



St. Paul's Lutheran Family, ELCA

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Rev. Mary Lou Petitjean, Interim Pastor



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN FAMILY!

PRELUDE

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, †one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world,

God draws near to us,

breaks every snare of sin,

washes away our wrongs,

and restores the promise of life through †Jesus Christ.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Hymn #326, Bless Now, O God, the Journey – Three verses

1 Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.

2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.

3 Divine eternal lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise
where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.

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 mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let
us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

Amen.

WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin,
God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the
animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment.
As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant
with all creatures.*

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

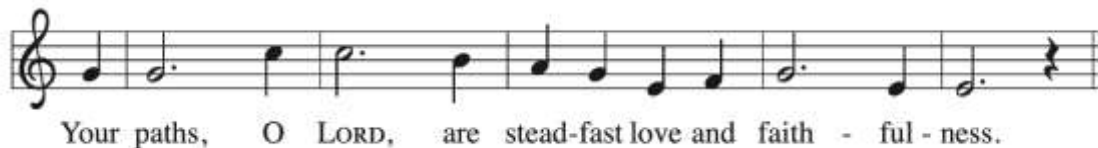
waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant 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.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

A time of silence follows the reading.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10, Refrain



Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)

¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths. R**



⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day
long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way. R**



Your paths, O LORD, are stead-fast love and faith - ful - ness.

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. R**



Your paths, O LORD, are stead-fast love and faith - ful - ness.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM – I Want Jesus to Walk with Me, St. Paul’s Choir

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

THE GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God’s reign.

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."

(The gospel is proclaimed, concluding...)

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME – Traci Angel

SERMON – Rev. Mary Lou Petitjean

HYMN OF THE DAY: Hymn #922, When We Are Tested – Four verses

- 1 When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.

- 2 When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.

- 3 When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the pow'r to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.

- 4 When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.
Your mercy is great.

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.
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Please share a sign of that peace.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN: Hymn #673, God Whose Almighty Word – Four verses

1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

2 Christ, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
oh, now to humankind
let there be light.

3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

4 Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might:
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth, far and wide,
let there be light.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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,

the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

COMMUNION HYMNS

Hymn #613, Thy Holy Wings – Three verses

1 Thy holy wings, O Savior,
spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely
through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion,
my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment
be lived within thy grace.

2 Oh, let me nestle near thee,
within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort
and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me
and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn
and need thy tender care.

3 Oh, wash me in the waters
of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit,
a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping
thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber,
enfold us one and all.

Hymn #517, Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word – Three verses

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done.

2 Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, that we
may sing your praise eternally.

3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
send peace and unity on earth;
support us in our final strife
and lead us out of death to life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.
Amen.**

BLESSING

Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We grieve with Karen (Hone) Nolte on the passing of her mother June Bennett-Hansen on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. June was a long-time congregant of St. Paul's and celebrated her 100th birthday last year with a party in Friendship Hall. May her memory be a blessing.

Mark your calendars with these important dates.

March 24th – Palm Sunday

March 29th – Good Friday

March 31st – Easter Sunday

The Youth Group will hold its Annual Pancake Breakfast on March 31st after the Easter Sunday service. Make plans to attend this special event.

Counters Needed!

St. Paul's members are needed to count the offerings after worship services.

What does a counter do? A team of two St. Paul's members counts the offerings after the worship service, fills out a simple form, and then hands the offerings and form to our Financial Secretary, Holly McPhail. This process takes about ten (10) minutes and an inexperienced counter is always teamed with an experienced one.

If you would like to become part of this ministry, please speak with Mary DeFelice at 775 882-0916 or Holly McPhail at 775 443-6639. Thank you!

Ushers are desperately needed. Please contact Dave Harrell to join this wonderful ministry. Thank you! davidharrell93@yahoo.com

**SENDING SONG: Hymn #319, O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days –
Four verses**

- 1 O Lord, throughout these forty days
you prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin,
and free us from our past.

- 2 You strove with Satan, and you won;
your faithfulness endured;
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust
in God's eternal word.

- 3 Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed
and fixed your mind above;
so teach us to deny ourselves
that we may know God's love.

- 4 Be with us through this season, Lord,
and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns,
we join in heaven's praise.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

See you next week!

POSTLUDE

CHURCH ATTENDANCE STATS: Sunday, February 11, 2024: Adults: 53, Children: 8, Online: 10

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeter – Jay Olshen

Reader – Dorothea Phalen

Communion Assistant – Nick Cotsonis

Ushers – TBA

Counters – Judy McPhail and Jeanne Russell

Acolytes – Clay Woslum and Greg Griffith

Youth Acolytes – TBA

Live-streaming Assistant – Nick Cotsonis and Holly McPhail

Musician – Vicki Hamilton

Coffee Guru – Jean Opperman

Altar Guild – Joan Schultz, Traci Angel, and Youth Group

PRAYERS FOR COPING and HEALING

Nellie Revelle, hospitalized with a stroke; Marie Boone, a fall; Doug Thunder, healing for foot and bone; Walter Horrell (and family), four-year-old great nephew of Ruth Fitzgerald; Teresa Noonan, a friend of Brette O’Connell Elander, stage-4 pancreatic cancer; Stephanie Ranson, open-heart surgery; Denise Muller; Vera Logie; Tom, a friend of St. Paul’s; Joan Yeskie; Glenn Laursen; Edward Yoho; Madelene Yoho; Fern Yoho; Maxine McGregor (Madelene’s sister); and a special prayer for all those living with devastating diseases and life-threatening injuries.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Jim Kennett; Gayle Kennett; Pat Thunder; Beverly and Grant, friends of Susan Bunker-Niles, Grant suffered a stroke; Audrey Stroub; Bev Steinert, ongoing vision issues; Bob Stroub; Wayne Opperman; Bill Sandell; Frank and Shirley Bartlett; Carol Kalleres, continued health issues; James Wilson, continued health issues; Mary Ann Adamik, healing; Ellen Harrell, medical issues; Betty Razor, healing; Karen (Hone) Nolte; Hannelore Hanke; and Diana Johns.