

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 6th, 2025



WELCOME

To our **Church Family**

We're Glad You're Here!



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 the children and grandchildren of Annelise Daniels in honor of her 90th Birthday.

Introduction

Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 43:16-21

The LORD gives water in the wilderness to the chosen people

Psalm 126

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)

Philippians 3:4b-14

To know Christ and his resurrection, to share in his sufferings

John 12:1-8

Mary anoints Jesus for his burial

In our prayers today we will remember

Jessica Cascera, Chad Beyington, Doris Diotale, Jason Loveday, Darlene Lewis, Betty Scot, Anna Lagenfeld, Jay Danielson, Chrissy Sturtz, Shirley Douglas, Matt Moore, Amy Williams, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, Jessie Shaffer, Mark King, Richard Green, and David Fox.

The Westminster Strike

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Take My Life, and Let It Be

Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

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, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

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.

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.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG As We Gather at Your Table ELW 522

GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.

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

Let us pray.

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 126



Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

¹ When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great | things for them.”

³ The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

⁴ **Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb. R**

⁵ Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.

⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves. R**

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved,

I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
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: John 12:1-8

The holy gospel according to John, the 12th chapter.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She

bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

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

SERMON

Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY

Faith Begins By Letting Go



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - 'ry's roots a - live
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After each petition the following response is given

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

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. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING ANTHEM: God So Loved the World John Stainer (1840-1901)
Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us Pray,

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world.

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

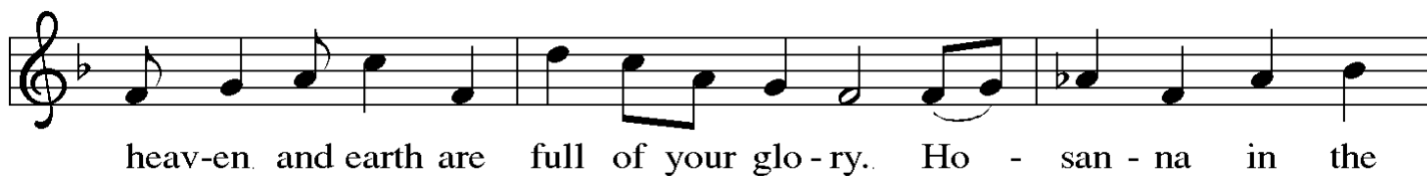
DIALOGUE



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.....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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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

All who are hungry, come!

The feast of grace is spread.

COMMUNION



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



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

In the Singing

ELW 466

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices ELW 833

BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

The Solid Rock

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

Capital Campaign Report

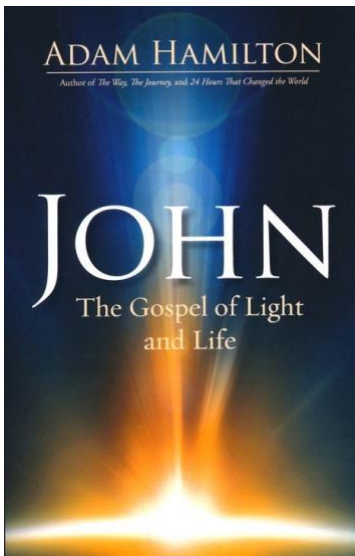
| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Remaining Phase One Projects | \$377,000 |
| Funds raised | \$351,317 |
| <hr/> | |
| Remaining funds to be raised | \$ 25,683 |

Adult Sunday School Class

God's Redemptive Grace in Jesus

Jacob's well was there and Jesus, tired out from his journey, was sitting by the well. (John 4:6)

Did you know that Shechem of the Old Testament is Sychar in the New Testament? The lessons to come will focus on the tragic story of Dinah at Shechem told in Genesis 34 and then the story of the woman in Sychar at Jacob's well in John 4. God's grace abounds! Please join us on Sunday for this fascinating study at 11:30, third floor, Parish Hall. An elevator is available for your convenience. Please note. **No class on Palm Sunday (April 13) or Easter (April 20).**



Thursday Morning Bible Study

John: The Gospel of Light and Life

By: Adam Hamilton

The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. This writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they “may have life in his name.”

Adults, youth, and children alike can experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal in Adam Hamilton's six-week, DVD-series, *John: The Gospel of Light and Life*. You'll follow the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Gospel of John and understand the context of some of the best-known verses in the New Testament.

Massillon Area Clergy Association Community Lenten Worship Services

April 9th, First Baptist Church
20 Sixth St. SE, Massillon, OH 44646
Rev. Ed Hill preaching on repentance

Through the season of Lent, churches in the Massillon area will once again join together for worship and Holy Communion, rotating locations and preachers. Our focus this year is “The Five Themes of Lent.”

A light dinner of soup and salad will be served at 5:30pm. Then at 6:30pm, we will worship together. Childcare may be provided. Offerings will go to the Family Living Center, which provides housing for local families in need.

Forty Days of Giving

We have bottled water, personal water bottles, cold water on our refrigerator doors, rainforest showerheads. Our daily water supply is simply not a matter that we think about often. But in many countries, obtaining daily water is sometimes impossible or may involve walking many miles to the nearest well which may or may not provide safe water on any given day.

This Lenten season we will be joining in the ELCA Safe Water Access project to provide a well in a needy community. Please consider picking up a Lenten folder and donating one dollar a day during Lent. If we can collect just 62 folders, we can provide an entire well!!! You can fold a bill into the slots, merely put the bills inside the folder, or enclose a check written to St. Paul.

Thank you so much for your generosity during the 40 days of Lent.

Welfare and Social Action Committee and Evangelism Committee

Windows to Wonder: A Devotional Crafting Series for Lent 2025

This Lent, engage your faith through devotional crafting with Windows to Wonder, a creative series inspired by Nicodemus' journey in the Gospel of John. Choose from three free creative options: a mystery cross-stitch stitch-along, a crochet-along shawl, or weekly creative writing prompts. Each craft is paired with a devotional podcast co-hosted by Pastors Tina Crog and Angel Jackson, exploring how we see Jesus more clearly over time.



Deepen your faith with this prayerful, hands-on Lenten journey!

All materials are free. Visit www.stitchologycrafts.com/windowstowondersal

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

Community Social Media Pages

Facebook & Instagram, Search "*Massillon Lutheran Churches*"

Facebook

"St Paul's Lutheran Church in Massillon" or *"Cathedral Concerts at St Paul's"*

St. Joseph Lenten Concert Series

Wednesdays 12:00 noon

April 9: Heather Cooper, Christ Presbyterian Church, Canton

Last Cathedral Concert for '24-'25

The Canton Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Sunday, May 17, 2025, 2:00 pm

“Come to the Water”

Upcoming St. Paul’s Concert

This concert is FREE and open to all. Your freewill offering is gratefully received.

Sonnenberg Station, Sunday, April 6, 3:00 PM



Holy Week

Palm Sunday

April 13th 10:00 am

The Blessing of the Palms and Easter Cantata “The Last Words of Christ”

We follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus’ compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death.

Maundy Thursday

April 17th 7:00 pm

Holy Communion & the stripping of the Altar

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Tonight, we remember Christ’s last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples’ feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another.

Good Friday

April 18th 12:00 noon

The Stations of the Cross at St Mary’s Catholic Church

Good Friday

7:00 pm

The Veneration of the Cross at St Paul’s

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John’s passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ’s death offers life to all.

Easter Sunrise

April 20th 7:30 am

The tomb is empty “He is Risen”

Easter Traditional Service

April 20th 10:00 am

Special Music with the Camarada Brass

Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



Theological Reflection

Mary's anointing of Jesus' feet foreshadows the foot-washing that Jesus institutes at the last supper and which we remember on Maundy Thursday, both acts of profound love and devotion. There is incredible intimacy in this scene, with Mary using her hair to wipe Jesus' feet, a scandalous thing to do in such a public setting. But Mary's beautiful gift challenges our discomfort with intimacy and bodies and invites us to consider how our bodies engage and experience our faith. The fragrance of pure nard fills the room and the noses of every guest. Mary's hands gently rub perfume into the well-worn feet of our friend and savior. And her hair tenderly brushes the excess away. How might this scene encourage us to experience the presence of God in our own bodies, to explore what intimacy with Jesus looks like in our own lives?

As We Gather at Your Table



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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In the Singing



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,

Refrain



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: BREAD OF PEACE, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

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Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es to praise my
 2 Let ev - 'ry pow'r in me im - plant - ed a - rise, keep
 3 You for - est leaves so green and ten - der that dance for
 4 All crea - tures that have breath and mo - tion, that throng the
 5 Cre - a - tor, hum - bly I im - plore you to lis - ten



God with thou - sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
 si - lence now no more; put forth the strength that God has
 joy in sum - mer air, you mead - ow grass - es, bright and
 earth, the sea, the sky, come, share with me my heart's de -
 to my earth - ly song un - til that day when I a -



joic - es, would then pro - claim in grate - ful songs to all, wher -
 grant - ed! Your no - blest work is to a - dore! O soul and
 slen - der, you flow'rs so fra - grant and so fair, you live to
 vo - tion, help me to sing God's prais - es high! My ut - most
 dore you, when I will join the an - gel throng and raise to



ev - er I might be, what great things God has done for me!
 bod - y, join to raise with heart - felt joy your mak - er's praise!
 show forth praise a - lone. Join me to make God's glo - ry known!
 pow'rs can nev - er quite de - clare the won - ders of God's might!
 you with joy - ful cry ten thou - sand hal - le - lu - jahs high!

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734; tr. composite

Music: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

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