar Gina – a 7-part session about Ash Wednesday to Holy Week. Each week we will prepare for the Wednesday evening Worship Services through Holy Week.

**Thursday Morning Bible Study:** The topic for Thursday's Bible Study is the Gospel according to Mark. They meet on Thursdays at 10:30-11:45 am in the Conference Room and by Zoom. Study notes will be emailed before the meeting. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82845097165?pwd=YWEyd1o1TmQvTXVPaFJwYi9SZkFVQT09>  
Meeting ID: 828 4509 7165 Passcode: 165276



### **Wednesdays during Lent – Mar 13, 20**

- **12:00 pm Holy Communion and Healing Service in the sanctuary**
- **6:00 pm Suppers in Trinity Hall**
- **7:00 pm Lenten Worship**

If you wish to help with the meals, please contact Martha Dahl. She could use assistance in cleaning up. **This Wednesday the menu includes chicken tenders with variety of sides.** Vicar Gina Schaefer is in charge of our Wednesday Lenten Worship. This year, we will pray and reflect on the spiritual disciplines. We will hear a word of meditation from people who participate in the ministry of St. Paul's. Vicar Gina will also be leading a workshop during the Sunday School hour every week that will go deeper into the spiritual disciplines. Here is the Vimeo Link for the 7 pm service:  
<https://vimeo.com/event/4073534>

### **Stations of the Cross – Pastor Lorrel Strom-Jensen**

Lent begins the second week of February and Stations of the Cross are again offered on Fridays at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. I hope that long-time members are looking forward to seeing St. Paul's beautiful collection of the Stations artwork as they will be back up on the side walls of the Sanctuary for the Lenten season. For those who are new, the Stations follow Jesus from Gethsemane to the tomb with visual depictions of his journey. On Fridays, you can join me to follow Jesus on this path with scripture and prayers that tell the Holy Week story. Following Jesus on this path offers pause for us to contemplate our own lives, in our time and place. Please join me on any of these Fridays at noon: **Mar 15, and 22.**

**Lent is a season where we are invited to lean into God.** Lent reminds us that we are able to intentionally choose to do things that draw us closer to God. It's also a time to look into ourselves and find what is getting in the way of a deeper relationship with God. With that in mind, during Lent at St. Paul's, Pastor Jan will be offering a one hour Centering Prayer Group each Tuesday beginning at 1:00 pm in the library. Please consider adding this prayer time to your Lenten discipline practice and see where God is moving in your life.

### **Thrivent – Rethinking Retirement Tax Planning with Ed Slott New Strategies to Keep More of Your Money**

Tax law changes now can affect your retirement savings and your future legacy. Join Ed Slott for a lively discussion during Rethinking Retirement Tax Planning and gain strategies you can use to help reduce or eliminate taxes now and in the future. Brunch & refreshments will be provided for registered attendees. **Event Details: Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 12:00 pm,** Trinity Hall at St. Paul's. Brunch will be provided for registered attendees. Reserve your place today by signing up on the bulletin board or calling Jason Obermeier at 919-335-7400.

**The next Social Ministry committee** meeting will be held on Tuesday\*, **March 12, at 7:00 pm** in Whitesell Hall. \*Please note that we have changed our monthly meetings from second Mondays to second Tuesdays. We will focus on a carry-over agenda item from February – identifying additional ways of sharing information about current ministries with church members and visitors; we also hope to work on a directory of community-based volunteer opportunities for individuals seeking additional ministry opportunities beyond what is offered through St. Paul's.

### **Young In Spirit - March 13, at 11:30 am – Bring Your Own Lunch!**

Come "travel" with us to **Iceland** as Deb Tabert shares her recent trip through pictures and conversation. Did she see the Northern Lights? Did she see the erupting volcano? Join us and hear all about it!

**Clothing Donations!** It is that time again to do some Spring Cleaning and why not donate any of those clothes you no longer need or want? Between **March 1-31**, there will be labeled boxes available in the atrium by the conference room to drop off clothes. Each week Megan Cunningham will collect and take them to the local Durham Rescue Mission. Whatever clothes don't sell in their thrift stores go directly to the men's, women's and children's shelters. Any questions, please reach out directly to Megan at [mcunni16@gmail.com](mailto:mcunni16@gmail.com).

**FREE to a Good Home Table** – We have set up a table in the hallway on the way to the elevator and I am calling it the “**free to a good home table.**” If you own an item on the table, you have two weeks to claim it. If you’d like an item on the table, you also have two weeks to claim it. If an item is not claimed in two weeks, it will be removed from the church. We will donate or trash it. Thanks for your help in cleaning up our congregational home.

**UMD (Urban Ministries Durham) Food Prep!** We will volunteer our services on the third Saturday of each month, 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Next date is **March 16, 2024.** During the shift, you will prep for the dinner meal and serve lunch. Sign up online at this site: [http://bit.ly/UMD\\_Signup](http://bit.ly/UMD_Signup) Volunteers must be 13 years old, must wear closed toed shoes and shirts that cover armpits. Hairnets and aprons are provided – you can bring a hat and apron as well. Urban Ministries is located at 410 Liberty St, Durham NC 27701. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Anderson at [andersona1129@gmail.com](mailto:andersona1129@gmail.com)

### **St. Paul’s readers Meet on Thursday, March 21 at 3 pm**

Please join us in Trinity Hall on Thursday, March 21 at 3 pm as we delve into our latest selection, *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, by James McBride. Lorrel Strom-Jensen is leading our group discussion. Our meetings are held in Trinity Hall on the third Thursday of most months at 3 pm. It is an informal gathering to talk about our book for the month, led by a facilitator. We try to select books from different genres to stretch our horizons, as well as to appeal to a wide range of people. Please consider joining us in March or for another of our meetings. We welcome you (men and women) to come and check us out, even if you have not read the book. If you have never taken part in a book club before, we are tailor-made for you! For questions or more information, please contact Katherine Trexler [katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com).

**The Durham CROP Hunger Walk** is celebrating 50 years of walking to end hunger in our community and around the world! Join the St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Durham team and others on **Sunday, Mar 24** at Duke Chapel. Pre-walk festivities start at 1:30 pm (registration, music, greetings, and Global Village Activities) and step off starts at 2:30 pm. The walk is about 4.5 miles. You can join the team or make a donation here: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/st-pauls-lutheran-church-of-durham> If you have questions or need assistance please reach out to Joan Pepper at [irisdragonfly45@yahoo.com](mailto:irisdragonfly45@yahoo.com).

The **Dropped Stitch Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets on the last Friday of the month at 1:00 pm in the sofa area of the atrium. This group creates prayer shawls by knitting or crochet.

The **Tongue and Thimble** group creates small quilts which are distributed to nurseries at local hospitals for their critical patients. They meet downstairs in the Fiber Arts/Music room off of the Genesis Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am-12:00 noon.

**The Youth Group can’t say THANK YOU** enough for all your support and prayers as we prepare to head down to New Orleans in July for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. We have discovered some additional items we needed to purchase before the trip: 48 t-shirts with our printed logo, clear backpacks, water bottles, buttons to trade, and shuttles to and from the airport and hotel. We estimate the extra cost to be \$3,500. Donations would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped in the offering plate or finance drop box in the hallway, noting Youth Gathering. Many thanks!

### **Growing thru Grief**

The spring “Introduction to Grief” series begins on March 5 and will be led by Aaron Klink. He noted, “There is no single “right way” to grieve. People respond to loss in different and varied ways. In *The Five Ways We Grieve*, therapist Susan Berger proposes five different responses to loss, each with strengths and weaknesses that help and hinder our ability to move toward healing and wholeness. This Spring’s Grief 101 will explore five different approaches we can take toward grief. It will also explore the strengths and weaknesses of the different approaches, and what each of them says.”

- Mar 12: The Nomad
- Mar 19: The Memorialist
- Mar 26: The Normalizer
- Apr 2: The Activist
- Apr 9: The Seeker about our need for meaning and wholeness

Aaron Klink is Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator at Pruitt Hospice in Durham. He holds a B.A. in Religion from Emory University, an M.A.R. in Systematic Theology from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and M.Div from Yale Divinity School, and a Th.M. from Duke Divinity School where he was Westbrook Fellow at the Duke Institute for Care at the End of Life. He has worked as a chaplain, congregational pastor and bereavement coordinator with people experiencing loss for two decades. He continues to write and speak on end-of-life issues, grief, and medical ethics at gatherings across the United States. Please contact [admin@growingthrugrief.org](mailto:admin@growingthrugrief.org) if you have questions.

### **PASTA for PARKTOWN!!**

#### **Help Stock the St. Paul's Shelf at Parktown Food Hub!**

The folks at Parktown Food Hub love our St. Paul's pasta! THANKS to your generosity the "St. Paul's Dry Boxed Pasta Shelf" stays stocked and ready to help hungry families. Please continue to add dry pasta to your shopping list to share with the St. Paul's shelf. The Women's Connection Group is leading this initiative to support the Parktown Food Hub, led by Pastor Sharon Schulze.

### **Sign-Up Genius Links**

Please visit the Sign-Up Genius links which we use to enable volunteers to fill in where needed, for both services. Click on the link and fill in your name on the date(s).

◆ **Sunday Worship** – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1>

Sign up for: lector, worship assistant, altar guild, communion assistants, and ushers. Staff will be glad to provide guidance for any of these tasks.

◆ **Devotions** – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1>

Send your devotions to Vicar Gina Schaefer - [vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org)