

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



March 23, 2025

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME to ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:15am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave
9:00am | Choir Practice
9:30am | Education Hour with Sunday School, Confirmation and Adult Forum
10:30am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave and Online
11:30am | Coffee Hour

LIVESTREAMING

Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Facebook page. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, however, without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

Sign up for Weekly Update newsletter by going to our website at www.stpaularlington.org and clicking on SUBSCRIBE.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY ARE:

Marie Breitenbach, *Altar Guild*
Adelaide N. and Mikayla N., *Acolytes*
Marie Breitenbach, *Lector*
Elizabeth Heichler, *Deacon*
Leila Topi, *Cantor*
Andy Airasian and Dan Ries, *Ushers*
Matt Carter *Livestream Broadcast*
Peter and Hollie Schmidt and Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild*

*When the instruction for standing * appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable. At the ☩, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism. The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Interlude No. 1 on 'Pange lingua'

Rene Vierne (1878-1918)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 HYMN

"Before the Water Nourished Earth"

ACS 1049

1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
 2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
 3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
 4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness

ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
 E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
 par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
 still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -

u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
 mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
 faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
 gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

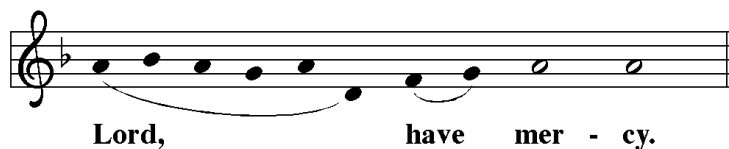
Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961
 Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody

*GREETING

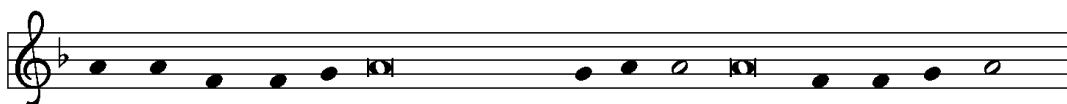
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

*KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



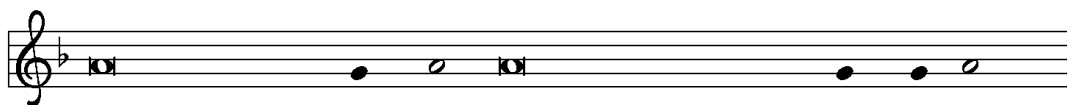
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, 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,



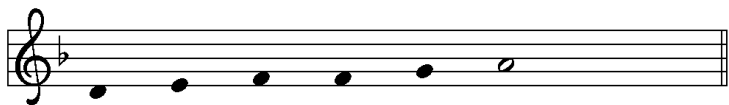
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.


All



Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor -



ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



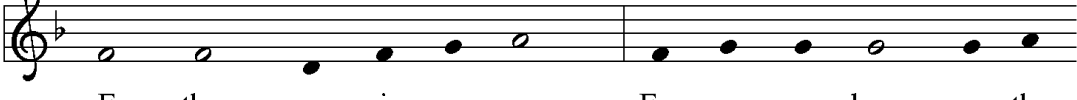
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, O Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have



mer-cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the



Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone



are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love

to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1—9

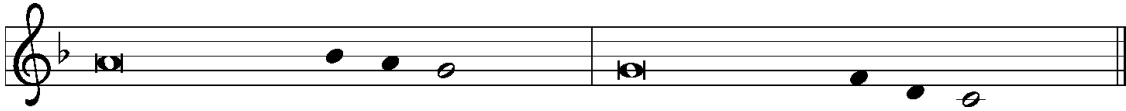
To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

Hear, everyone who thirsts;
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



O God, you are my God; eager-¹ ly I seek you;
 my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where
 there¹ is no water.

**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your¹ holy place,
 that I might behold your power¹ and your glory.**

For your steadfast love is better than¹ life itself;
 my lips shall¹ give you praise.

**So will I bless you as long¹ as I live
 and lift up my hands¹ in your name.**

My spirit is content, as with the rich-¹ est of foods,
 and my mouth praises you with¹ joyful lips,
**when I remember you up-¹ on my bed,
 and meditate on you in¹ the night watches.**

For you have¹ been my helper,
 and under the shadow of your wings I¹ will rejoice.

**My whole being¹ clings to you;
 your right hand¹ holds me fast.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1—13

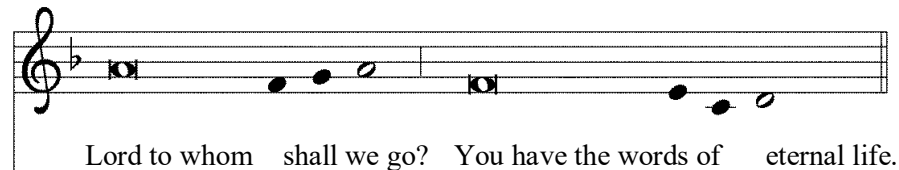
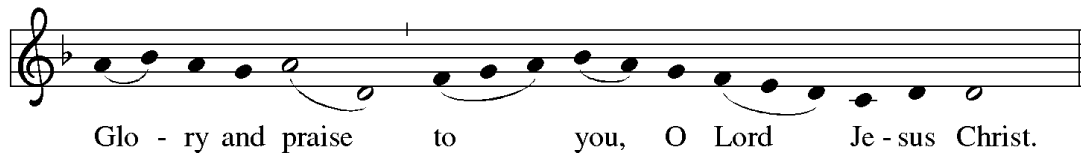
Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did, as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not engage in sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (10:30 *only*)



* GOSPEL

Luke 13:1—9

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.' "

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

Vicar Sam Menapace

SERMON

Vicar Sam Menapace

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"As Rain from the Clouds"



1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
 2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown
 3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,

as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
 on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
 a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.

Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
 Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
 Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow

and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.

We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;

for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812–1896

APOSTLE'S CREED

In response to the gospel, let us confess the faith of the church:

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 into hell. 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**

The leader will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read aloud the other prayers as they feel called.

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

A brief silence

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion, especially Dan, Lynn, Meredith, Paul, and Susan. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict, especially in Syria, Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan, and Haiti. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended, especially Oscar Arnulfo Romero and Hans Nielsen Hauge. May their witness inspire our own. 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 *Keep your hands close together or make the peace sign if you'd rather not pass the peace with touch.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

Thy Holy Wings/I Lift My Soul

Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

The holy wings, dear Savior, spread gently over me;
And through the long night watches, I'll rest secure in thee.
Whatever may betide me, be though my hiding place,
And let me live and labor each day, Lord by thy grace.

Thy pardon, Savior, grant me and cleanse me in the blood;
give me a willing spirit a hearth both clean and good.
O take into thy keeping, thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.

The holy wings, dear Savior, spread gently over me;
And through the long night watches, I'll rest secure in thee.
O take into thy keeping thy children great and small.
Thy holy wings dear Savior, spread gently over all.

MEAL

* OFFERING PRAYER

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.

OFFERING

You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code.



* 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.

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.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r 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.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

All creation sings your praise.
Sun, moon, and stars reflect your glory.
Mountains, lakes, and forests declare your wonders.

With Sarah and Abraham we go out in faith, trusting your promise.
With Miriam and Moses we celebrate our deliverance from bondage.

With Naomi and Ruth we bind ourselves together in covenant love.
With Jonathan and David we delight in the gift of deep and abiding friendship.
With Mary and Elizabeth we welcome your presence in the birth of Jesus,
the Holy One.
With Lazarus, Martha, and Mary we give thanks for the blessings of family.
With disciples and followers we marvel at the reign of God come near.
With saints through the ages we ponder the mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With hearts full of memories and hopes,
we break this bread and share this cup,
remembering the death and resurrection of Christ,
and his promise to be with us always
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,
whose breath revives us for life,
whose fire rouses us to love.
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God,
receive our praise and petitions,
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,
and fill us with your blessing,
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

* LORD'S PRAYER

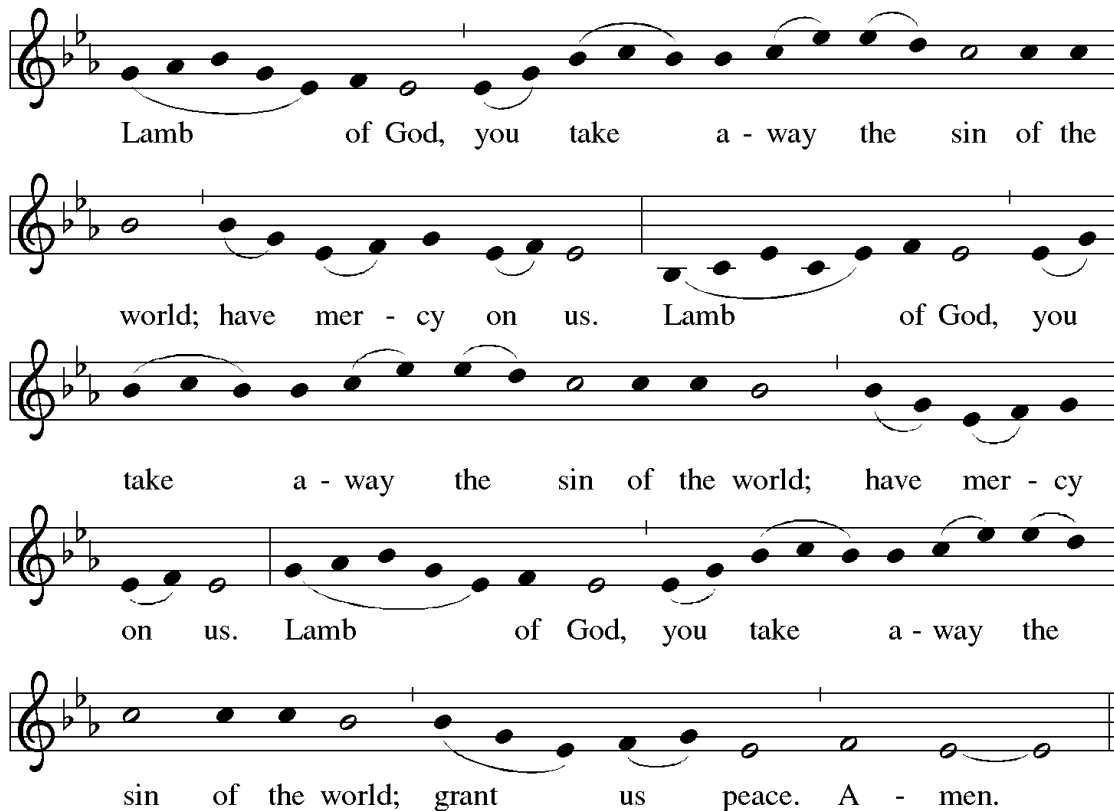
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers are available on request.
Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are available in each tray.*

Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.



COMMUNION HYMN (10:30 only)

"God Extends an Invitation" - sing three times

ELW 486

Nues-tro Pa - dre nos in - vi - ta a la me - sa de la
God ex - tends an in - vi - ta - tion to the ta - ble of cre -

vi - da, don - de hay vi - no, luz y pan; y no -
a - tion, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we

so - tros nos reu - ni - mos, y lo nues - tro com - par - ti - mos, pues a -
gath - er in thanks - giv - ing and we of - fer all our liv - ing. Here the

sí es la co - mu - ni - ón; pues a - sí es la co - mu - ni - ón.
feast of life is spread; here the feast of life is spread.

Text: Miria T. Kolling; English and Spanish tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: NUESTRO PADRE, Miria T. Kolling

* 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

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

* BLESSING

The peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
keep your hearts and your minds
in † Christ Jesus.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING HYMN

"There is a Longing in Our Hearts"

ACS 1078

Refrain — All



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -
veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our
hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Leader or All



1 For jus - tice, for free - dom, for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom, for cour - age, for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing, for whole - ness, for new life:
4 Lord, save us, take pit - y, light in our
hear our prayer. In sor - row, in grief:
hear our prayer. In weak - ness, in fear:
hear our prayer. In sick - ness, in death:
deep - est night. We call you; we wait:

Refrain

be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955
Music: LONGING, Anne Quigley

* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Interlude No. 4 on 'Pange lingua'

Rene Vierne (1878-1918)

ANNOUNCEMENTS *and*
UPCOMING HAPPENINGS *at* **SAINT PAUL**



SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE | Sunday, March 23, 2025 after the 10:30 service.

Participation in this committee is open to all parishioners - new members are always welcome. Our projects develop out of the energy and interest of members and are responsive to local, regional and global ongoing and emerging needs. Please join us!

EASTER FLOWERS | Orders needed by April 7, 12pm

Time to order your flower orders in over the next few weeks. Forms are in the Upper Narthex. Pick from lilies, hyacinth, daffodils, tulips and hydrangea, ranging from \$9 -\$21.75.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday – 7:30 service

Good Friday – 7:30 service

Easter Vigil – 7:00 service. Chocolate fountain and champagne after service.

Easter Sunday – 8:15 and 10:30 services. Fellowship Hall Breakfast potluck from 9:00-10:30.

Pick up Hallelujah Chorus Choir for the 10:30 service will practice approx. from 9:30–10:00.

MIDWEEK LENT SUPPERS | Wednesdays in Lent March 12- April 9

Join us Wednesdays in Lent at 6:30 for a simple meal and fellowship, followed by worship with music of Holden Evening Prayer at 7:15 pm. Soup supper provided by the Turner/White family. Email Jennifer at parishadmin@stpaularlingotn.org if you'd like to bring bread.

TRANSITION TEAM HAS BEEN FORMED & SAVE THE DATE

The St. Paul Church Council has assembled a Transition Team to help us give thanks for Ross's leadership, say goodbye, and look ahead to the future. The Transition Team will be Peter Hedlund, Sandy Walker, Norma Ofsthun, Nicole Rura, Dan Ries, Monique Airasian and Josh Davis. **Save the date for a celebration of ministry on Saturday, May 17, 4-7 pm.** There will be plenty of opportunities to help and participate as plans develop; we will continue to keep you updated!

ADULT FORUMS | Sundays at 9:30 am

The special five part Lenten Adult Forum series (9:30 am) continues next Sunday, March 30th, featuring "Baptized, We Live--Lutheranism as a Way of Life" by Daniel Erlander and led by Josh Davis. Rather than defining Lutheranism as a system of doctrines, this series will focus on Lutheranism as a way of seeing, hearing, teaching and following. Free copies of the book are available in the Upper Narthex of the church and [here](#) also is a link for anyone who wants to access it online. We will be focusing on the "Way of Seeing" section this Sunday. All are welcome.



SAINT PAUL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

Staff

The Reverend Ross Goodman, *Pastor*

Samantha Menapace, *Vicar*

Ana Zecic Jeffers, *Director of Music*

Paul Ricci, *Business Administrator*

Sarah Carter, *Children, Youth and Families Director*

Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator*

Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

Church Council and Officers

Kerri Frick, *President*

Sandy Walker, *Vice President*

Eric Haugen, *Treasurer*

Elizabeth Heichler, *Secretary*

Mark Olson, *Financial Secretary*

Kristen Anderson

Eric Carlson

Dave Hering

Kathleen Kean

Kevin Kreutter

Pierson Oliver

Taryn Walsh

Committees

Altar Guild

Faith Formation Committee

Intern Committee

Social Ministry Committee

Nomination Committee

Worship and Music Committee

Finance Committee

Audit Committee

Usher Committee

Chairperson

Marie Breitenbach

Bev Hjorth

Kristen Anderson

Janice Sniffen

Taryn Walsh

John Christiansen

Eric Haugen

Eric Haugen

Dan Ries and Andy Airasian



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

