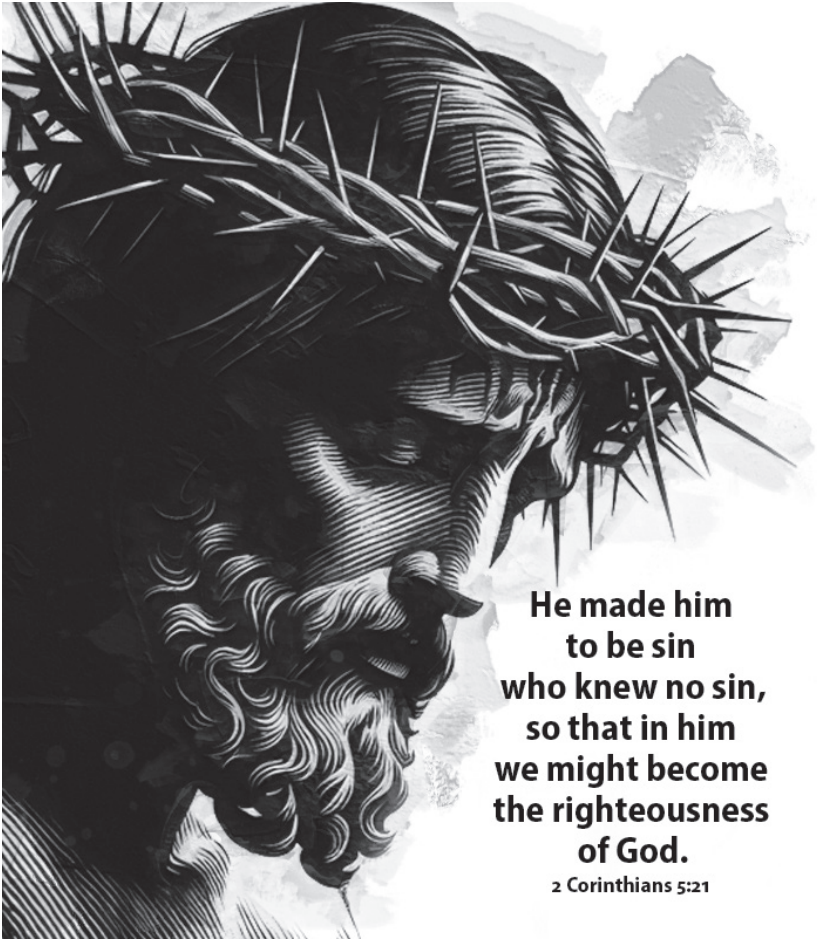




**He made him
to be sin
who knew no sin,
so that in him
we might become
the righteousness
of God.**

2 Corinthians 5:21

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025 • 10:30AM

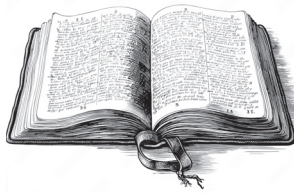
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Acolyte: Alyssa McCraven • Crucifer: Andrew Baker
Cantor: Heather Canup • Lector: Christine Maloney
Communion Assistants: Donna Lyerly & Bonnie Hinson

This Week's Memory Verse

For our sake
he made him to be sin
who knew no sin,
so that in him we might become
the righteousness of God.
(2 Corinthians 5:21)



Memory Verse Aid

FOS
HMHTBS
WKNS,
STIHWMB
TROG.
(2C521)

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “My Heart is Longing”

Johannes Brahms

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: "Amazing Grace"

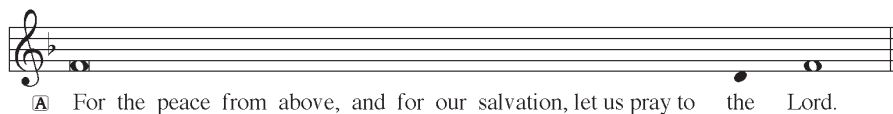
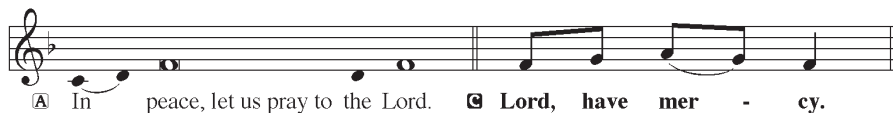
448

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.

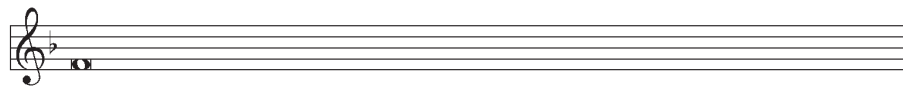
The Kyrie

57

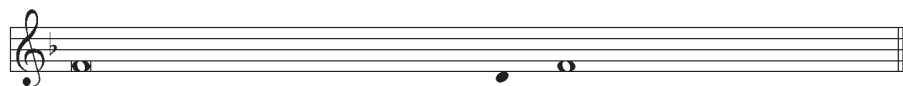




C Lord, have mer - cy.



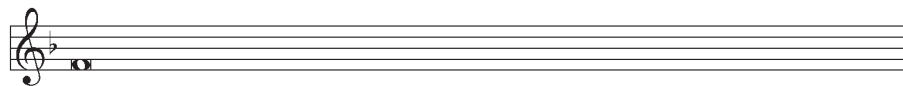
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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, grant that we, who for our evil deeds worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of your grace, may mercifully be relieved; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever one God.

Amen

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Isaiah 12:1-6

'You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that

you might comfort me. ²“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.” ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 32

¹Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my | sin to you,
and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

⁶**I said, “I will confess my transgressions | to the LORD.”
Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.**

⁷Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers
to you in | time of trouble;

when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.

⁸**You are my hiding place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.**

⁹“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye.

¹⁰**Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will | not stay near you.”**

¹¹Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.

¹²Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

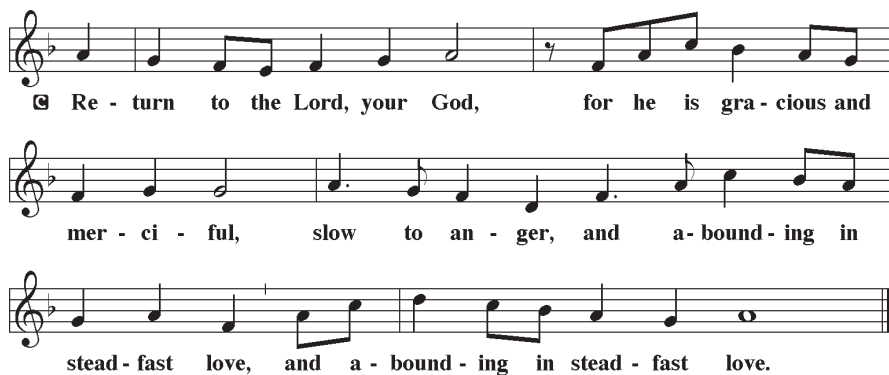
Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:16–21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 15th chapter.

63



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

¹The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable:

¹¹... “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.

¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.

¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’

²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’

²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’

³¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

The Gospel of our Lord.



Please be seated.

Children's Chat

Sermon: “Being Reconciled to God”

Hymn: “What Wondrous Love Is This”

385

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.**

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

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

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died, and was buried. He descended 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: Offertory on Two Hymns

Hila Canup



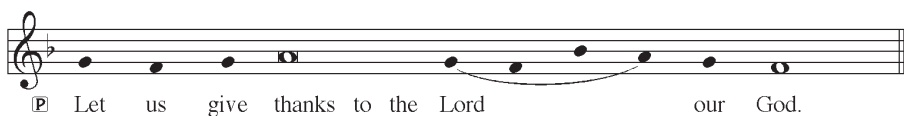
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



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

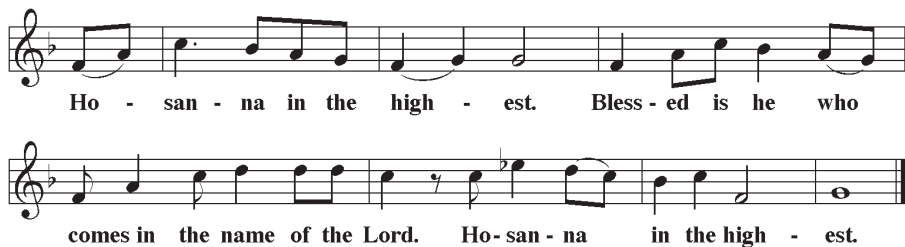
Thanksgiving

68



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:





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;

⁶**and lead us not into temptation,**

⁷**but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom,

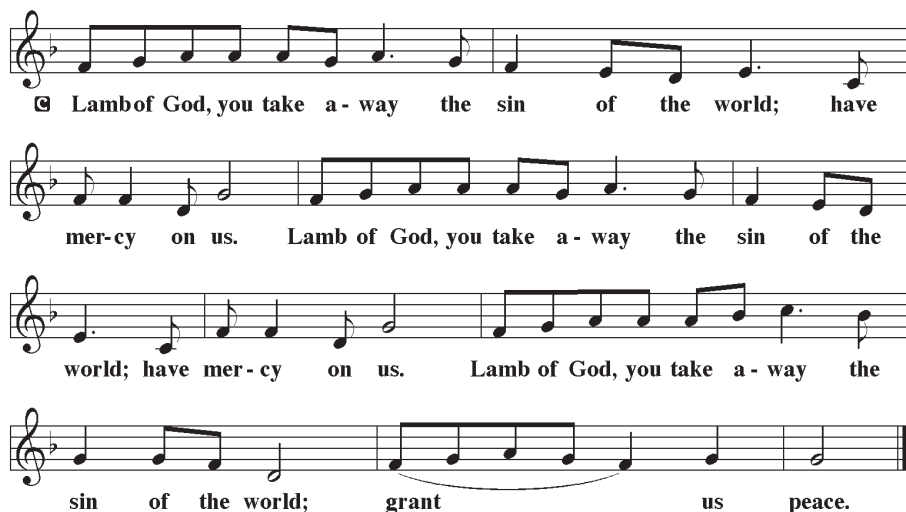
and the power, and the glory,

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
 na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his—through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Postlude: “O Lamb of God Most Holy”

Robert Lau

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



Girl Scout Cookies

Girl Scouts cookies will be for sale after the service today on the front lawn.

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.

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.

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!

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. Please mark this on your calendars. We hope to see you then.

Sunday, March 30

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

Tuesday, April 1

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

Wednesday, April 2

- Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- Autumn Care chapel service, 2pm
- Lenten meal, 6pm
- Lenten Service, 7pm
- Adult Choir practice, after the worship service
- Youth Confirmation classes will not meet during Lent.

Thursday, April 3

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–12pm

Saturday, April 5

- Outreach Pack-a-thon, 8am
- Rain-date for cemetery clean-up

Sunday, April 5

- Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- Men's Choir practice, 4pm
- Women's Quarterly Meeting, 5pm
- Handbell Choir practice, 5pm
- Vespers, 6pm

Lenten Wednesday Meal Schedule

April 2 — St. Paul's Council

April 9 — Melissa Lura Circle

April 16 — Hama Lingle Circle

Soup and Sandwiches

Baked potato and Salad

Baked Potato and Salad

Recent Prayer Needs

- Gina Barringer – health concerns
- Shiela Barringer – recovering from surgery
- Marvin Burnett, father of Allen Burnett – Hospice care
- Edna Chapman – Bermuda Commons Nursing/Rehab
- Barbara Deese – health concerns
- Mitch Drew, family of Jimmy and Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns
- The family of Grady Earnhardt, who died March 15th
- 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, who died March 13th
- Stan Parnell, family of Jimmy and Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns

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.



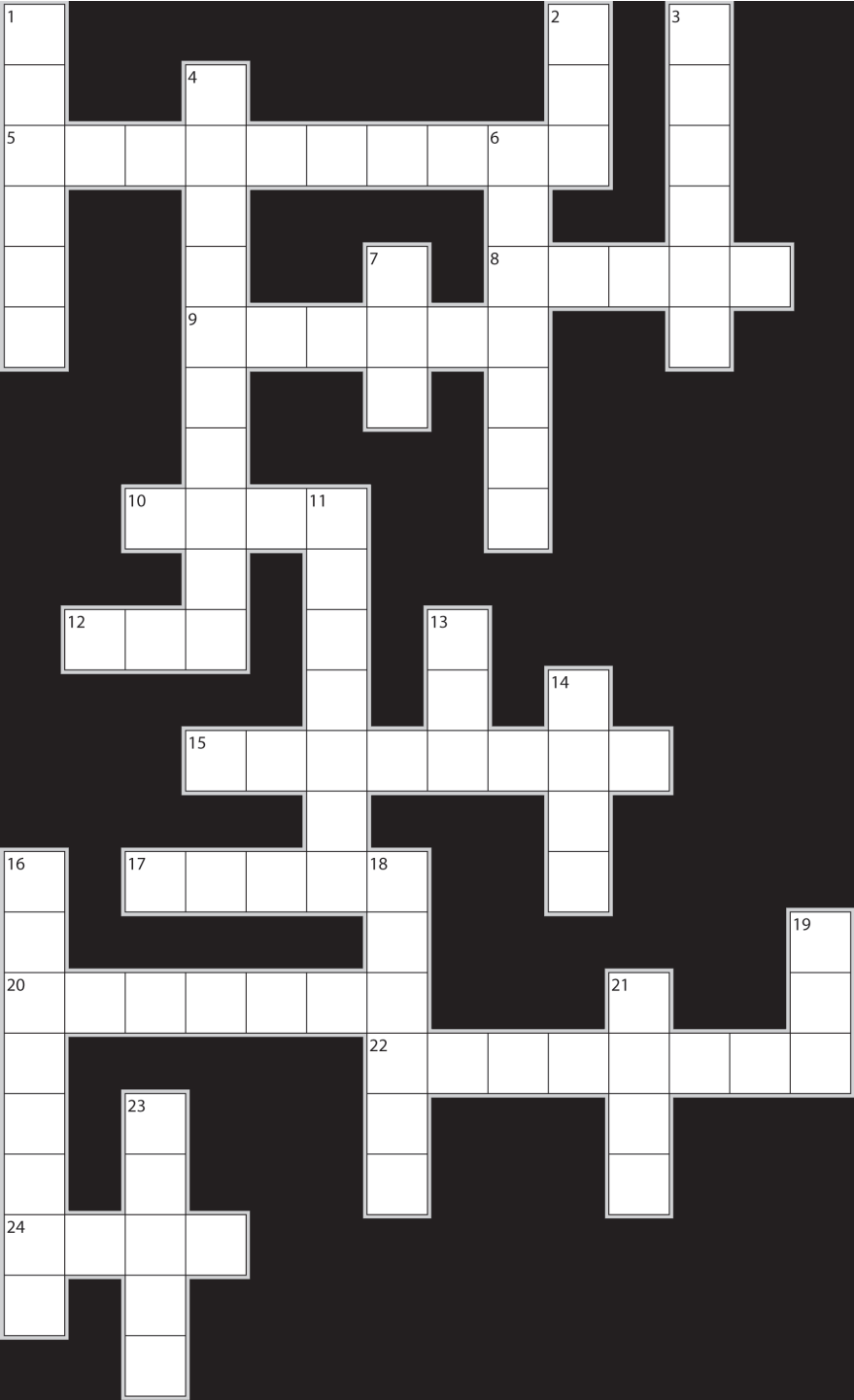
General Fund Offering (3/23)	\$8,449
Other Offering (3/23).....	\$3,259
Sunday School Attendance (3/23).....	68
Worship Attendance (3/23).....	191

Children's Change Collection

Last Sunday: \$176.00 Total so far: \$ 1776.50

During the first quarter of 2025, the children's change collections will benefit Lutherans for Life.

Change collections for the second quarter of this year will benefit The Table.



Lent 4C

*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Isaiah 12:1-6; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.
The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.*

ACROSS

5. The apostles were ambassadors for Christ, imploring the Corinthians to be...
8. It was turned away from Isaiah.
9. As ambassadors for Christ, God makes this through us.
10. The prodigal son fed them.
12. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no...
15. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new...
17. We should regard no one according to this.
20. Blessed is the one whose sin is...
22. Blessed is the one against whom the Lord doesn't count this.
24. The father in the parable had two of them.

DOWN

1. Great in Zion is the Holy One of...
2. He was Isaiah's salvation.
3. Many are their sorrows.
4. What the father felt for his son.
6. Proclaim that the Lord's name is...
7. The old has passed away and this has come.
11. Jesus received them.
13. What Jesus did with sinners in today's gospel reading
14. The Lord God was Isaiah's strength and...
16. One of the sons squandered his inheritance in this style of living.
18. The Lord was this kind of place for David.
19. You will draw well water with this.
21. Don't be like a horse or a...
23. When the psalmist kept silent, these wasted away.

Reconciled to God

Find the 23 bold words from 2 Corinthians 5:17–21 KJV.

G N I L I C N O C E R I I W S
A G U L Y R D H B I L M E R X
R E C O N C I L E D L N O T V
I M P U T I N G R A A D D S D
G J T Z U B P T F O A H V I A
D P O B E P V D M S W W F R Z
G L N E A A D O S D E F Q H M
O I O S Y A W A L N A V H C I
D E S H E P B X Y D P R A Y N
Q E J C E M W M T J I D R M I
D E C A A B L S H L E X O W S
C R E A T U R E I V A S I P T
B A F M A X R L N N F T U C R
J K E C J Z J A G D T Q R S Y
M X S E S S A P S E R T H H W

Therefore if any man be in **Christ**, he is a **new creature**: **old things** are **passed away**; **behold**, **all** things are become **new**. And all things are of God, who hath **reconciled** us to himself by **Jesus** Christ, and hath given to us the **ministry** of reconciliation; to **wit**, that God was in Christ, **reconciling** the **world** unto himself, **not imputing** their **trespasses** unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we **pray** you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be **sin** for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of **God** in him.

Unscramble the verse:

Uyro rrbote aws ddae dan si vaile eh swa slot adn si dufno.



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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Judy Lowman, Treasurer
splcjlw163@gmail.com

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

Next weeks lessons: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b -14; Luke 20:9-20

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