

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

9:00 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Building Disciples - Growing in Faith

Serving in Christ's Name

The Reverend Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor

6839 Wertzville Road, Enola, PA 17025
(717) 697-9675 / StPaulsEnola@yahoo.com

www.StPaulsEnola.org



Welcome to all – especially visitors. **It is no accident that you are here today!** You are an answer to our prayer. We have been praying for you, and believe that God has brought you here because God wants to touch your life. We welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ!

Large print and children's bulletins are available in the Narthex or from an usher.

Holy Communion: All God's Children are welcome to come to God's Table! It is at the Table we receive Christ's body and blood through the bread and wine. This holy meal renews and nourishes our spirit. Come and eat. If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, please let an usher know and we will bring communion to you.

The prefilled glasses are grape juice.

Please remember to write any prayer requests for today in the prayer book in the Narthex.



~ THE GATHERING ~

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, CONCERNS

PRELUDE "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Paul Manz

Please stand as you are comfortable.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

C: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin with the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate One,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #807 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The presiding minister and the congregation greet each other.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797-1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937. Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www. Giamusic.com, 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the 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,

(continued next page)

our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

~ **THE WORD** ~

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The 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.

¹⁰While 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. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The 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.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY Psalm 32 *(read responsively)*

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While 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.

⁹Do 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.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

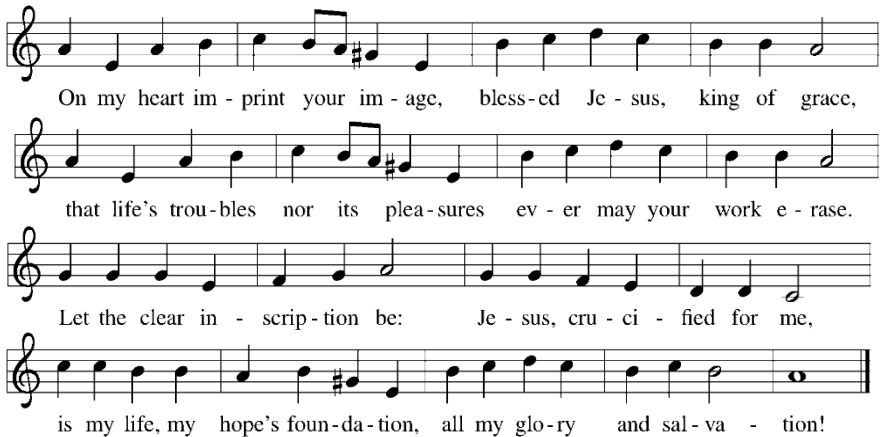
¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is 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.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are comfortable to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,
that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,
is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Ströme, 1856-1921, alt.
Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691-1758

GOSPEL READING Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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. ³²But 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.'"

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MESSAGE

SERMON

The Rev. Gwenn L. Trout

Please stand as you are comfortable to proclaim the word of God in song as the hymn is introduced.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #603 "God, When Human Bonds Are Broken"

APOSTLES' CREED

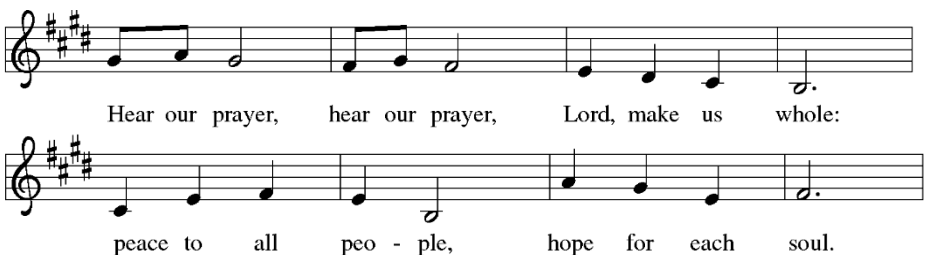
A: United in our faith in the Triune God, let us with the whole church confess our faith:

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.

PRAYER HYMN



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.

(continued next page)

multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. O God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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. O God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Share a sign of peace with your neighbors, then remain standing as you are comfortable.

~ THE MEAL ~

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERTORY HYMN



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

After the table is set, the assisting minister leads the prayer.

A: Let us pray.

C: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered, that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food

but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister greets the congregation and invites all present to give thanks.

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.

P: It is indeed right 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 us, your people, to cleanse our 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. Acknowledging your love, we praise your name as did the angels in heaven:



Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797-1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www. Giamusic.com, 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

P: We indeed praise you, O God. For forty days you cleansed the earth with the waters of the flood. For forty days you illumined Moses with the words of your law. For forty years you led your people through their wilderness journey, providing bread from heaven and water from a rock.

We praise you for Jesus, your only Son, whom you sent to free us from sin, and lead us to new life. He was tempted in every way as we are, yet he did not sin. Instead, he became servant of all in obedience to you.

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.

Be present with us now in this, our wilderness journey through Lent. Transform us with your Holy Spirit. Make this food, the body and blood of your Son, into manna for our journey. Implant your law into our hearts, that we may live and serve as your priestly people.

To you, O God, Creator, Savior, Comforter, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be our worship and praise, adoration and thanksgiving, now and forever.

C: Amen.

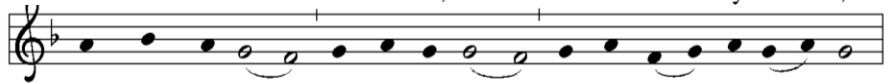
THE LORD'S PRAYER



P: Lord, rem - em - ber us in your king - dom, and teach us to pray:



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to-day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
 for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
 and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
 and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

As the bread is broken, the presiding minister addresses the congregation:

P: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
 Happy are those who are called to his supper.

C: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

As the table is prepared the congregation sings:

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.
 Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.
 Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Come forward to receive communion at the direction of the ushers, organ side first, and return by the side aisles.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW #460 "Now the Silence"

ELW #675 "O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True"

When all have communed, please stand as you are comfortable.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

The assisting minister leads the congregation in prayer.

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.

~ THE SENDING ~

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BENEDICTION

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.



Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever. **A - men**

SENDING HYMN

ELW #335 "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

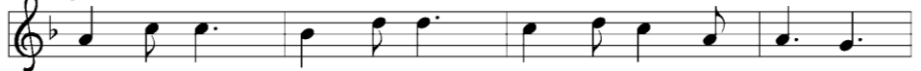


Je - sus, keep us near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.

Refrain



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



till our ran - somed souls shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the congregation into mission.

A: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for us.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory" Robert Clark Lau



Offering: Please place your offering in the collection plates near the doors.

About today's lessons: *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!*

Children's Sunday School meets on April 6, 13, & 27 and May 4 & 18.

Adult Sunday School: Join us in the upper Sunday school room as we discuss the events of today from a biblical and theological perspective. All are welcome!

Our prayers and the comfort of the Christian faith are extended to Stewart Trout and family on the death of his wife, Doris, at their residence on March 20. Services were held on Thursday, March 27, at Malpezzi Funeral Home with burial here in St. Paul's cemetery.

Upcoming

April 2: Ministerium Lenten Luncheon, Enola First Church of God, noon

April 5: Lenten Breakfast, St. Paul's New Cumberland, 8:45 a.m.

April 7: Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.

April 9: Ministerium Lenten Luncheon, Wertzville Diner, noon

April 12: Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 a.m. (rain date April 19)

April 17: Maundy Thursday Worship, 6:00 p.m.

April 18: Community Good Friday Breakfast & Service, River of God Church, 8:30 a.m.

April 18: Good Friday Worship, 6:00 p.m.

April 19: Easter Vigil Outdoor Worship, 7:30 p.m.

April 20: Easter Sunrise Worship, 6:15 a.m., breakfast following

April 20: Easter Festival Worship, 9:00 a.m.

April 28: Worship Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

May 9: Lutheran Camping Fundraiser at the Harrisburg Senators (more details will be in April's Epistle)

Ministerium Lenten Luncheons: Enjoy a light lunch and hear stories of faith from our community's pastors and church members. A suggested donation of \$5 to cover the cost of lunch at the churches; cost of lunch at Wertzville Diner is on your own. Financial and food donations for New Hope Ministries will also be collected.

Lenten Breakfast and Study: Gather for a hot breakfast (the host church provides food and beverage) at 8:45 a.m., then launch into the study of the scripture readings that are the basis for the Easter portion of JF Handel's famous oratorio, *Messiah*. Please plan to join us for this last session at St. Paul's, New Cumberland.

Clothing Drive: Please help us reach our goal of a minimum of 40 items (clothing and/or shoes) per family during the 40 days of Lent. Donations can be dropped at church or at Community Aid. Any time you donate to Community Aid, please give them our number (or attach it to your donation) - #**10151**. Community Aid will send us a check based on the number of pounds donated in our name.

Member Address Updates:

CJ Sutch: Chapel Pointe, 770 S. Hanover St., Carlisle, PA 17013

Stew Trout: Brookdale, 1100 Grandon Way, Apt 220
Mechanicsburg PA 17050

Noisy Offering! Throw your coins (or dollar bills / checks) into the large cans labeled "Noisy Offering" near the offering plates at the entrances. In March and April we are collecting for New Digs Ministry, which provides household goods for people who are starting over after a fire, flood, imprisonment, or homelessness.

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 12 at 10:00 am for all ages (rain date is April 19). Please put candy donations in the bins in the large Sunday School room. Many thanks!

Finances At-a-Glance (full reports can be found on our website or in the monthly *Epistle* in the Council materials.)

	January 2025	February 2025
Revenue*	\$25,741.44**	168,524.24***
Expenses	\$17,281.19	\$20,938.21
Net Revenue	\$8,460.25	\$149,040.50

*Does not include roof funds

**Includes Bretz Trust biannual distribution

***Includes \$153,000 received from Zion
(\$125,000 of which was put into a CD)

Thank you to those assisting with worship

Assisting Minister: Keith Gilbert

Lector: Phyllis Achenbach

Musician: David Binkley

Ushers: Duane Jumper, Jr. & Drew Kugler

Counters: Keith Gilbert & Judy Cryder

Altar Guild: Keith Gilbert / Amanda Bowers

Building Lock-up: Keith Gilbert

Technology: Nick Cekovich / Doug Bowers

	April 6	April 13 Palm Sun	Apr 17 Maundy Thurs	Apr 18 Good Fri	Apr 19 Easter Vigil	April 20 Easter Sunrise
Asst. Min.	Nick C.	John F.	Maryjane	Steve C.	John F.	Nick C.
Lector	Seana M.	Barbara H	Wendy	Denise C.		Wendy C.
Musician	Micki K.	Denise C.	Denise	Denise C.	None	None
Ushers	Mike P. Steve H.	Mike P. Steve H.	Mike P. Steve H.	Mike P. Steve H.	None	None
Counters	Jeff A. Trudy G.	Jeff A. Judy C.	Jeff A. MaryJane	Jeff A. Trudy G.	Offering held	Offering held
Altar setup	Amanda	Denise C. Judy H.	Amanda	Denise C.	None	
Altar cleanup	MaryJane	Denise C. Judy H.	Judy C.	MaryJane	None	
Lock-up	Jeff A.	Jeff A.	Jeff A.	Jeff A.		
Tech	Nick C. / Doug B.					

The Rev. Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor

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Office Hours: T/Th 9am-3pm

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