



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Whenever you see an asterisk (*), you are invited to stand as you are able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

PRELUDE: *"When Jesus On the Cross Was Bound"*

(Samuel Scheidt)

GATHERING

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: In the name if the Father, and of the ✠Son, and of the Holy Spirit. A: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **A: Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN: "The Glory of These Forty Days"

(ELW 320)



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength-en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906, All rights reserved.

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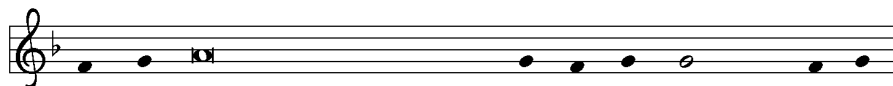
*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: 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 sal - va - tion, 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 u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
A - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you. **A: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray, Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: GENESIS 9:8-17

The first readings for Lent this year focus on the succession of covenants God has made. This week's is that with the whole creation through Noah, whom God used to preserve land animals (including humanity) from the flood. The flood and the ark has also been commonly seen as a foreshadowing of the cleansing and preserving waters of baptism.

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

R: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25: 1-10

(Sung to the tune Azmon ELW 886)

This psalm could well be the prayer of the newly baptized, praying in confidence for forgiveness and guidance.



Certain it is that none are shamed whose hope is in Your name;
Deeds of those who are treacherous shall all be put to shame.

Ever I want to know Your ways; teach me Your paths, O LORD.
For You I wait the whole day long—You are my Savior God.

Guide me and teach me in Your truth; recall Your mercy, LORD—
How from of old Your steadfast love has been my sole reward.

I know transgressions of my youth are ever known to Thee;
Judge not my sins; recall them not; in love, remember me.

Kind, good, and upright is the LORD; He teaches those astray;
Leading the humble in what's right, and teaching them His way.

Moreover, all of the LORD's ways are faithfulness and love;
Neglecting not all those who keep His cov'nant from above.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 3:18-22

1 Peter is a sermon addressed to the newly baptized. This section not only connects the first reading with baptism, but also is the source of the affirmation in the creed that Jesus "descended to the dead."

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

R: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

*GOSPEL READING: MARK 1:9-15

The Gospel reading for the First Sunday in Lent is always a description of the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. Mark, however, describes the Temptation in a single sentence, so that this year's reading has the luxury of including the two great events which surround and explain it: Jesus's baptism and his preaching.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the first chapter. **A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

P: The gospel of the Lord. **A: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** *"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"* (ELW 517)

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and
by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife
and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

***INVITATION TO BAPTISM**

***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**

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.

L: God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people, especially that of Martin Luther, renewer of the church, whom we commemorate today. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation (*organizations may be named*). Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith including our siblings in Christ who have gone before us, today we especially remember Ken Showers. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **A: Amen.**

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also, with you.**

MEAL

OFFERING

Offerings can be made online at stpaulpgm.org/give, mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 200, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, placed in the mail slot (outside door to Pastor Paul's office), or in the offering plate located in the lobby/narthex near the entrance of the sanctuary.

MUSICAL OFFERING: "Erhalt, uns Her"

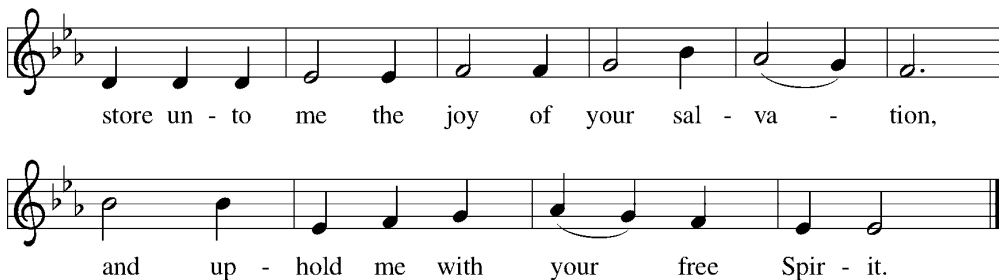
(David Schelat)

***OFFERTORY: "Create in Me a Clean Heart"**

(ELW 188)

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the third line. The lyrics are: '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 -'.

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 -



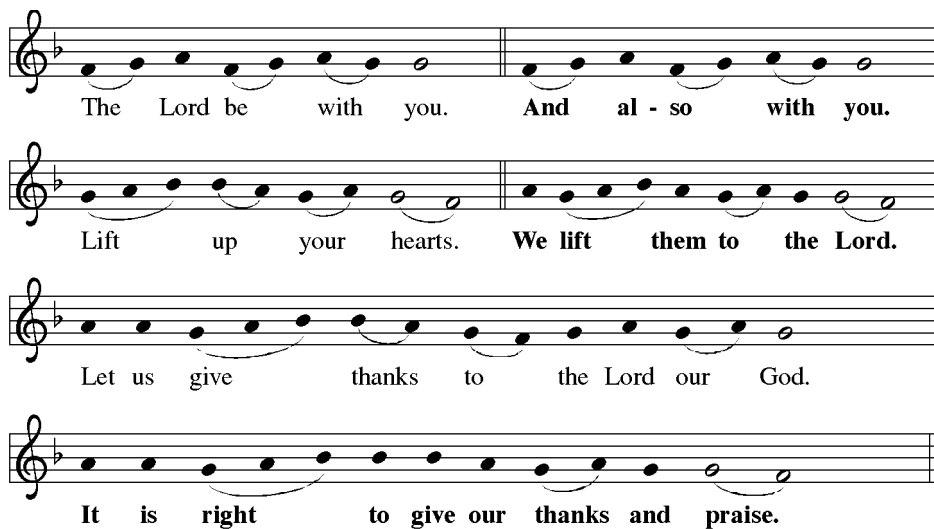
Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: 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 in your name. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

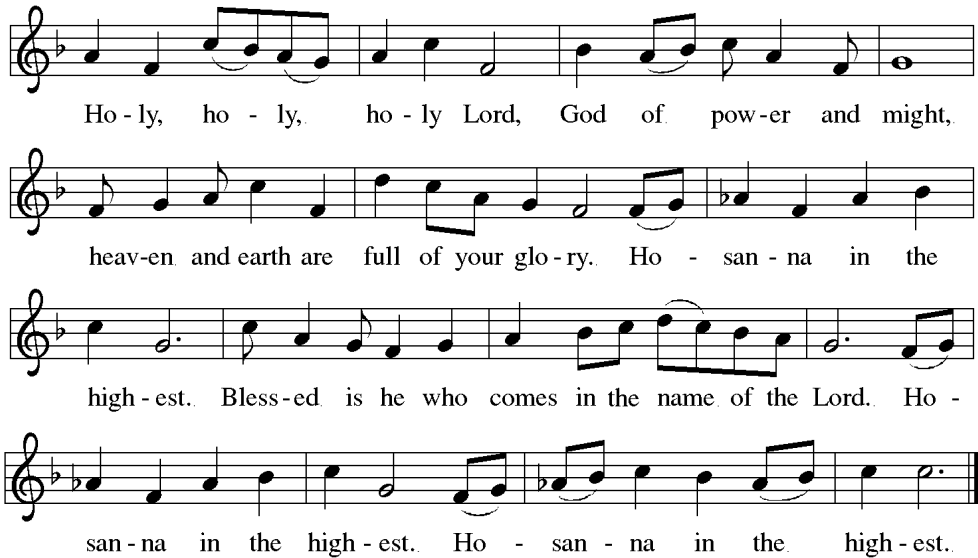
* DIALOGUE



*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.

*SANCTUS



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy God,

Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time
your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time,
you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness
and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was handed over,
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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the mystery of our faith

A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

P: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **A: Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN: "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

(ELW 599)

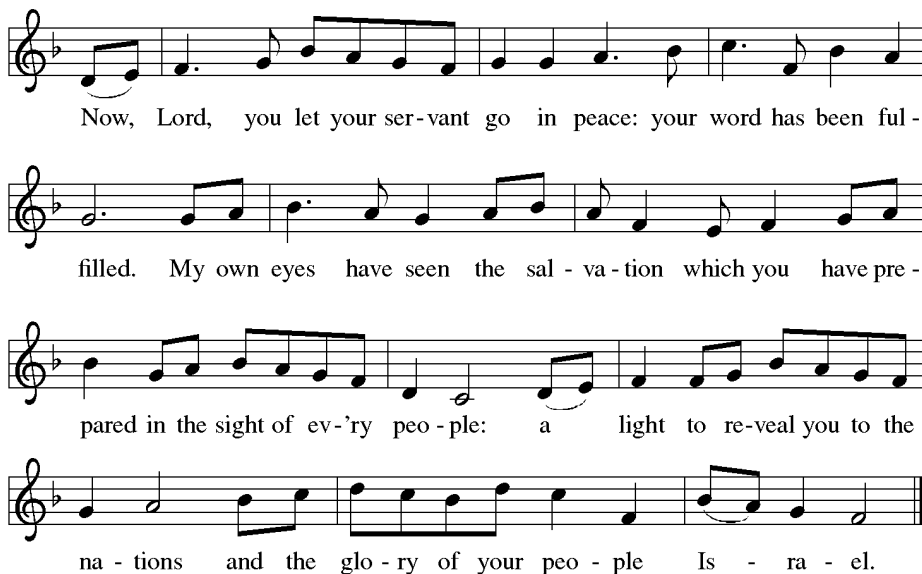
1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,
from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375–430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–1896, alt.
Music: SOUTHWELL, W. Daman, *The Psalms of David*, 1579, alt.

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strength and keep you, body, mind, and soul, now and unto eternal life. **A: Amen**

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have prepared 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.

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **A: Amen.**

SENDING

*SENDING OF COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may be seated.

*CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

*BLESSING

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. In the name of the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

(ELW 504)



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bid, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share your bread. **A: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *"At the Name of Jesus"*

(Richard Wienhorst)



YOU'RE INVITED TO TELL THE ELCA WHAT YOU THINK OF IT

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was officially formed on January 1, 1988. It is now over 36 years since its formation and the world has changed in dramatic ways, but the core of our constitutional structures hasn't.

At the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, the highest governing authority of the ELCA, a memorial was passed to create a commission to explore if we should have a reconstituting convention. From what has been disclosed by committee members, it is highly likely that this will happen and be recommended to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

The commission will be presenting their report, and to help them write it they want to hear from members like yourself. Are there ways the ELCA has confused, frustrated, or perplexed you? Now is the time to make that known!

Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/CRLC-elca-Survey> to give your thoughts and opinions.

RELATEDLY: If you would like to try to go the Phoenix, Arizona in 2025 to be part of the Churchwide Assembly, you can fill out this form to run for the chance: <http://tinyurl.com/8c-2024-Nominations>



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Feb 18

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10 (10)
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Mon — Feb. 19

Job 4:1-21
Ephesians 2:1-10
Psalm 77

Tue — Feb. 20

Job 5:8-27
1 Peter 3:8-18a
Psalm 77

Wed — Feb. 21

Proverbs 30:1-9
Matthew 4:1-11
Psalm 77

Thu—Feb. 22

Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18
Romans 3:21-31
Psalm 22:23-31

Fri—Feb. 23

Genesis 16:1-6
Romans 4:1-12
Psalm 22:23-31

Sat—Feb. 24

Genesis 16:7-15
Mark 8:27-30
Psalm 22:23-31

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR CHURCH!!

Wednesdays February 21-March 13: Holden Evening Prayer 6PM, meal following.

March 24: Palm and Passion Sunday

March 28: Commandment Thursday (Maundy Thursday) 7PM

March 29: God's Friday (Good Friday) 7PM

March 30: Easter Vigil (Easter Eve) 7PM

March 31: Resurrection of our Lord/Pascha (Easter)

Sunrise Service: Jo Hays Vista, 6:30AM?

Regular Service: 10AM



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Joy Kling
Musician..... Jim Rearick
Sacristan..... Karen Magnuson
Reader.....Linda Govere

ABOUT ST. PAUL

PURPOSE

We are a beacon, boldly sharing the light of Jesus' grace and love.

MISSION

Guided by Jesus, we strengthen faith, deepen compassion, extend generosity,
and serve community.

CORE VALUES

Faith ♡ Compassion ♡ Generosity ♡ Community

OUR BIBLE VERSES

As Paul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. [Jesus said,] 'Paul is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before the nations.' – Acts 9:3,15

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock people, where we gather for worship this morning. We also acknowledge the Seneca, Cayuga, Lenape, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home.

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