

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
February 4/5, 2023



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
The People of St. Paul's, the Ministers
474 Yalick Road
PO Box 802 – Dallas, PA 18612
Phone: 570-675-3859; email: stpaul@epix.net
Website: www.stpaulsdallaspa.org

Rev. Charles H. Grube, Pastor
Margaret Quintanar, Director of Music/Organist
Senior Choir & Chimes
Jean Grube, Chapel & Emmanuel Choir Director

Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday: 9:30 am till 4:00 pm
Friday: 9:30 am till Noon

TODAY'S WORSHIP

WELCOME worship as Jesus continues to reveal himself during Epiphany. May you sense anew your Savior's deep love for you and all the world.

LIGHT SHINES in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds on injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

WORSHIP BEGINS in our gathering. Please enjoy greeting and conversation in the Narthex, and respect those who have entered the Sanctuary to pray, meditate, and listen to the prelude with silence and an atmosphere of reverence and peace as we all prepare to hear God's word.

CELEBRATING COMMUNION: we invite you to pick up pre-contained hosts and wine at the greeter's table in the Narthex. At Pastor's invitation, please pick up your packaged elements and hold them up for the Eucharistic Prayer, which includes the Words of Institution, and the Lord's Prayer. Then at the invitation, the distribution begins when you unwrap the host and hear the words, "The body of Christ given for you." Uncapping the wine or juice and the words, "The blood of Christ shed for you" follows. The used containers can be discarded in the trash receptacles at the door on your way out.

HEARING ASSISTANCE devices are available; please ask an usher for help.

THE BLUE WELCOME PAD in the pew rack is our record of your attendance and communion (or you may leave a message for Pastor Grube, note a new address or phone number).

LEAVING THE SANCTUARY during worship? Please use the side doors with the panic bar latches; they open and close silently.

SCRIPTURE READINGS for February 11/12: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 and Matthew 5:21-37.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

To Be Your Presence

Robert Buckley Farlee

BELL, WELCOME, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand as you are able and turn to face the font for the Confession.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

CONFESSION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, source of our renewal,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen

Thus says the Lord our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. You are forgiven in the name of + Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN 715

Christ, Be Our Light

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** *(Sit)*

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON [SUNDAY]

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

A reading from Isaiah.

Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 112:1-9 (*Sung responsively by cantor or choir and congregation*)



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¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who ¹ fear the LORD
and have great delight in ¹ God's commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty ¹ in the land;
the generation of the upright ¹ will be blessed.**

³Wealth and riches will be ¹ in their house,
and their righteousness will ¹ last forever.

⁴**Light shines in the darkness ¹ for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full ¹ of compassion.**

⁵It is good for them to be gener- ¹ ous in lending
and to manage their af- ¹ fairs with justice.

⁶**For they will nev- ¹ er be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlast- ¹ ing remembrance.**

⁷They will not be afraid of any ¹ evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting ¹ in the LORD.

⁸**Their heart is established and ¹ will not shrink,
until they see their desire up- ¹ on their enemies.**

⁹They have given freely to the poor,
and their righteousness stands ¹ fast forever;
they will hold up their ¹ head with honor.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

A reading from 1st Corinthians.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia

Jesus says, I am the light | of the world;*
whoever follows me will have the | light of life. Refrain.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

SERMON

(Stand as you are able for the Hymn.)

HYMN OF THE DAY 540

Go, Make Disciples

APOSTLES CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each petition ends, Merciful God, **Receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Share the peace with others as you are able.

(Sit)

ANTHEM

Be the Light of Christ
Senior Choir

Wes Cameron

(Stand)

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

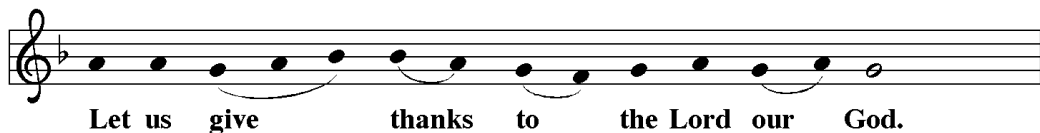
The presiding minister unveils the paten and chalice and prepares for the communion.



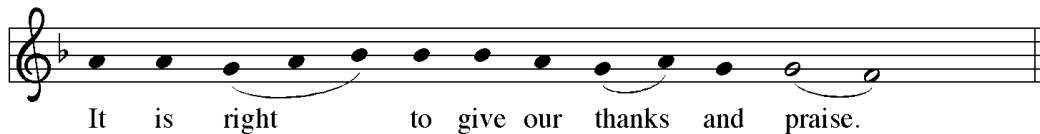
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



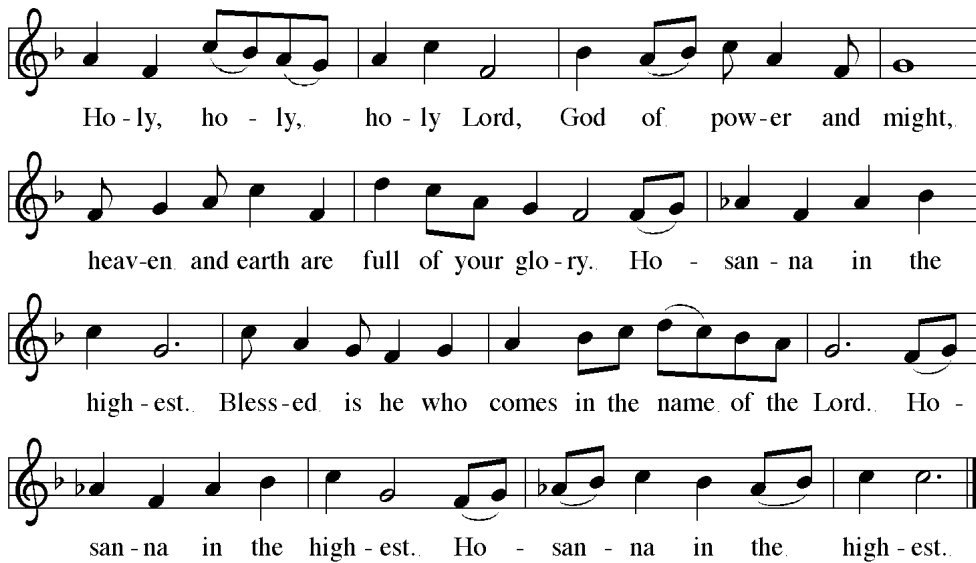
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Here the presiding minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Hold up your communion elements for the prayer of thanksgiving.

Holy God,....we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We pray for the gift.....by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

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.

COMMUNION

Taste the joy of the Lord.

Please unwrap your bread.

The body of Christ, given for you.

Please uncap your wine.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Let us pray. Holy Lord, we thank you for your healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

Amen.

SENDING

[EUCHARISTIC MINISTER SENDING PRAYER]

BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN 546 *To Be Your Presence*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Fughetta on To Be Your Presence* Richard
Proulx

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MINISTER OF TECHNOLOGY: Marissa Miller

LECTOR: Melissa Janoski

ASSISTING MINISTER: Keith Brosious

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE TWO YELLOW ROSES are given in Honor of the 75th Birthdays of Colette Weaver and Irene Race, by the Social Ministry Committee.

A THANK YOU NOTE: I would like to thank the Social Ministry Committee for the Thanksgiving pumpkin, the Christmas gift bag and to Pat Kowalek for delivering them. I am especially thankful for the cards and calls over the past months and especially for the prayers; please continue to pray for me. Also, thank you to Gail Ide for the offers of communion. I am grateful to be part of a caring congregation. Humbly, Ann Sabol.

STEWARDSHIP – “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). The generosity of being a good steward of your gifts has a positive effect on people, and it is contagious! Good works encourage more good works. Let your light shine! Be careful to recognize that God is working through you and don’t put yourself above the people you have been called to help.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – the weekend of February 11/12, two soup pots will be in the Narthex, one marked for the Philadelphia Eagles and the other for the Kansas City Chiefs. Please place your monetary gift in the pot representing the team for whom you are cheering. You may also bring a can or two of soup and place them in the grocery cart next to the soup pots. Donations received will be given to the Back Mountain Food Pantry. Cheering you on for donations will be Braden & Adelyn Tomalis (Saturday) and Morgan Holbrook, Ava Brezovsky and Nate Linnen (Sunday).

LABYRINTH UPDATE: The Evangelism Committee is now ready to move forward with providing a schedule for use of the church’s new moveable labyrinth. On Wednesday, February 15, and on the third Wednesday of each month thereafter, the labyrinth will be available for anyone from St. Paul’s and the public to use from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Gail Ide will be present to offer guidance on walking the labyrinth. Watch for reminders about the labyrinth in church bulletins and the Good News newsletter.

SUBMISSIONS for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office by noon on Thursdays; newsletter deadline for the March issue is Sunday, February 19.

MEMORIAL DONATION – In Memory of Tom Lundberg, a gift has been given to the Memorial Fund, by the Meadon Lake Subdivision in Toano, VA.

SOUP SALE FUNDRAISER – starting today, soup makers may pick up the “Soup Sale Checklist” and containers to package their soup. Bring your labeled and frozen soup to store in the church freezer between February 11 and February 19. Then, starting on February 25 and 26, buy soup! All the proceeds from this fundraiser support sending children from St Paul's to Bear Creek Camp this summer. Your soup purchases last year helped send two children to Bear Creek. We'd like to make camp available to more families this year. Thank you for your support!



PLEASE JOIN THE FUN next Sunday following worship during the Sunday School hour for **BIBLE BOWL 2023!** The event will take place in the Gathering Area with light refreshments – fun for all ages!

LENTEN PENNY CHALLENGE - Don't forget to save your pennies for the Lenten Penny Challenge. All the money collected will benefit the Back Mountain Food Pantry. The Challenge will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22 and run until Easter on April 9. There will be a jar in the Narthex for loose coins and a basket for rolled coins. Every penny counts to help fight hunger.

PALMS REQUESTED – If you kept your palms from last year's Palm Sunday service, please bring them to the church by **Sunday, February 12**. In keeping with tradition, palms from the previous year are burned on Transfiguration to make the ashes to be used on Ash Wednesday.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENTEN EVENTS—Ash Wednesday, February 22, will begin with Imposition of Ashes (optional) from 7:00-9:00 am, followed by the Ash Wednesday Service with Communion and Imposition of Ashes (optional) at 7:00 pm; ashes will be available in individual cups on the table in the Narthex This year, we will enhance our Lenten practice with a Midweek Lenten Gathering at 10:30 am every Tuesday in Lent, beginning on Tuesday, February 28. The event will start with our regular Bible study, followed at 11:30 am with a Bring-Your-Own bagged lunch; beverages and dessert will be provided. At 12:15 pm we will conclude with a short liturgy. For more information, please contact the office at 570-675-3859.

THE RETIRED RAMBLERS will hold their monthly breakfast gathering at the Lakeside Skillet at 8:32 am on Thursday, February 9.

THE LADIES of St. Paul's Dorcas Society will have their next meeting on Tuesday, February 14, at 1:00 pm in the Social Hall. Hostesses for February are Cookie Fetterman, Fran Dierolf and Ellen Babuscak. All ladies are welcome and encouraged to attend.

THE 2023 CHURCH Phone Directory is available on the table in the Narthex. Pick up your copy today! Please review your household listing and call (570.675.3859) or email (stpaul@epix.net) to report any changes that need to be made.

SPECIAL DATES:

Sunday, February 12	Souper Bowl Sunday Sunday School Bible Bowl Pick up soup containers for Bear Creek Camp Fundraiser
Sunday, February 19	Boy Scout Sunday
Wednesday, February 22	Ash Wednesday
Sunday, February 26	1 st Sunday in Lent Bear Creek Camp Representative here for worship and Sunday School Hour

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Today	8:30 am	Chime Practice
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Sunday School
	11:30 am	Confirmation Class
Tuesday	5:30 pm	Cub Scout Meeting; 6:30 pm Boy Scout Meeting
	10:30 am	Bible Study
	11:00 am	Card Group
Thursday	7:00 pm	Congregation Council Meeting
	8:32 am	Retired Ramblers Breakfast at Lakeside Skillet
Saturday	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
	5:30 pm	Worship
Next Sunday	8:30 am	Chime Practice
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Sunday School
	5:30 pm	Cub Scout Meeting; 6:30 pm Boy Scout Meeting

PRAYER LIST - Please remember to ask permission from the person you are placing on the prayer list. **Pray for the Congregation of**

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Hope Beisel, Marty Bisher, Connie Borchert, Mary Lou Bowman, Helen Carey, Pam Cyphers, Mary Lou Daley-Button, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl and Marty Everhart, Grace Fisher, Marge Fritzinger, Lois Hardisky, Karen Henderson, Kay Hometchko, Alice Hudak, Robert Kline, Ron Kross, Margie McCarty, Pat Peiffer, Ann Sabol, Betty Schray, Bill Smith, Mark and Mary Walters, Justin Yost.

Please note: Those people listed as Family and Friends will be listed here for a four-week period. Please contact the church office at 570-675-3859 or stpaul@epix.net if you desire a name to remain on the list beyond that time.

Family & Friends: Dick Armbrust, Hank Banaszek, Robert Binger, Amy Bush, Ed Campbell, Marjorie Catania, Gabriel Day, Janice DeFebo, Richard Disque, David & Toby Drake, Ron and Candyce Fike, Bob Hughes, Christine Ide, Glenn Ide, Bradley Kessler, Jim Lorah, Audrey Mace, Louise Menapace, Rob Merritt, Ann Muddiman, Jean Mullen, Carolyn Nevins, Tim Nulton, Alice O'Neil, Ryleigh Phillips, Carol Powell, Bonnie Ryman, Nancy Shymanski, Sandra Stankiewicz, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Gary Sullivan, Benjamin Szostak, Donna Thiessen, Jean Thompson, Janice Tucker, Carol Wall, Connie Wilbur, Karen Wise, Ashley, Bethann, Jaimy, Bill, Cindy, Paul, Debbie, David, Herb & Sue (no last names given).