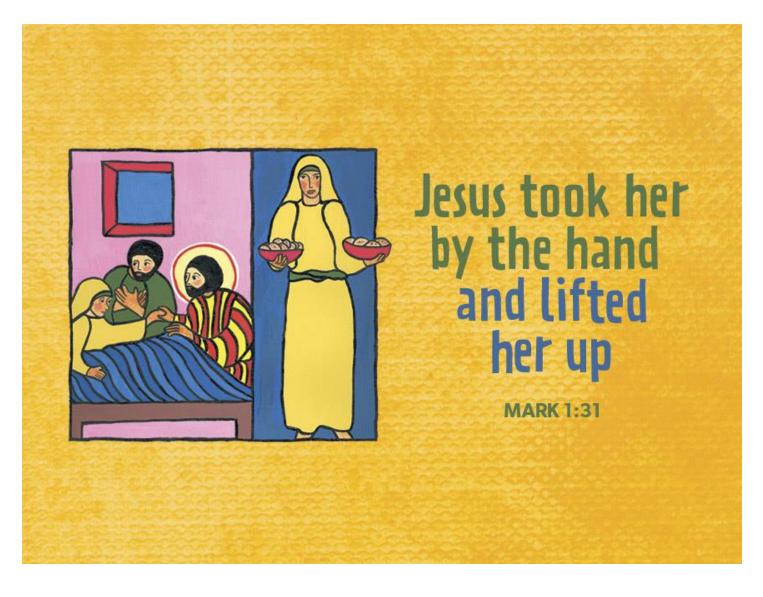
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church SUNDAY February 4th, 2024





To our Church Family We're Glad Mou're Here.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We come We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a

coffee cup and information about our church. You may also want to download our new St Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both is in the Welcome Bag.

For our young worshipers we have children's packets to play and color with during the service. These are on the white stand near the east entrance to our sanctuary.

You are Welcome at the table!

If you have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), you are welcome to join us at the table. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats using the side aisles. If you do not wish to partake in the Sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please just cross your hands over your chest when you come forward.

Grape juice and Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Grape juice is in the colored glasses in the center of the communion tray. If you are not able to come forward and would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will bring communion to you.

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers were given today by Leslie & Dick Longworth in honor of Jake Foster's birthday.

Today's Worship Theme

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 40:21-31 The creator of all cares for the powerless Psalm 147:1-11, 20c The LORD heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3) 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 A servant for the sake of the gospel Mark 1:29-39 The healing of Peter's mother-in-law

PRELUDE

Adoration

Florence Beatrice Price (1887-1953)

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

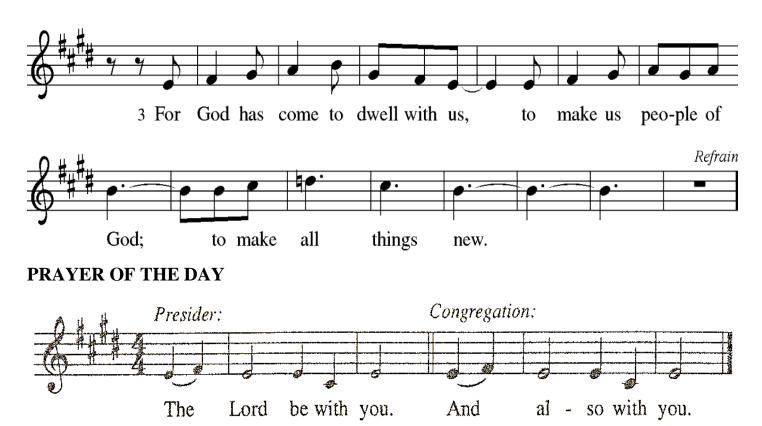
GATHERING HYMN Praise to the Lord the Almighty ELW 858

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE





Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

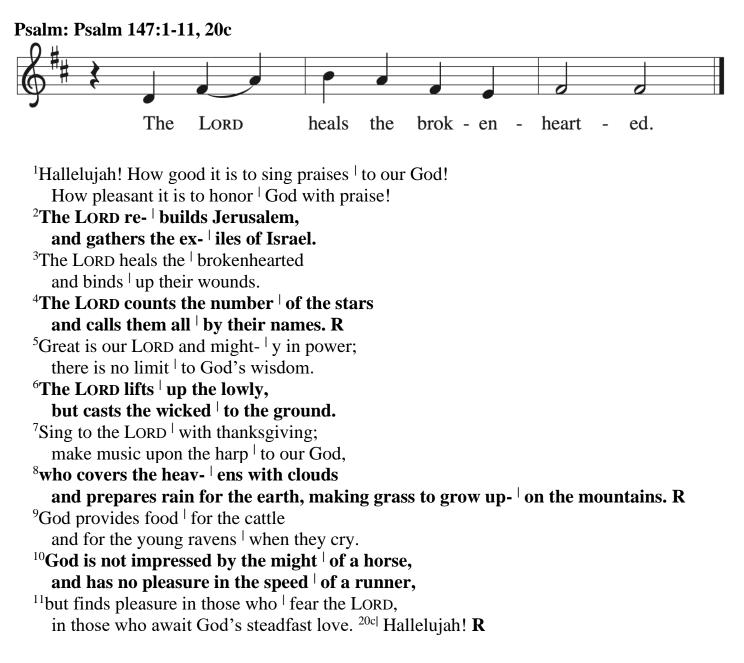
²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

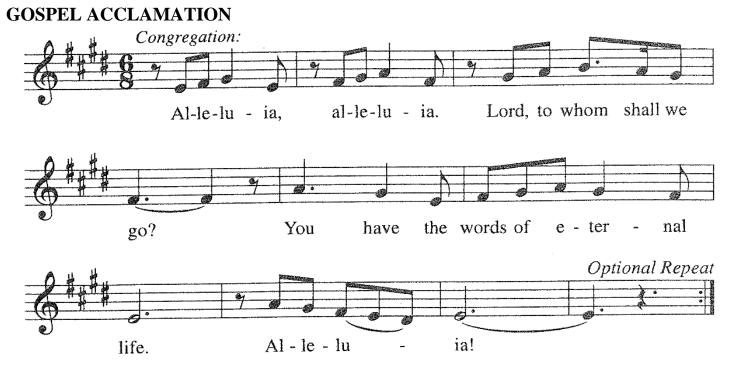


Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they

told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

SERMON

Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness ELW 843

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

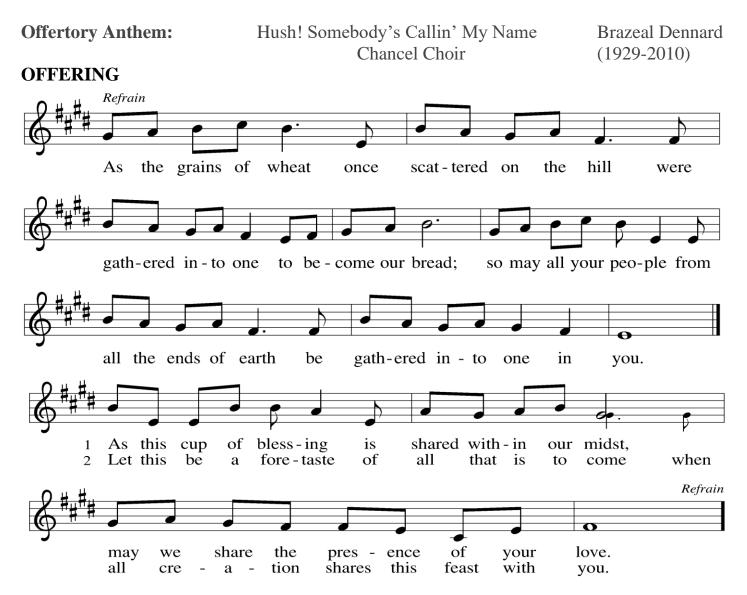
As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

After each petition the following response is given: God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

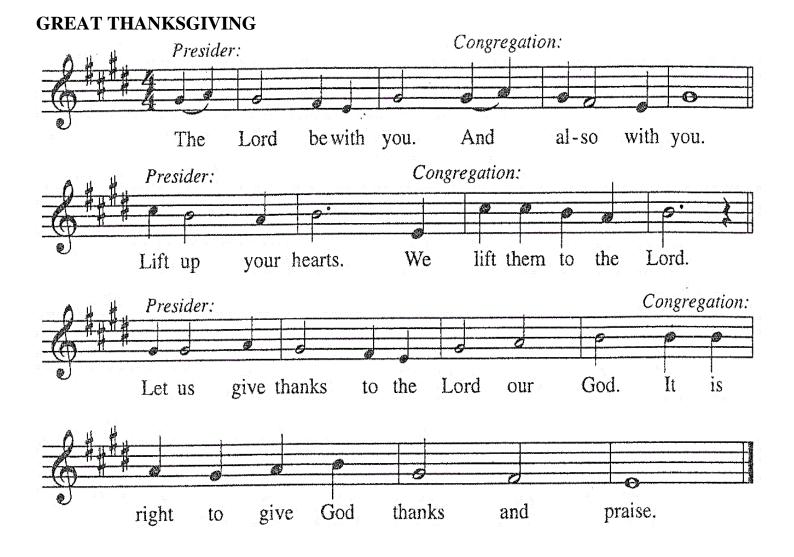
The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.



OFFERING PRAYER

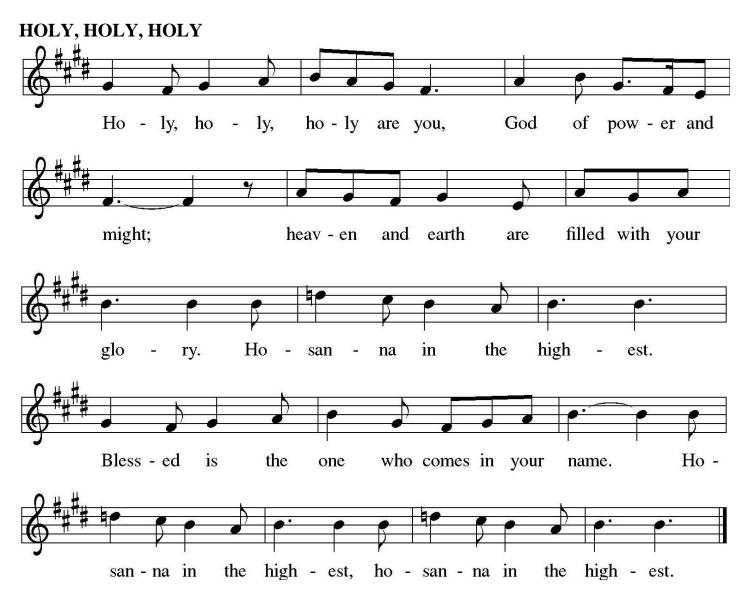
Let us pray.

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**



PREFACE

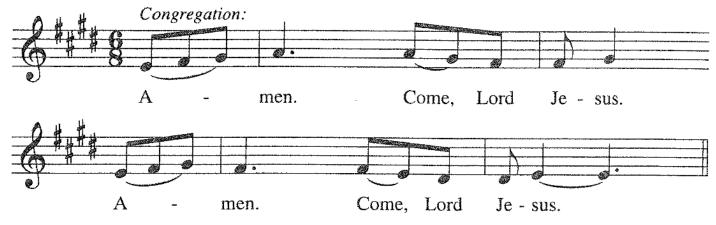
It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



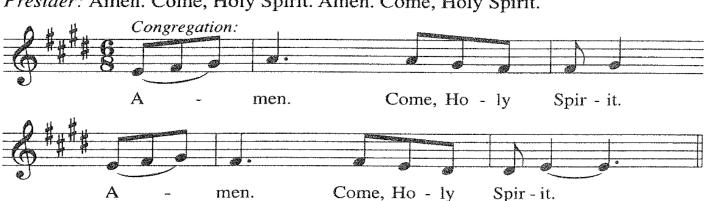
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy... we pray for His coming again even as we cry...

Presider: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

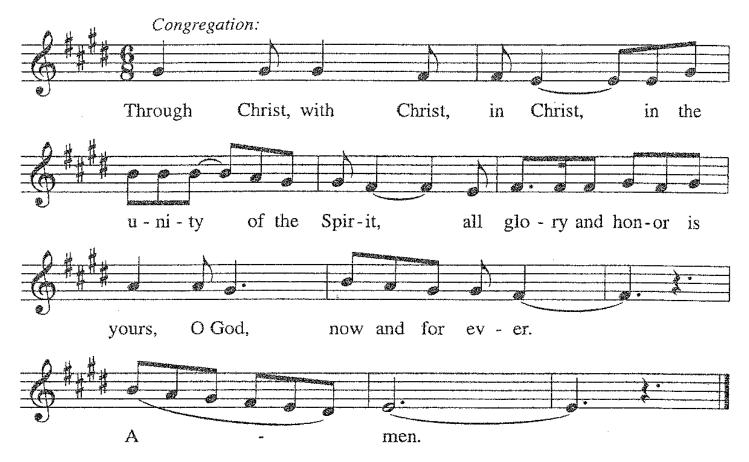


Send now, we pray... And your whole creation...



Presider: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our friend.



LORD'S PRAYER

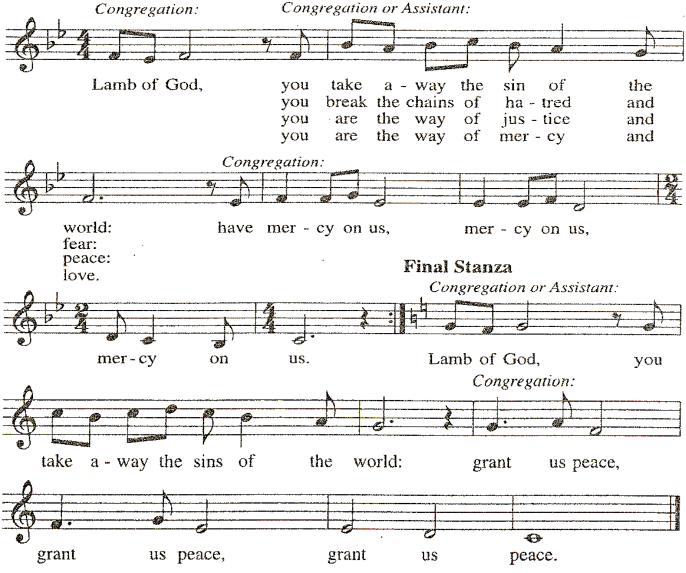
Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

COMMUNION SONG



COMMUNION HYMN

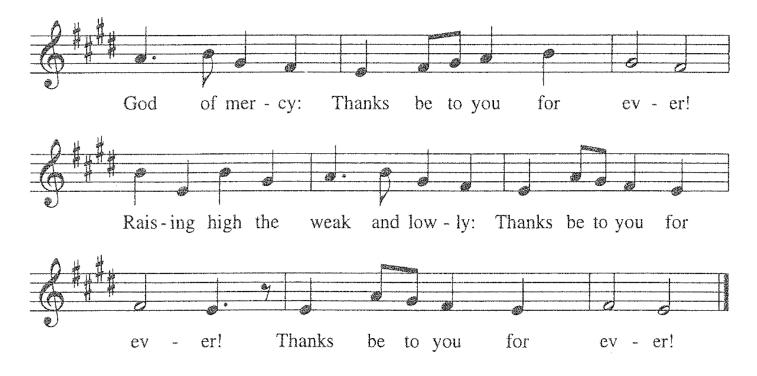
When Memory Fades

ELW 792

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**.





PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN	O Worship the King	ELW 842

BLESSING

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, + bless you and remain with you always. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:

Amazing Grace

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

Music Notes

In honor of Black History Month, our service music will feature compositions by black composers.

Prelude: Florence Beatrice Price was an African American classical composer, pianist, organist and music teacher. She was the first African-American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer, and the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra, the Chicago Symphony.

Offertory: Brazeal Dennard was an American singer, educator, choral director, and musical arranger who made significant contributions towards the preservation and revitalization of the spiritual musical form. His efforts helped moved the African-American spiritual beyond the walls of the church to a wider audience.

Postlude: Contemporary African American composer Dr. Adolphus Hailstork has written across a variety of genres, producing works for chorus, solo voice, solo piano, organ, various chamber ensembles, band, and orchestra. He was the second African American composer to be featured at a Presidential Inauguration when his Fanfare on Amazing Grace was performed as part of the prelude to Joe Biden's inauguration in January 2021.

In our prayers today we will remember

Barb and Tom Hamilton, Dave Paul, Eleanor Grunden, Lyn Delon-Fellonsteps, Mary Hardesty, Pat Adams, Linda Shaffer, Chris Collard, Chrissy Sturtz, and Carol Rohr, Mary Gainer, Linda & Will Vandevander

Chancel Choir Practice, every Wednesday 7:00 pm

Bell Choir

Handbell ensemble will rehearsal February 21, 28, March 6 and 13 from 6:00-6:50 in preparation to play in worship on March 17. We need ringers to have an ensemble, so please consider making this short-term commitment to enrich worship through ringing!

Adult Sunday School Getting Ready for Easter

What is a spiritual discipline? During this series of lessons, we'll explore spiritual disciplines that help get us ready for Easter, for resurrection, including our own. What is the place in our daily Christian lives for such practices as meditation, fasting, simplicity, and submission? And is there joy is this preparation, these disciplines? The answer is a resounding, yes! Please join us as we meet each Sunday for Bible study and fellowship at 11:30, top floor of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for easy access.

Thursday Morning Bible Study: *Wrestling With Doubt* by Adam Hamilton 10:00 am

Struggling with uncertainties on your spiritual journey? Whether a longtime Christian or brand new to the faith, get to know the God who is unafraid of hard questions. Hamilton draws from the wisdom of the Bible to approach reservations with honesty and insight. Learn how doubt can drive you to a deeper encounter with the Lord!

Capital Campaign Report

Phase One Projects	\$336,000	
Funds raised	\$197,000	
Building Fund	\$ 30,000	
Remaining funds	\$109,000	
to be raised		

Download the St Paul's Phone APP

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the "My Church" by Pushpay. It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing STPLC APP.

Then click on the St Paul's logo, that's it.

To take advantage of all the app's features you

must create an account. Get notifications and reminders of upcoming events, access our live stream worship and worship bulletins, send prayer requests, see the church calendar, and you can even give electronically. Download Today!

Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday

February 21st February 28th

March 6th

March 13th

March 20th

February 14th 7:00 PM

Wednesday Community Lenten Services Soup Supper 5:30 Worship 6:30 St Paul's Lutheran Grace UCC Central Presbyterian St Timothy's Episcopal First Baptist

> Holy Week St Paul's Lutheran

Palm Sunday	March 24, 10:00 AM
Maundy Thursday	March 28 th , 7:00 PM
Community Stations of the Cross	March 29 th , 12:00 noon
(St Mary's Roman Catholic)	
Good Friday	March 29 th , 7:00 PM
Easter Sunrise	March 31 st , 7:30 AM
Easter Morning	March 31 st , 10:00 AM

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GATHERING HYMN	Praise to the Lord the Almighty	ELW 858
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HYMN OF THE DAY Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness ELW 843 "Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, **License #A-734490**. All rights reserved

COMMUNION HYMNWhen Memory FadesELW 792"Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE,License #A-734490. All rights reserved

SENDING HYMN	O Worship the King	ELW 842
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Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding	Rev. Mark Kreemer
Director of Music	Dr. Abigail Haake
Lectors	Scott Larson
Assisting Minister	Scott Larson
Communion Assistants	Lea Lang & Greg Klein
Greeters	Greg & Lynda Klein
Sacristy	Lynda Klein
Ushers	John & Linda Litman, Carol Marlow, Mark Waltz
Soundboard	Jim Johnson
Video/Live-Stream	John Stanko

God Heals Persons and Communities

When Jesus heals us, we are empowered to serve others. While at first glance it might seem that Jesus' healing of Peter's mother-in-law was self-serving, on further reflection we see the same result in nearly all of his signs and miracles. The object of Jesus' compassion now has new responsibilities. In the very next chapter a paralytic lowered through the ceiling is raised, only to become the center of a religious controversy (Mark 2:3-12), as was the man who lay by the pool of Beth-zatha for thirty-eight years (John 5:2-15). When Jesus calms the storm (Mark 4:35-41) the disciples have to row the rest of the way! Any meaningful encounter with Jesus will result in our being changed, which in turn alters the way we see our relationship to the needs of others and the world.

Hard economic times, natural disasters, and divisive, party strife can make us feel helpless and hopeless, as if we have been abandoned by God. Even the church—local congregations as well as denominations—may feel fear and panic in the face of declining numbers and revenues, loss of loyalty from members, indifference or hostility from the surrounding culture, and internal sniping among factions. The exiled people of Israel in Babylon experienced all of this and more, so our condition is neither unique nor beyond the reach of our God. Isaiah 40:21-31 in the NRSV begins "Have you not known? Have you not heard?" Eugene Peterson, in *The Message*, translates this idea as "Have you not been paying attention? Have you not been listening?" There is some irony indeed that God's church, entrusted with God's salvation history and the gospel, still panics, still doubts and worries, still feels like it is up to us to save the church. We indeed are "clay jars" (2 Cor. 4:7)—carrying the message but not understanding, preaching salvation but not believing that God cares or will act to save. We live Isaiah 40 every day.

Connections with Creation

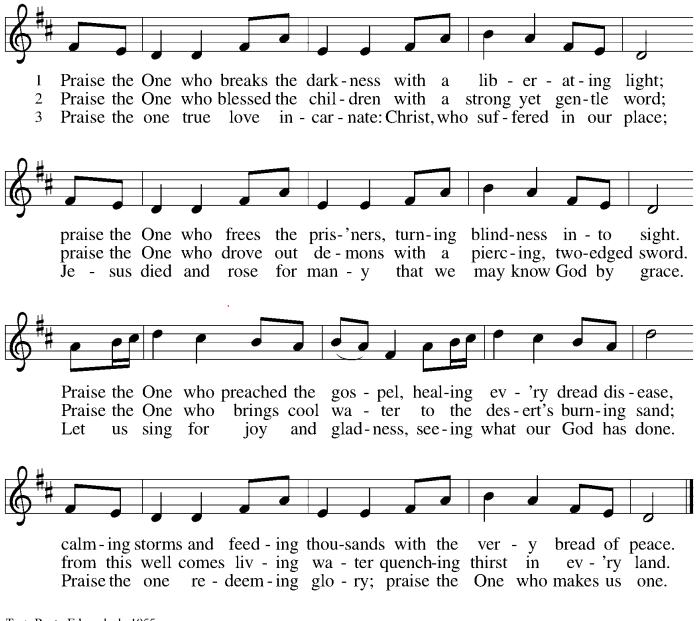
Jesus wakes early and goes to an unpopulated place. That's a good practice for prayer. And for birdwatching! Today's texts feature an eagle (Isa. 40:31) and young ravens (Ps. 147:9). Eagles soar through the Bible from Exodus to Revelation. With wingspans of more than six feet, they float on air thermals two miles up and dive at speeds greater than seventy-five miles per hour. Noah sends a raven from the ark before the better-remembered dove (Gen. 8:7); ravens feed the prophet Elijah (1 Kings 17:6) and are praised by Jesus (Luke 12:24). Those hungry ravens hatch from greenish eggs and wait in the nest for about five weeks to be fed an omnivorous diet. Visit **audubon.org/bird-guide** to hear these (and other) bird songs.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955 Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813 Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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When Memory Fades



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

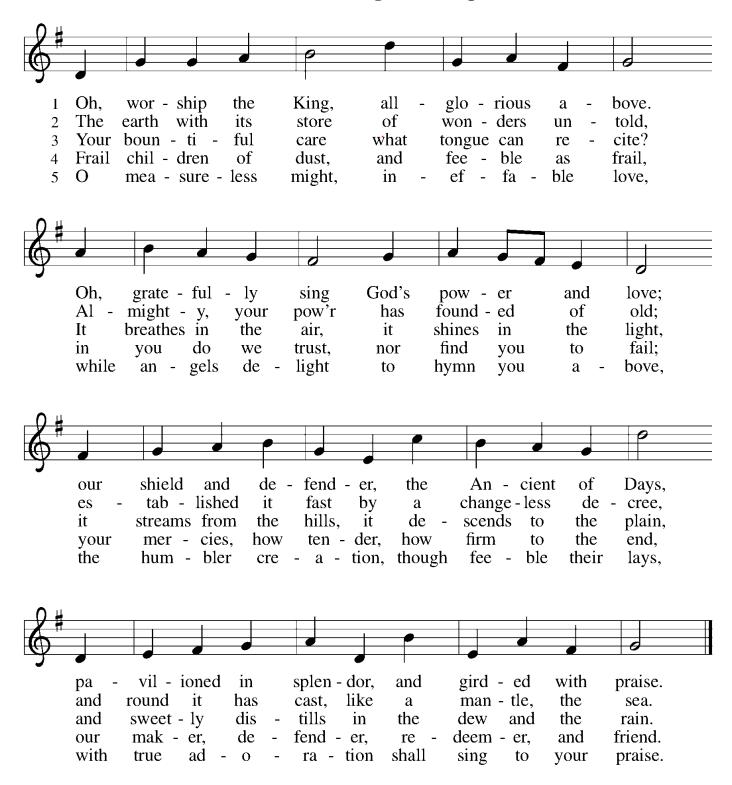
Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1865-1957

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Oh, Worship the King



Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt. Music: HANOVER, William Croft, 1678–1727