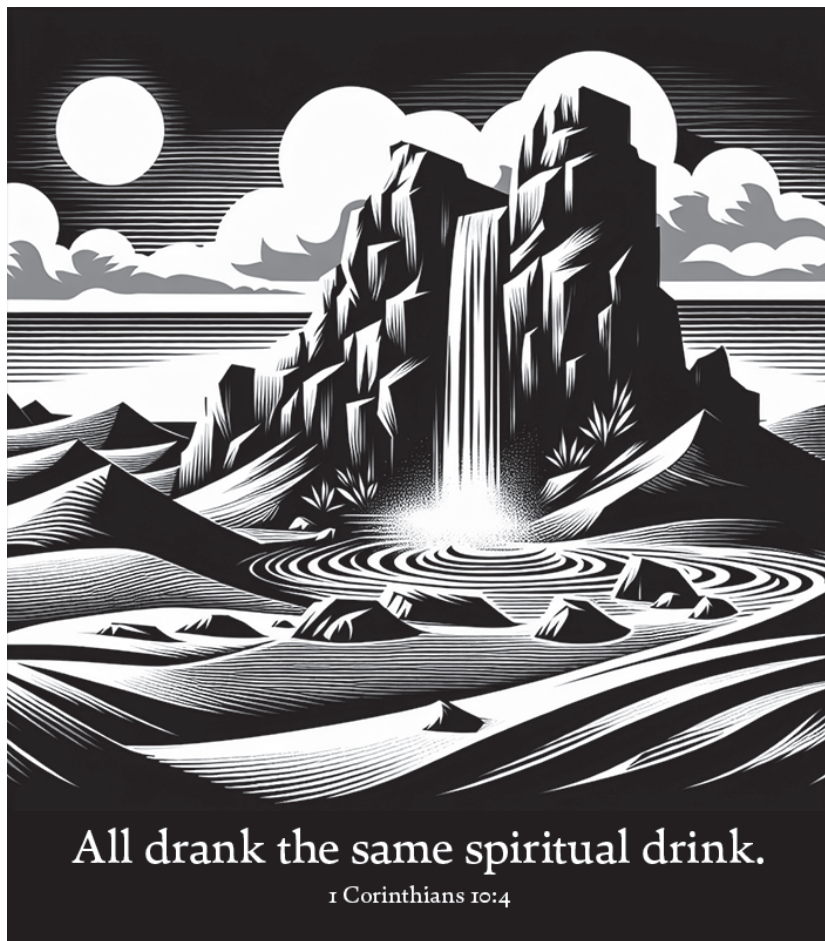




Third Sunday of Lent
March 23, 2025 • 10:30AM

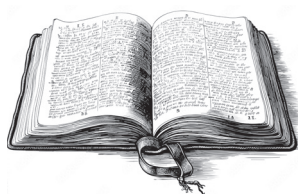
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

205 St. Paul's Church Road, Salisbury, NC
Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Grace Walker • Crucifer: Alexander Canup
Cantor: Andrew Baker • Lector: Lauren Holland
Communion Assistants: Donna Lyerly & Stan McConnell

This Week's Memory Verse

Surely his salvation is near
to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.
Psalm 85:9



Memory Verse Aid

SHSIN
TTWFH,
TGMDIOL.
P859

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

56

Stand and face the processional cross at the rear of the sanctuary.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Reflection and self-examination

¹You shall have no other gods before me.

**²You shall not take the name
of the Lord your God in vain;
for the Lord will not hold guiltless
those who take his name in vain.**

**³Remember the Sabbath day
to keep it holy.**

**⁴Honor your father
and your mother,
that your days may be long
in the land which the Lord
your God is giving you.**

⁵You shall not kill.

⁶You shall not commit adultery.

⁷You shall not steal.

**⁸You shall not bear false witness
against your neighbor.**

**⁹You shall not covet
your neighbor's house.**

**¹⁰You shall not covet your neighbor's wife,
his workers, his livestock,
or anything that is your neighbor's.**

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. By Christ's authority alone, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Hymn: "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

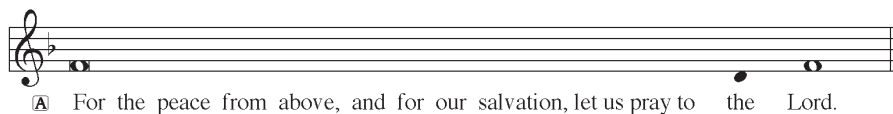
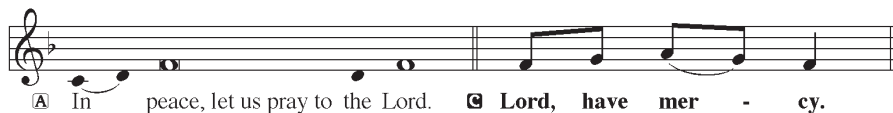
327

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.

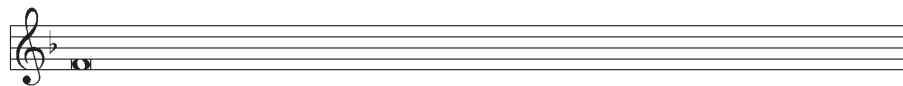
The Kyrie

57

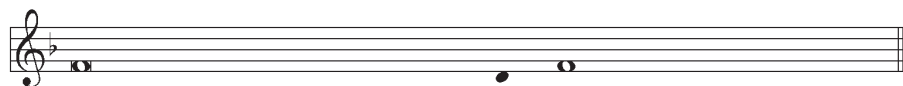




C Lord, have mer - cy.



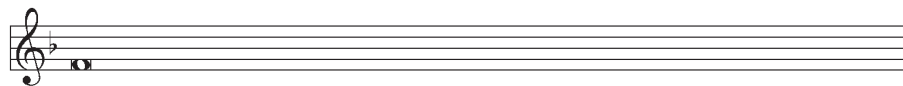
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.



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

Hymn of Praise

58



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav - en - 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, 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

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

Almighty God, consider the desires of your humble servants. Reach out to defend us from evil by the word and work of your majestic right hand. Grant this, we pray, through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Ezekiel 33:7–20

7“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall

give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. ¹⁰And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: 'Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?'

¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the LORD God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel? ¹²And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. ¹³Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die.

¹⁴Again, though I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ¹⁶None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live. ¹⁷Yet your people say, 'The way of the LORD is not just,' when it is their own way that is not just. ¹⁸When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. ¹⁹And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by this. ²⁰Yet you say, 'The way of the LORD is not just.' O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways."

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 85

¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD,
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
and blotted out | all their sins.**

³You have withdrawn | all your fury
and turned yourself from your wrathful | indignation.

⁴**Restore us then, O | God our Savior;
let your anger de- | part from us.**

⁵Will you be displeased with | us forever?
will you prolong your anger from | age to age?

⁶**Will you not give us | life again,
that your people may re- | joice in you?**

⁷Show us your mer- | cy, O LORD,
and grant us | your salvation.

⁸**I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and
to those who turn their | hearts to him.**

⁹Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell | in our land.

¹⁰**Mercy and truth have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.**

¹¹Truth shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

¹²**The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.**

¹³Righteousness shall | go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.

¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

The word of the Lord.

Please stand for the Gospel.

62

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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 13th chapter.

63

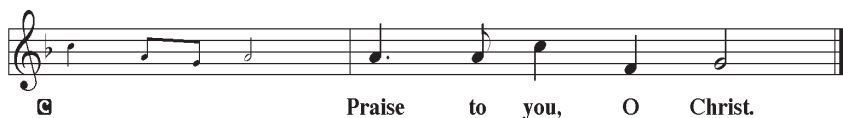
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

¹There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

⁶And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ ⁸And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

Children's Chat

Sermon: “Clinging to the Righteous Rock”

Hymn: “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

309

Confession of Faith

65

Let us profess our faith in God using the words of the Apostles Creed.

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

²I 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 into hell.

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.

³I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

The Prayers of the Church

65

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people, according to their needs.

Following each prayer:

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Offering

66

Anthem: “Jesus, Gentle Lamb”

Men’s Choir

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.

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

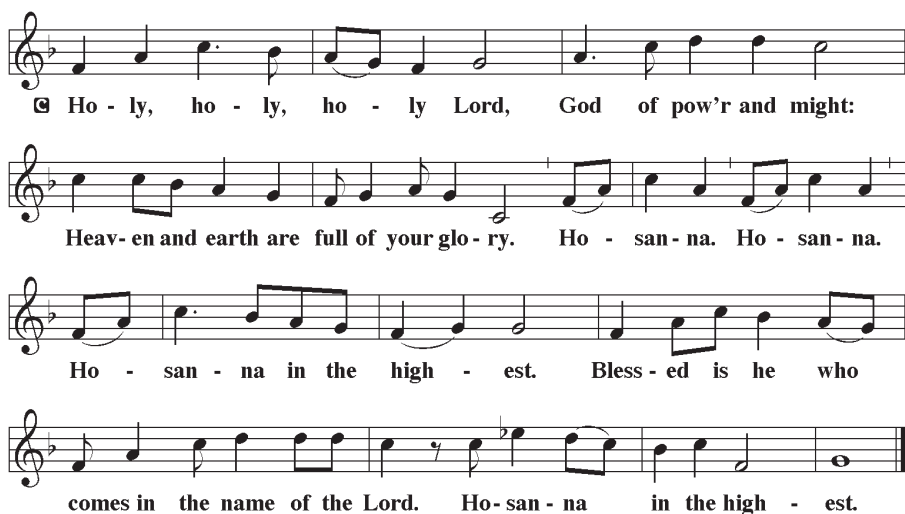
Thanksgiving

68

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the

children of God. And so, 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. 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.

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."

The Lord's Prayer

71

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,

¹**hallowed be thy name,**

²**thy kingdom come,**

³**thy will be done,**

on earth as it is in heaven.

⁴**Give us this day our daily bread;**

⁵**and forgive us our trespasses,**

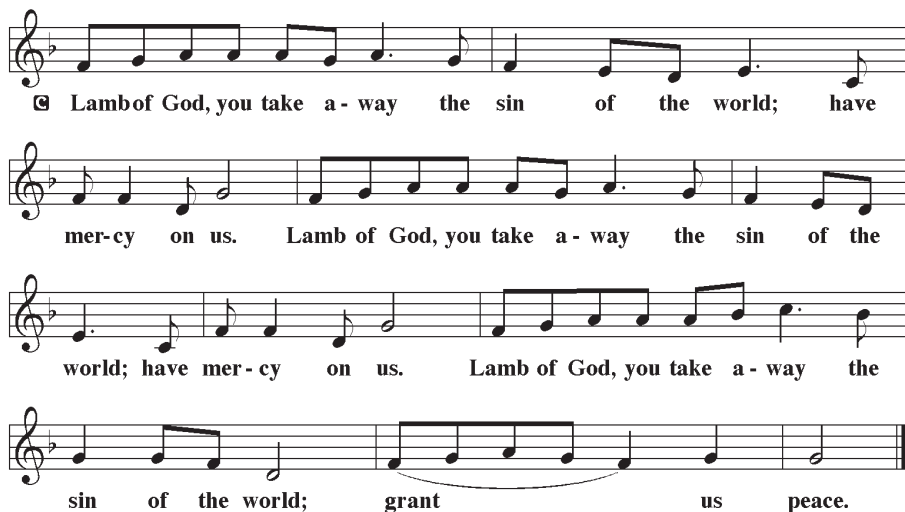
as we forgive those who trespass against us;

⁶and lead us not into temptation,
⁷but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen

Distribution of Holy Communion

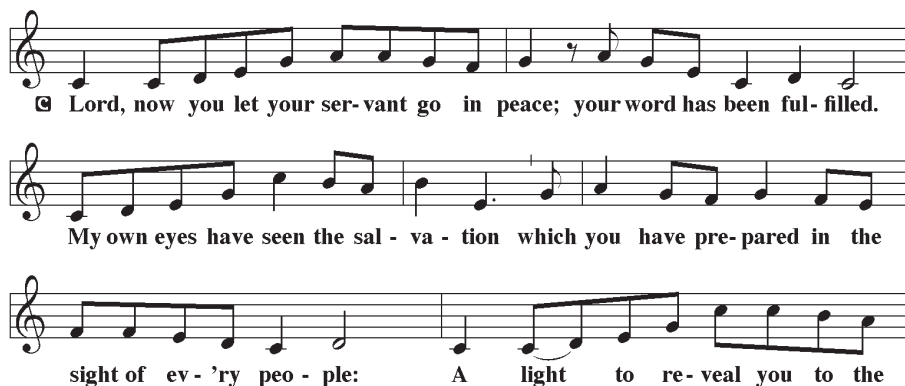
71

If you need a gluten-free wafer or juice, please hold up your index finger in front of you as the server approaches you at the rail.

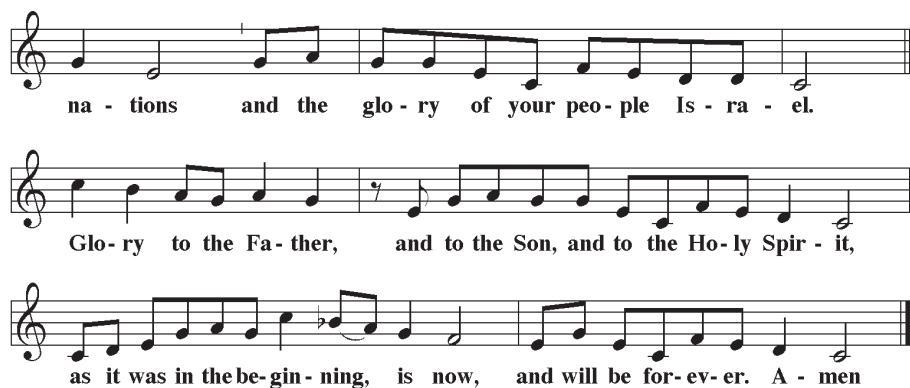


☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

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



☐ Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.
 My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
 sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re-veal you to the



Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food—through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Postlude

We remain seated, worshiping silently during the postlude, standing at the end of the postlude to face the processional cross, now at the rear of the sanctuary.

The Benediction

74

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you, and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
 In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen



*We extend our love and sympathy to the family of
 Grady Earnhardt, who passed away Saturday, March 15, 2025.
 Grady's funeral service was held on Saturday March 22, at St. Paul's.
 Please keep Jenny and all the Earnhardt family in your prayers.*



Grady Odell Earnhardt

January 10, 1944

March 15, 2025

The Funeral service
was at eleven o'clock AM.
in St. Paul's Sanctuary
followed by the
Committal service in
St. Paul's Cemetery.

*For if we live, we live to the Lord,
and if we die, we die to the Lord.
So then, whether we live
or whether we die, we are the Lord's.*

Romans 14:8

Sunday, March 23

- Communion Assistant training, 3pm
- Men's Choir practice, 4pm
- Handbell Choir practice, 5pm
- Vespers, 6pm

Monday, March 24

- Lutheran Men's meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesday, March 25

- Girl Scouts, 6:30pm
- Bible Study classes will not meet during Lent.

Wednesday, March 26

- Lenten meal, 6pm
- Lenten Service, 7pm
- Adult Choir practice, after the worship service
- Youth Confirmation classes will not meet during Lent.

Thursday, March 27

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–12pm

Saturday, March 29

- Cemetery clean-up day, 9am

Sunday, March 30

- Men's Choir practice, 4pm
- Handbell Choir practice, 5pm
- Vespers, 6pm

Clean Sweep Day for the Cemetery

St. Paul's Cemetery Committee will clean away everything from the cemetery on March 29th. This includes **all** flowers, ornaments, etc. If you have a flower in the cemetery that you wish to keep, you should remove it **before March 29th**, or it will be thrown away. You may return your flowers to the cemetery after the clean-up. If you know anyone that may need this information but does not attend St. Paul's please let them know. Thank you.

Flowers for Easter

Order forms for Easter flowers are available in the narthex. Each plant will be **\$14.50**. The deadline to order is **April 6th**. We will order Geraniums and Impatiens. However, we do not know how many of each they will send us, so we cannot guarantee that you will receive a specific flower.

Lenten Meal Schedule

March 26

Bonnie Bost Circle

Baked potato and salad

April 2

St. Paul's Council

Soup and Sandwiches

April 9

Melissa Lura Circle

Baked potato and Salad

April 16

Hama Lingle Circle

Baked Potato and Salad

"Mysteries"— at Monday's Men's Meeting

St. Paul's Men are off to another great year. At the March meeting, coming up this Monday evening, March 24th, we're going to find answers to a couple of questions about features that are common to a lot of church buildings, including our own—things we see every day but perhaps have never stopped to question why they are there. And there's a secret that resides in our own beautiful St. Paul's that few people know about. What could it be, that hardly anyone knows exists, and even fewer alive today have ever seen with their own eyes? Find out Monday at 6:30pm. See you there!

College Scholarships

May 1st is fast approaching. If you will be going to college next school year, scholarships are available for you. Applications are in the narthex and on the church website. Please have all applications turned in to the church office no later than May 1st.

Packathon

The Outreach Committee will again sponsor a Packathon with the organization, Feed The Hunger, on **Saturday, April 5**, starting at 10:00. There are openings for people from age nine to 109! Most jobs require you to stand but a few jobs are available for those who need to sit. We will be **packing 10,000 meals**. During the Packathon, teams of volunteers will assemble ingredients into six serving meal packets that are weighed, sealed and boxed. We need to have at least **50 volunteers** for this event.

A sign-up sheet will be provided after church on March 23 and 30th. Light refreshments will be served in the Sunday School room across from the kitchen after the event. Mark this on your calendars and hope to see you then.

It's Raffle Time Again

The raffles for the Cruise-In were a great success last year with 41 baskets. That is the most ever! We hope to continue our quality baskets again this year with the congregation's help. Our women's circles have been asked to donate a basket again this year. As in the past, some families get together to donate a basket. If you would like to donate a basket or some items for a basket (gift cards are always a hit), please contact Terri Powlas (powlastb@gmail.com, 704-637-6849) or Susan Bernhardt (srbernhardt@carolina.rr.com, 704-637-0155).

The Cruise-In is Saturday, April 26th. Baskets need to be to the church fellowship hall by Thursday, April 24th. The raffle tickets are \$1.00 each, or 30 tickets for \$20.00. Let's generate a lot of interest in buying those tickets to help Western North Carolina through Samaritan's Purse!



**Show us your mercy, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.**

Psalm 85:7

Recent Prayer Needs

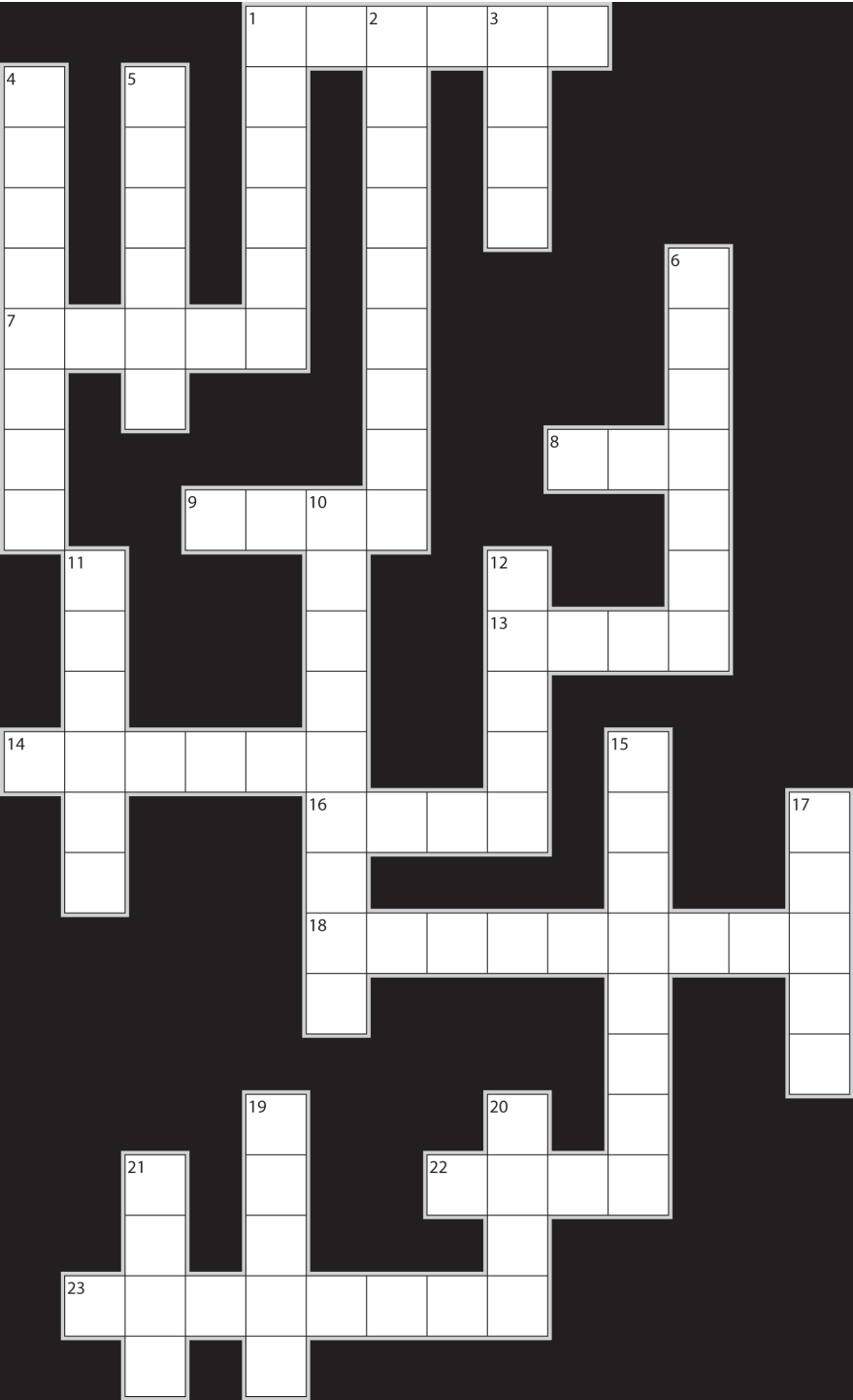
- Glen Amos – recovering from surgery
- Gina Barringer – recovering from surgery
- Shiela Barringer – recovering from surgery
- Marvin Burnett, father of Allen Burnett – Hospice care
- The family of Grady Earnhardt
- Edna Chapman – Bermuda Commons Nursing/Rehab
- Karen Deal – recovering from surgery
- Barbara Deese – health concerns
- Mitch Drew, family of Jimmy and Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns
- Patti Horinka – recovering from surgery
- Della Jenkins – Terra Bella Assisted Living
- Randy Johnson – recovering from surgery
- Zack Lemmon, family of Jimmy and Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns
- The family of Wesley Page
- Stan Parnell, family of Jimmy and Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns
- Rex Phelps – recovering from surgery
- Barbara Upright – Liberty Commons

For a longer list of prayer needs, please consult The Monthly Epistle. This page in the bulletin is to make you aware of the most recent prayer needs. Typically, after one month on this list the name and request will have migrated to The Monthly Epistle.

General Fund Offering (3/16)	\$10,709
Other Offering (3/16)	\$13,783
Sunday School Attendance (3/16)	50
Worship Attendance (3/16)	148

Children's Change Collection

Last Sunday: \$141.00 Total so far: \$1,600.50
During the first quarter of 2025, the children's change collections will benefit Lutherans for Life.



Lent 3C

*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Ezekiel 33:7–20; Psalm 85; 1 Corinthians 10:1–13; Luke 13:1–9.
The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.*

ACROSS

1. Unless you repent, you will...
7. How many years had the man expected fruit on his tree but found none.
8. The man sought this kind of fruit on his tree.
9. Righteousness and peace do this to each other.
13. If you do what is just and right, you shall surely...
14. God has no pleasure in their death.
16. The Hebrews all ate the same spiritual...
18. This Rock followed the wilderness wanderers.
22. Let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he...
23. Ezekiel was given this vocation.

DOWN

1. He mingled Galilean blood in sacrifices.
2. His righteousness will not deliver him.
3. Our transgressions and these are upon us.
4. The tower in Siloam fell on this many people.
5. What was the vinedresser's solution for the barren fig tree?
6. What the Lord did with the iniquity of his people
10. The psalmist asked God to show this kind of love.
11. The Rock was...
12. The fathers in the wilderness were all under it.
15. What God is toward us.
17. If you expect peace, do not turn back to this.
19. God the Lord will speak this to his people.
20. What was Ezekiel told to do for Israel?
21. Salvation is near to those who do this toward God.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

Wi-Fi: splcguest – pass: SavedbyGrace

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

CHURCH STAFF

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wingman@stpaulslutheran.church

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jtaylor783@aol.com

Judy Lowman, Treasurer
splcjwl63@gmail.com

Amy Barringer, Girl Scout Coordinator, abarringer@bellsouth.net

Next weeks lessons: Isaiah 12:1-6; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

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