

Paradise Lutheran Church - Thomasville, PA
Third Sunday in Lent March 3, 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 “Spirit, Open My Heart”

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



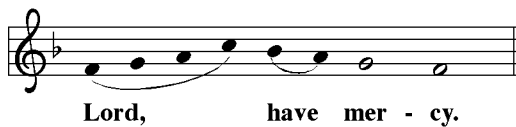
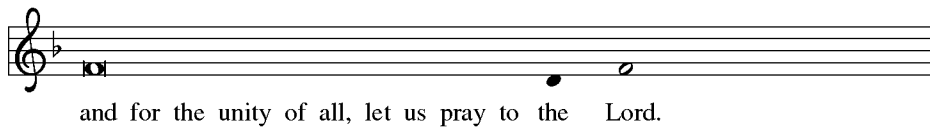
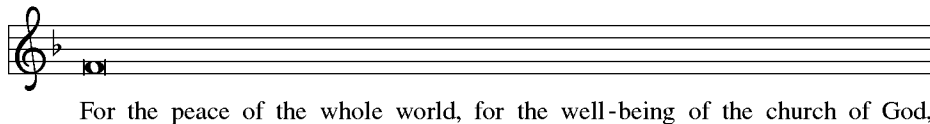
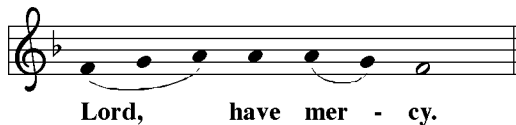
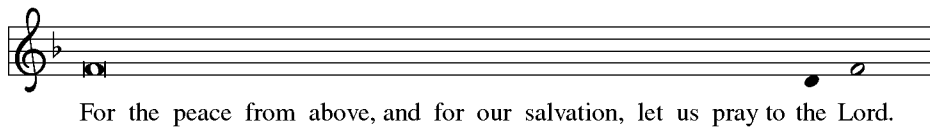
fear deed, to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
day, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
love will be my fin - est la - bor.

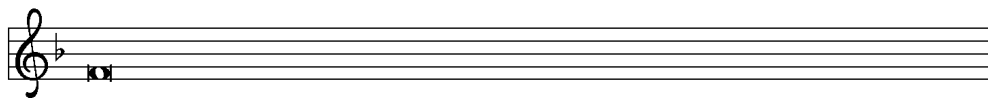
Greeting

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

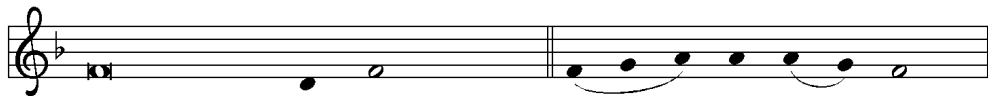
All: And also with you.

Kyrie



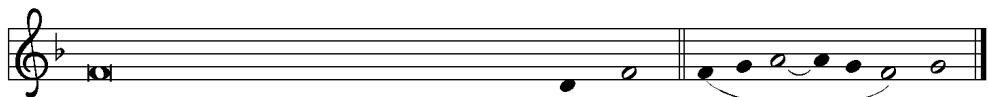


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



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. Holy God, through your Son, you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace and teach us the wisdom that comes only through 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.

Anthem

“Cherish the Cross”

Sanctuary Choir

First Reading: *Exodus 20:1-17*

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that

is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Briefs silence.

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

Psalm 19 (read responsively)

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the
ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to
the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get
dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my
redeemer.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. *Brief silence.*

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

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation



Pastor: The holy Gospel according to John, the second chapter.

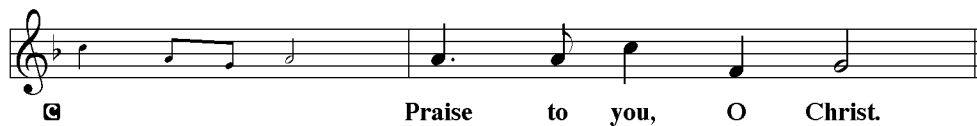


Gospel: *John 2:13-22*

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

After the reading:

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - dianc - e stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

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”

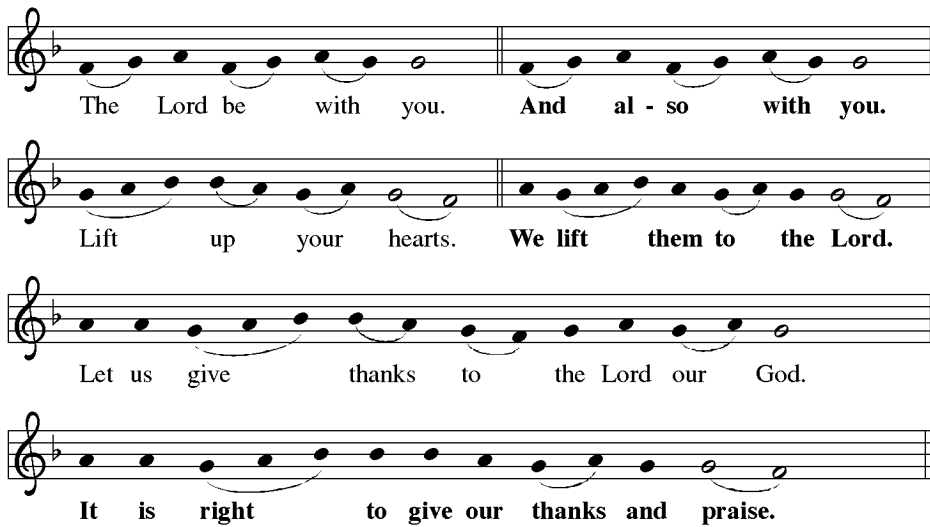


Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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.

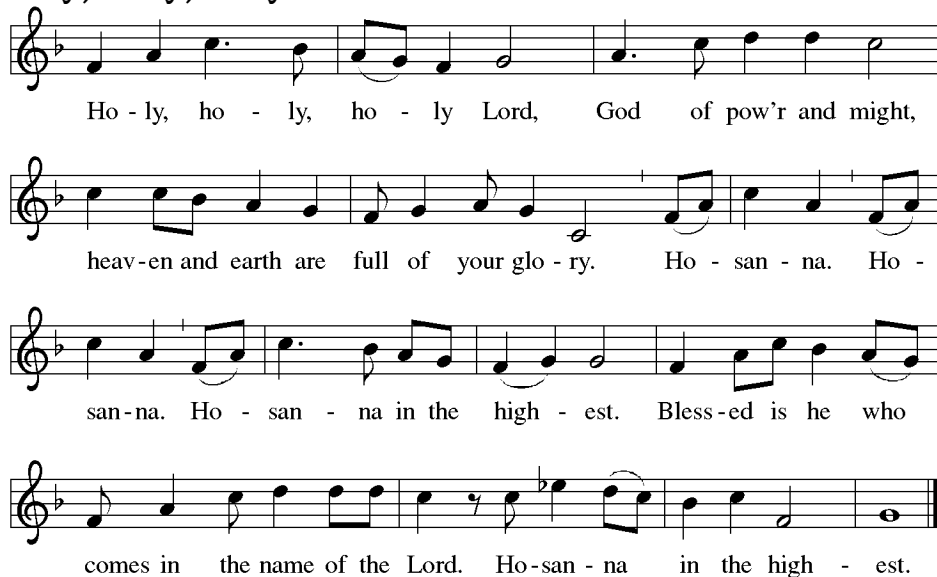
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.
 Your 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: “How Great Thou Art”

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me

The musical notation for Example 6-10 consists of three measures on a single staff. The key signature has one sharp (F#), indicating G major. The first measure contains a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4-B4-C5-D5-E5-F#5-G5. The second measure contains a half note G4, followed by eighth notes A4-B4-C5-D5-E5-F#5-G5. The third measure contains a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4-B4-C5-D5-E5-F#5-G5.

all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o -

thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Continued ➤ ➤ ➤

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to

thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Dismissal

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

Postlude

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WELCOME to Paradise! Gosh, aren't we kind of glad that Jesus knows what it feels like to be angry?! Doesn't excuse any of our bad behavior, certainly, but it's good to know that Jesus had 'big feelings, too.

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, 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 Ken and Jean Stambaugh in memory of Harry and Grace Stambaugh and Kenneth and Hilda Stambaugh.

PALMS SPONSOR NEEDED for the Palm Sunday palms. This year, the cost is \$92.15. Either sign up in the red notebook in the narthex or put a note in the offering plate. Thank you for shopping at Paradise!

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!

EVENING BIBLE STUDY on the Ten Commandments on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. will be through Zoom only (link will be emailed). Only two more – March 5 and 12.

SKIT PRACTICE on March 10 and 24, after the early service for those who attend the early service and after the late service for those who attend that service.

PROPERTY WORKDAY: On Saturday, March 23, from 9 to noon, the property committee and others will work on the rooms in the education wing (sanctuary level). If you have “stuff” in any of those rooms, please either join the gang that day OR go through the items ahead of time and clear out what’s no longer needed. Thank you!

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 **March** website is sponsored by Sandy Anderson and family in memory of Ted “Pappy” Anderson. 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 **March** will go to *ELCA Disaster Response* (100% of donations are used for disaster relief).

Giving of time and tithes:

Attendance: February 25: early 35; late 40; Sunday School 26

Offerings	Our budget needs for God's Mission	Your actual gifts from 2/25/24	Difference
Current	\$4,456.00	\$3,800.02	--\$655.98
Benevolence	\$283.00	\$381.00	+\$98.00
Capital Improvements	\$289.00	\$427.50	+\$138.50
	<i>Actual expenses to date</i>	<i>Total actual gifts to date</i>	<i>Difference</i>
	\$37,223.51	\$38,882.65	+\$1,659.14

Worship Participants:

Pastor: Reverend Sigrid Hipkiss

Minister of Music: Allison Trump

Greeters: Valerie Diehl, Jodi Shaffer

Acolyte: Paul Hipkiss

Lector: Miriam Hipkiss

Assisting Minister: Justice White

Usher Captain/Communion: Linda Eisenhart

Tech: Mike Gautsch

Altar Guild for March: Ralph and Fran Nace



Church information:

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

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Website: www.paradiselutheran.weebly.com