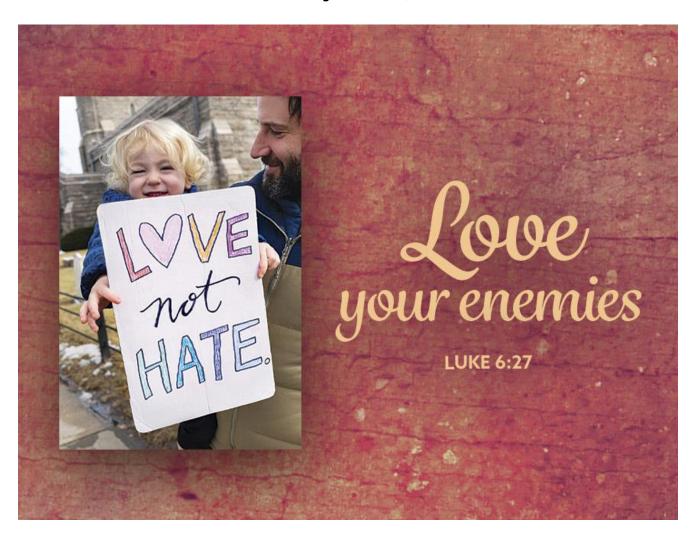
## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025



# WELCOME

To our Church Family

We're Glad You're Here!

1

#### St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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 Janet Kuller in memory of her father.

#### Introduction

Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

#### **Readings and Psalm**

## Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph forgives his brothers

## Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace. (Ps. 37:11)

## 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

The mystery of the resurrection of the body

## **Luke 6:27-38**

Love your enemies

## In our prayers today we will remember

Anna Lagenfeld, Jay Danielson, Dan Lint, Jo Schweitzer, Rich Sadler, Chrissy Sturtz, Shirley Douglas, Matt Moore, Amy Williams, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, Jessie Shaffer, Mark King, Rick Theiss, Ariane Roberts, and David Fox.

#### The Westminster Strike

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude** Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray/Standin' in the Need of Prayer- Shawn E. Okpebholo Denise Howell, mezzo-soprano; Anderson Rambler, bass-baritone

#### **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, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

#### Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.* 

#### Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways.

#### Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.** 

#### **GATHERING HYMN**

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

**ELW 707** 

#### **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**



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

#### First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

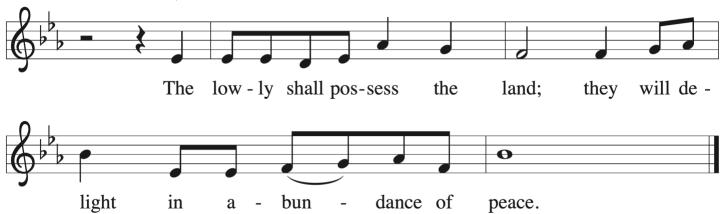
<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' " <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40



- <sup>1</sup>Do not be provoked by | evildoers; do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.
- <sup>2</sup> For they shall soon wither | like the grass, and like the green grass | fade away.
- <sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the LORD | and do good; dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.
- <sup>4</sup> Take delight | in the LORD,

who shall give you your | heart's desire. R

- <sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD, and see what | God will do.
- <sup>6</sup> The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.
- <sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.

<sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil. R

<sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall be cut off,

but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

- <sup>10</sup> In a little while the wicked shall | be no more; even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.
- 11 But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land; they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.
- <sup>39</sup> But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O LORD; you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.
- $^{40}$  You, O LORD, will help them and  $^{\dag}$  rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you  $^{\dag}$  they seek refuge.  ${\bf R}$

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

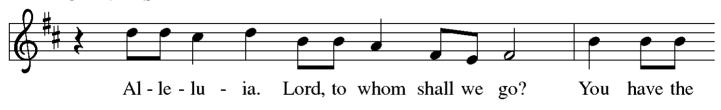
<sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### ALLELUIA VERSE





#### **GOSPEL:** Luke 6:27-38

The holy gospel according to Luke the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

## Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 27 "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30 Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

**ELW 603** 

#### **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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

After each petition the following response is given:

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

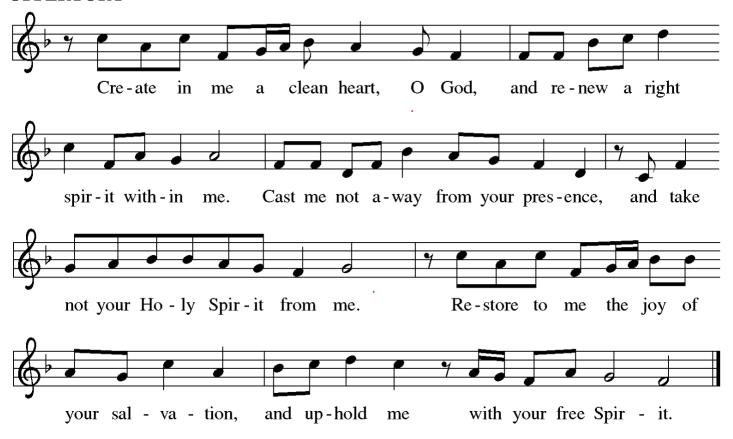
The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** 

He Never Failed Me Yet Chancel Choir Robert Ray (1946-2022)

#### **OFFERTORY**



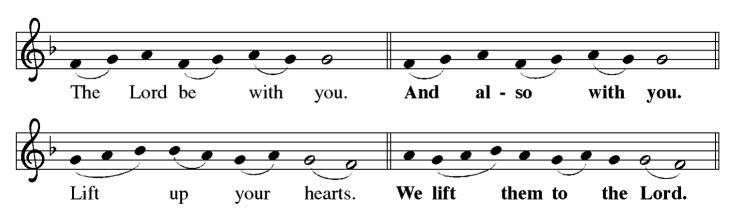
#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

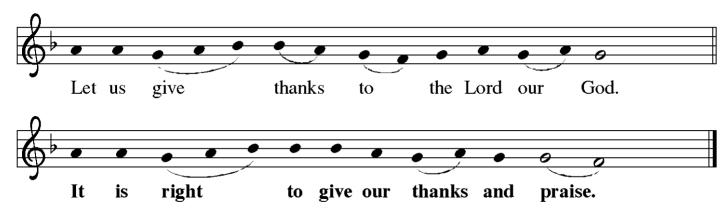
Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

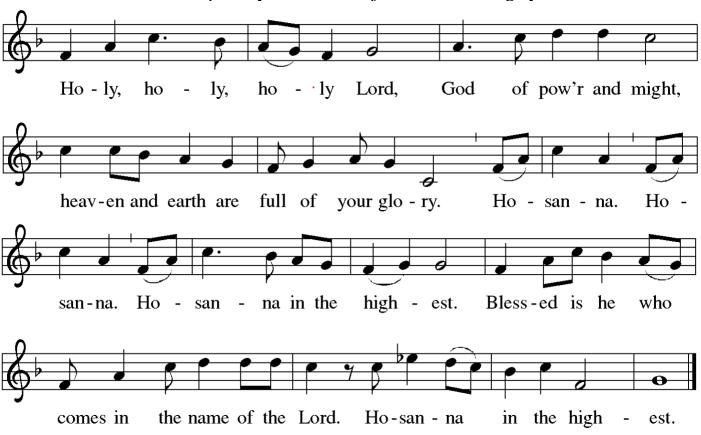
#### Amen.

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**





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, .....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:



#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

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

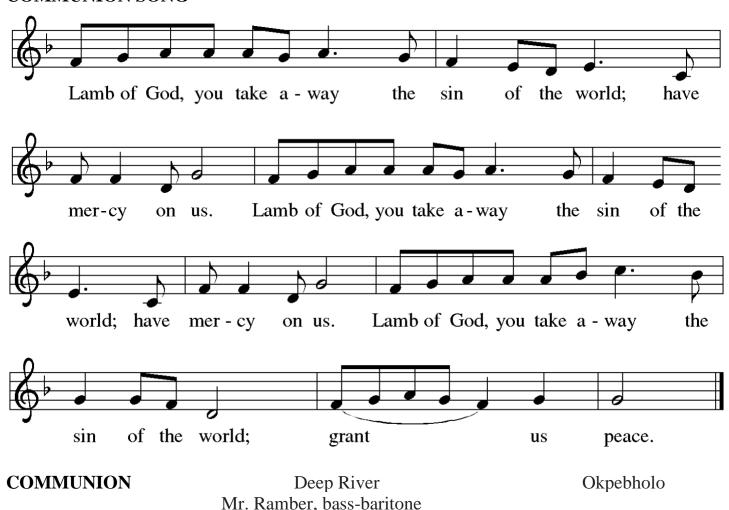
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;

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

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

#### **COMMUNION SONG**



#### TABLE BLESSING

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

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

O Day of Peace

**ELW 711** 

#### **BLESSING**

The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.** 

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.** 

**Postlude** Amazing Grace!

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

Denise Milner Howell, mezzo-soprano, is a versatile performer of opera, concerts, and recitals, whose singing has been called "superb" (Cleveland Classical). Ms. Howell's solo engagements include performances with Cleveland Opera Theater, Opera Cleveland, Chautauqua Opera, Kent/Blossom Festival, Nightingale Opera Theatre, Akron Symphony Orchestra, Akron Lyric Opera Theatre, Akron Baroque, Tanglewood Festival, Carousel Dinner Theatre, and Buffalo Philharmonic. In addition to performing, Ms. Howell is an active voice teacher. She currently teaches at Cleveland Institute of Music/Case Western Reserve University.

#### **Music Notes**

**Dr. Shawn E. Okpebholo** is currently Professor of Music Composition and Theory at Wheaton College Conservatory of Music (IL). Dr. Okpebholo earned his master's and doctoral degrees in composition from the College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) at the University of Cincinnati, where he also studied music theory. A widely sought-after and award-winning composer, Dr. Okpebholo comfortably composes in various styles and genres, intentional in creating music that is diverse, dynamic, and genuine. He maintains a dynamic career as a composer, including performances on five continents, over forty states, almost every major U.S. city, and at some of the nation's most prestigious performance spaces, including Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, and the National Cathedral.

Robert Ray was a gifted composer and educator who taught piano for more than two decades at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and was the founding director of the St. Louis Symphony's IN UNISON Chorus. Ray attended Northwestern University, where he received his Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance. For 12 years, he served as accompanist-coach for the string department at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. While there, he also organized the Black Student Chorus and prepared them for performances with such artists as Ossie Davis, Max Roach, James Cleveland, and Edwin Hawkins. Ray appeared as piano soloist with the Kirkwood Symphony, the Northwestern University Orchestra, the Champaign-Urbana Symphony, and the Seoul (Korea) Philharmonic.

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.

## **Upcoming St. Paul's Cathedral Concerts**

These concerts are FREE and open to all. Your freewill offering is gratefully received.

## Minnita Daniel-Cox, Soprano Sunday, February 23, 4 pm

Dr. Daniel-Cox is Professor of Voice and Vocal Area Coordinator at the University of Dayton. She holds degrees from Bowling Green State University (BM) and the University of Michigan (MM, DMA). As creator of the Dunbar Music Archive, Dr. Daniel-Cox has presented her research and recitals in venues around the world. The concert will feature the poetry of Paul Laurence Dunbar, set by composers Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Adolphus Hailstork, Florence Price, Sylvia Hollifield, Will Liverman, and H. Leslie Adams.

## OPUS 216, String Ensemble Sunday, March 9, 4 pm

Equally versed in classical and non-classical styles, this ensemble has created a niche experience for high-level performances that can cover any genre, from classical to French café jazz, Top 40, hip hop, South American and midcentury American jazz, Irish and American fiddle, original music, and improvisation.

Trained at top-tier conservatories like the world-renowned Cleveland Institute of Music, Manhattan School of Music, Juilliard and others, their musicians make Cleveland their home for its vibrancy, professional development opportunities, arts and culture. When they aren't performing events with OPUS 216, ensemble musicians perform nationally and internationally, from Lincoln Center in New York City, to subbing with major orchestras, such as the Chicago Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, and others. Ensemble musicians have performed onstage across the country with everyone from John Legend to Michael Buble, Brian Wilson, Andrea Bocelli, and more.

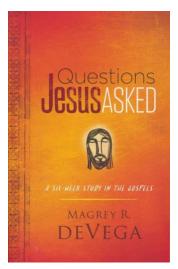
## **Adult Sunday School Class**

God is Faithful - Always!

For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust.... (Psalm 71:5a)

Why This?

Ever wonder what in the world God is doing? Have you ever asked - where is God's justice, where is his grace? The Genesis stories we explore in February will help us answer these questions and hopefully increase our trust. Please join us at 11:30 each Sunday to study and discuss Scripture and enjoy the fellowship. We meet on the top floor of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for your convenience.



## **Thursday Morning Bible Study**

Jesus was fond of asking questions, many of which cut right to the heart of what it means to be human. Why are you terrified? What do you live for? Who do you say that I am?

Magrey deVega explores six of the most provocative questions Jesus posed to others and guides us in answering them for ourselves. Asking these questions takes courage. Not only do they reveal what Jesus really cares about, they open a window into our hearts. When we dare to raise them, these questions bring us a fuller appreciation for the wisdom, power, and presence of God in our lives.

Are you ready to answer the *Questions Jesus Asked?* 

## Women's Lenten Retreat

Prayer: Let's Talk to God March 1, 9 am to 3 pm St. Paul's Lutheran Church

You are invited to attend a Women's Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 1, from 9 am until 3 pm at the church. The theme of the retreat is prayer. Bible study, practical strategies to improve a life of prayer, and worship will be included. The retreat is being led by LaShell Williamson and Patty Long. So that all women might enjoy the full day, you are asked to bring your own light lunch. Beverages will be provided. Reservations are desired but not required. All are welcome.

## **Monday Evening Bible Study**

## **Exploring God's Promises: A Bible Study on Biblical Covenants** Beginning January 13th 6:00 pm

Join us for an inspiring Bible study series as we dive into the Biblical covenants that shape the story of God's relationship with humanity. Each week, we'll explore a different covenant found throughout Scripture and reflect on how these promises reveal God's love and faithfulness.

This study is co-led by Pastor Tina Crog of St. Jacob Lutheran Church and Pastor Ash Welch of Christ Lutheran Church. We will gather in the welcoming atmosphere of Tremont Coffee shop in downtown Massillon (215 Erie St N, Massillon, OH). Whether you're new to Bible study or have been studying Scripture for years, all are welcome to come, learn, and grow together in faith. Bring your Bible and a friend!

## **Capital Campaign Report**

Remaining Phase One Projects	<b>\$377,000</b>
Funds raised	\$348,174
Remaining funds	\$ 28,826
to be raised	

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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, and see the church calendar. You can even give electronically.



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GATHERING HYMN Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us ELW 707

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**HYMN OF THE DAY** God, When Human Bonds Are Broken **ELW 603** "Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, **License #A-734490**. All rights reserved

**SENDING HYMN** O Day Of Peace **ELW 711** "Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE,

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## Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister Rev. Mark Kreemer

Director of Music Dr. Abigail Haake

Assisting Minister Veronica Kreemer

Lector Carol Butler

Greeter Gary Collard

Communion Assistant Jackie Pritchett & Greg Klein

Sacristan Sue Ambrosic

Ushers John & Linda Litman

Carol Marlow, Mark Waltz

Soundboard Jim Johnson

Video/Live-Stream John Stanko

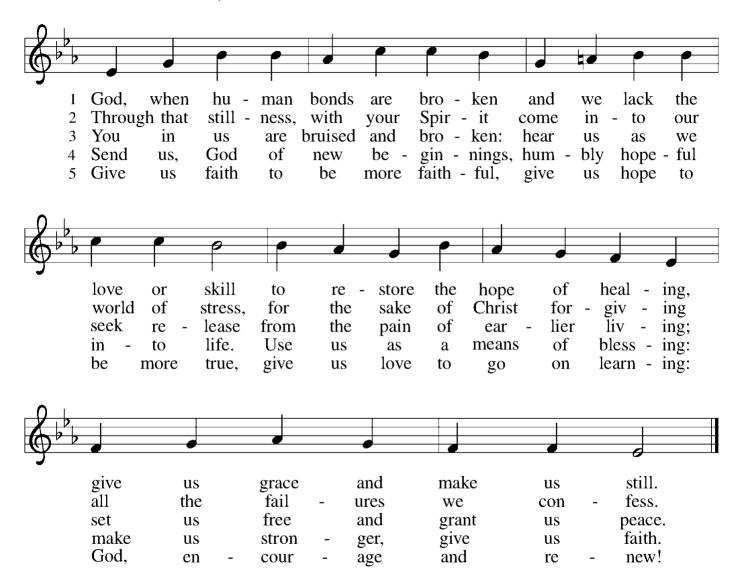
## Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us



Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-1889, alt.

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

## God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

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## O Day of Peace



- day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
- Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce de vour the small;



to jus - tice, truth, and love, de-liv-ered from our self - ish schemes. beasts and cat - tle calm-ly graze, a lit-tle child shall lead them all.



May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re-lease, Then en - e-mies shall learn to love, all crea-tures find their true ac-cord;



till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace. earth shall know the Lord. the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944 Music: JERUSALEM, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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