

Paradise Lutheran Church - Thomasville, PA
Second Sunday in Lent February 25, 2024 10:15 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Please stand.

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who renews our hearts through Jesus. **All: Amen.**

Pastor: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor: Renewing God,

All: we confess that our hearts have led us astray. We are not true to our baptismal covenant, but your promises are trustworthy. We hoard what you have entrusted to us, but you give yourself to us freely in love. We neglect to love our neighbors as ourselves, but you draw us again into communities of grace. We give in to our rebellious hearts, but you still forgive us daily. We wander far from you and your path, but you never cease to draw us back to Jesus. Forgive us, Lord, and make us new. Amen.

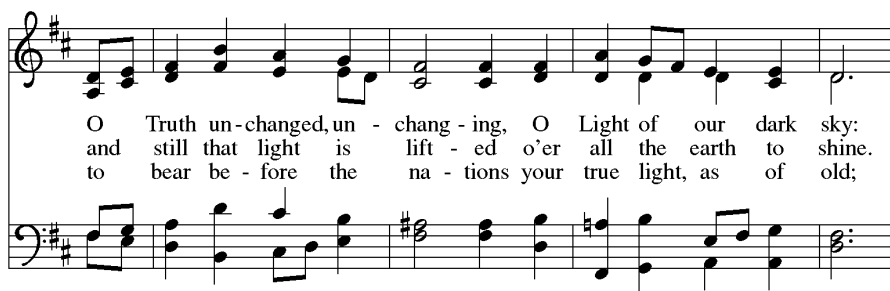
Pastor: Friends, hear the good news: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to you, washes away your sins, and creates in you a new heart and a right spirit, through ☩ Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

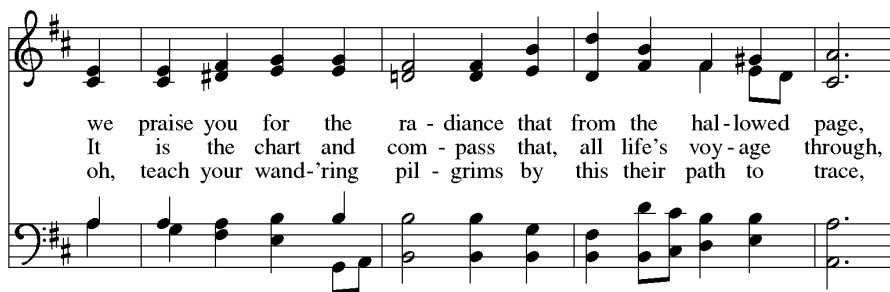
Gathering Song “O Word of God Incarnate”



1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
 3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
 oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



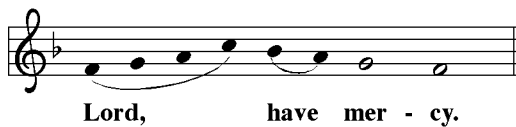
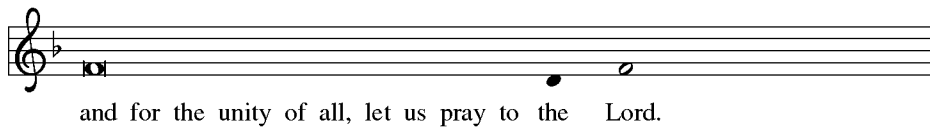
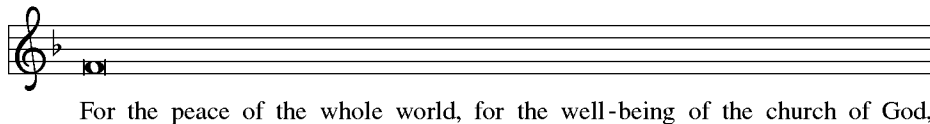
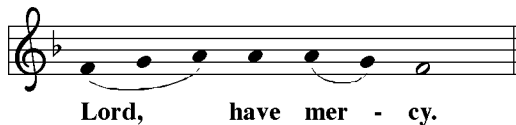
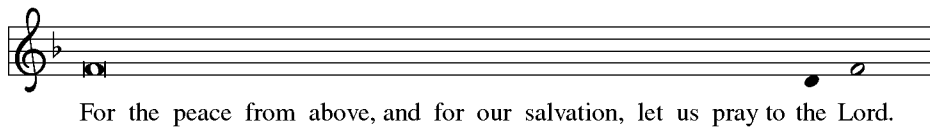
a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

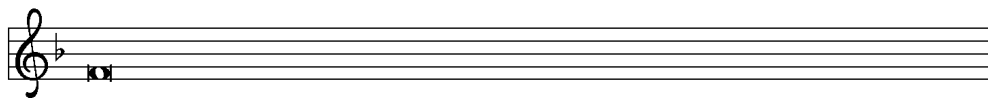
Greeting

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

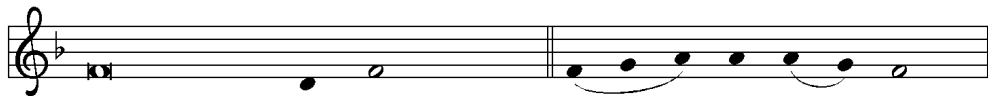
All: And also with you.

Kyrie



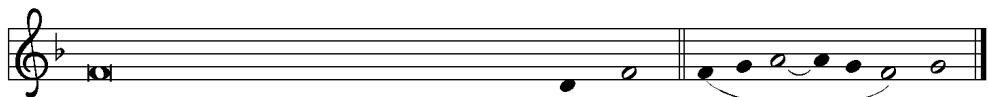


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **All: Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading: *Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16*

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the

ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Brief silence.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:23-31 (read responsively)

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the LORD’s face hidden from them;
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live
forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel
before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Second Reading: *Romans 4:13-25*

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Brief silence.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

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, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Pastor: The holy Gospel according to Mark, the eighth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

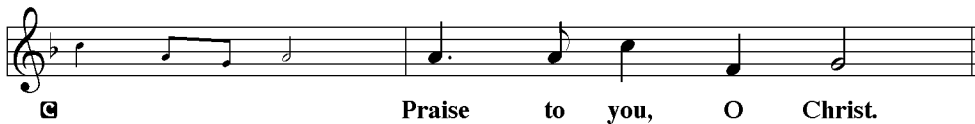
Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

After the reading:

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day “In a Deep Unbounded Darkness”



1 In a deep, un - bound - ed dark - ness, long be - fore the
2 Though our world is ev - er - chang - ing, you are con - stant,
3 Joy trans - forms our lips to boast - ing on - ly in your
4 God of Ha - gar, God of Sa - rah, God of no - mad



first light shone, you, O God, be - yond all mer - it
firm, and sure, faith - ful to your cov - 'nant prom - ise.
match - less grace, send - ing Christ to dwell a - mong us,
A - bra - ham; God of Mir - iam, God of Mo - ses,



worked a won - der faith makes known: in your mer - cy,
Trust - ing you, we live, se - cure: sing - ing prais - es,
Word made flesh in time and space: Friend and Sav - ior,
Fi - 'ry Pil - lar, great I AM: lead us home - ward,



in your mer - cy, you em - braced us
sing - ing prais - es, long as heart and
Friend and Sav - ior, in whose life we
lead us home - ward, to the love - feast



as your own,
breath en - dure, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
glimpse your face,
of the Lamb,

Please be seated.

Apostles' Creed

Pastor: We, who are many, are one body in Christ. Together we confess our faith, in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

All: 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

Assisting Minister: Lord, in your mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

Please stand.

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you. *(Please feel free to move around and share the peace of Christ with each other with a sign, handshake, or hug.)*

Offertory Response “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

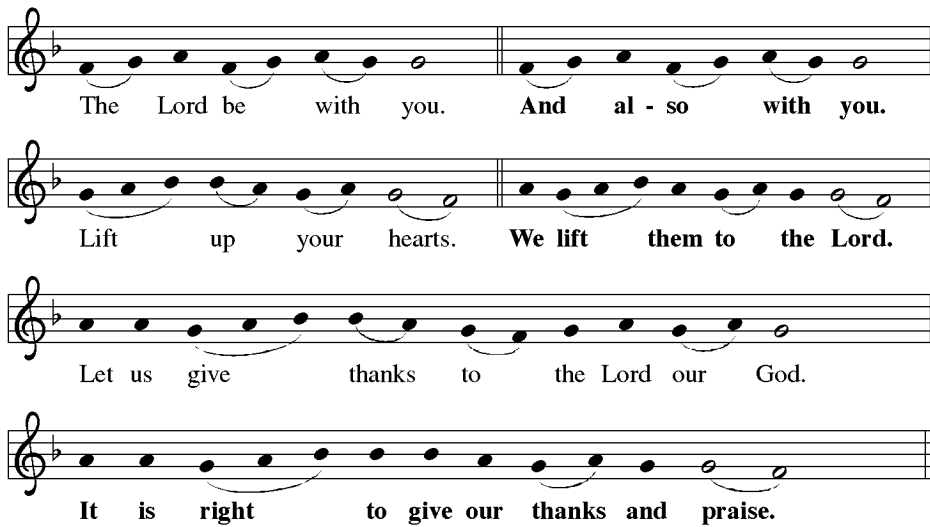


Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered so that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. **All: Amen.**

Dialog



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

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

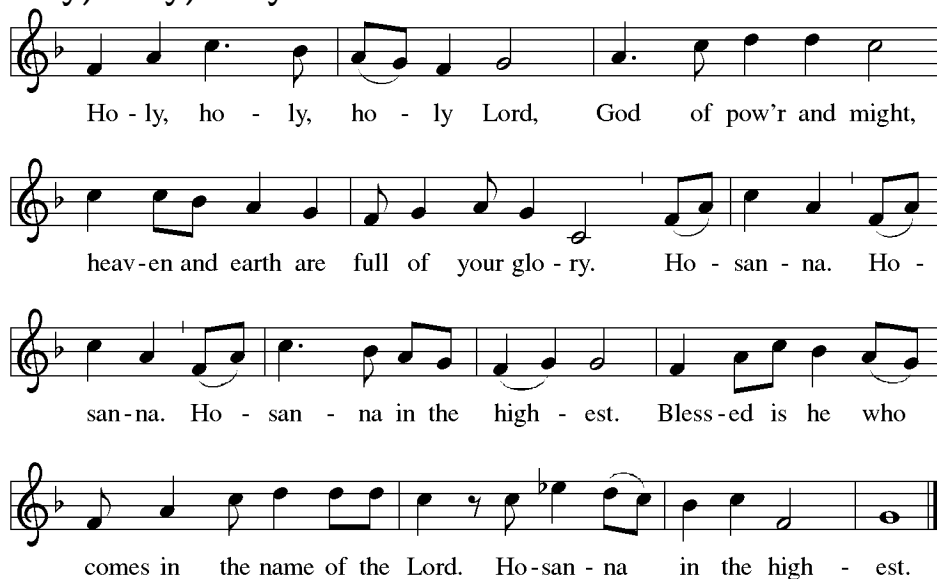
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks ... praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



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. Ho -
san-na. 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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

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

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth, for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea, and for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one, for the death and resurrection of Christ, and for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **All: Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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:

Pastor: This is Christ's table, and he is the host of this meal. So come: you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a while; you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come; receive Christ, the One who renews your heart.

Please be seated.

Jesus invites you to his feast! Come forward, as you are able, to receive his body and blood in the bread and wine. (If you need to receive communion in your pew, you can alert us by holding up your hand after the line has gone through, and we will be glad to come to you.)

Lamb of God

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 Hymn: “Restore in Us, O God”



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

When all have communed, please stand.

Blessing after communion

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

Post-Communion Canticle “Bless Now, O God, the Journey” *Vs. 1, 2*

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 We hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day,
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Post-Communion Prayer

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one loaf, now unite us into one bread to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **All: Amen.**

Announcements

Blessing

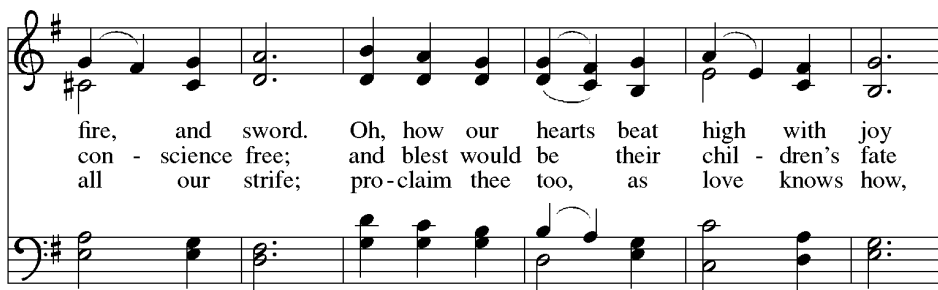
Pastor: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace. **All: Amen.**

Sending Hymn: "Faith of Our Fathers"



1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and
3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in



fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate
all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how,

Continued ➤ ➤ ➤

Refrain

when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word.
 if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,
 by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.

ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace, love like Jesus. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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WELCOME to Paradise! As Abraham and Sarah received new names as a sign of God's covenant, we also receive new identities through baptism.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Larry Luckenbaugh, Louise Stambaugh, Allison Trump, Ken Stambaugh, Donna Shaffer, Joyce Bentzel, Sherry Feeser, Gloria Krebs; Kaleb Trump, Nancy and Jerry Frey-Markell, Ron Schwartz, Bob Markle, Samantha Zorbaugh, Gwen Schnetzka, Angie Zepp, Melissa Hipkiss, Erika Smith, Kim Culbert, Mark and Connie Keller, Heather Shoemaker, Judy Jarvis, Bernie Tucker, Sue Sell, Joe Pohlman, Linda Schreier, Connie McNeil, Christine Ruth Smith, Jen Miller, Bob Myers

For those in prison, especially Patrick and Keith

For those who mourn

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Mel and Laura Nace in memory of Laura's father, William Staub.

NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP:

- ✓ Large print bulletins are available in the binders in the narthex. We have one copy of each service in each of the four binders.
- ✓ Offering plates are located by the entrances. Please put your offering in before worship begins, as we will be bringing the offering forward to the altar during worship. (If you forget, there will be a plate still available at the back at the end of worship.)
- ✓ As you share the peace, you are welcome to move around and greet one another with Christ's peace with a sign, handshake, or hug.
- ✓ All the baptized are invited to receive Holy Communion. If we are communing by intinction, you will receive a wafer, which you can then

dip in the wine. If we are communing with bread, you will receive a piece of bread from the pastor. Then proceed to pick up a cup, which a server will fill with wine. **Gluten-free wafers are always available from the pastor's communion station.**

✓When you leave, please dispose of any trash with you. Bulletins may be taken with you or placed in the box either on the table shelf outside the office or in the narthex for recycling. Thank you!

SKIT PRACTICE at 9 a.m. today. Also on March 10 and 24.

EVENING BIBLE STUDY on the Ten Commandments on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. The rest of the sessions will be **on Zoom only** (link will be emailed).

COUNCIL RETREAT on Saturday, March 2, 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. at United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg.

THRIVENT MEMBERS! Please remember to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31! Either log into your account at *Thrivent.com* OR call Member Care Services at 800-847-4836.

GIANT and WEIS CARDS are available for purchase. See Pat Zech or Heidi Wolf. The church gets a portion of the total purchased.

WEBSITE: The **February** website is sponsored by Joa Roach in honor of her grandniece, Harper Roach's 4th birthday (2/8); her niece Marlyse Rexroth's graduation from Clarion University; and her grandnephew Judah Alan Roach's 2nd birthday (10/3). Let Julie know if you'd like to sponsor a month in **2025**. Available: February, March, October, November, and December. Cost: \$20.

SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE for **February** will go to the *Harvest of Hope* food pantry.

Giving of time and tithes:

Attendance: February 18: early 32; late 45; Sunday School 24
Ash Wednesday: 30

Offerings	Our budget needs for God's Mission	Your actual gifts from 2/18/24	Difference
Current	\$4,456.00	\$3,823.00	--\$633.00
Benevolence	\$283.00	\$596.00	\$313.00
Capital Improvements	\$289.00	\$216.00	--\$73.00
	<i>Actual expenses to date</i>	<i>Total actual gifts to date</i>	<i>Difference</i>
	\$28,950.64	\$35,082.63	+\$6,191.99

Worship Participants:

Pastor: Reverend Sigrid Hipkiss

Minister of Music: Allison Trump

Greeter: *volunteer*

Acolyte: Miriam Hipkiss

Lector: Heidi Wolf

Assisting Minister: Larry McConnell

Usher Captain/Communion: Sherry Feeser

Tech: Justice White

Altar Guild for February: Kris Gabel, Julie Maher

Church information:

Gathered to worship, care, and grow; sent to love like Jesus.

Phone: 717-259-9547

Address: 3241 Church Road, Thomasville, PA 17364

Office email: secretary.paradiselutheran@gmail.com

Website: www.paradiselutheran.weebly.com