

Paradise Lutheran Church - Thomasville, PA
Third Sunday of Easter April 14, 2024 10:15 a.m.

Welcome

Prelude

Please stand.

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the life beyond all death,
the joy beyond all sorrow, our everlasting home. **All: Amen.**

Pastor: Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come
before God who calls us to repentance. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor: God of life,

**All: we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the
ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and
brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy.
Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us
new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ,
our risen Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in
sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have
been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

All: Amen.

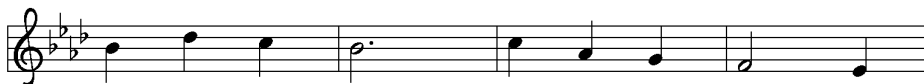
Gathering Song "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!"



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

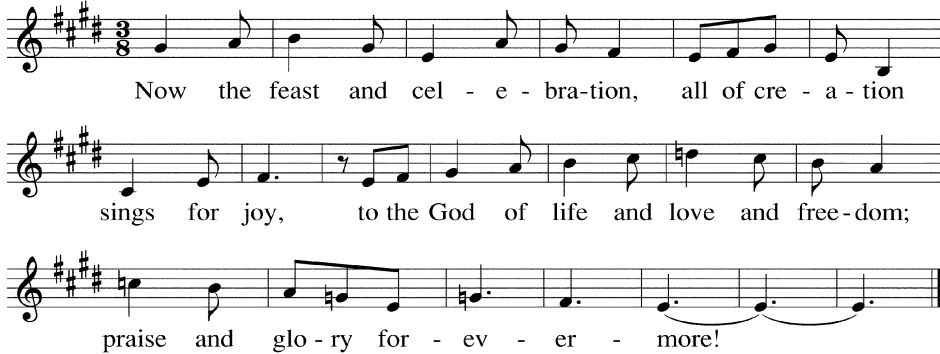
Greeting

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.

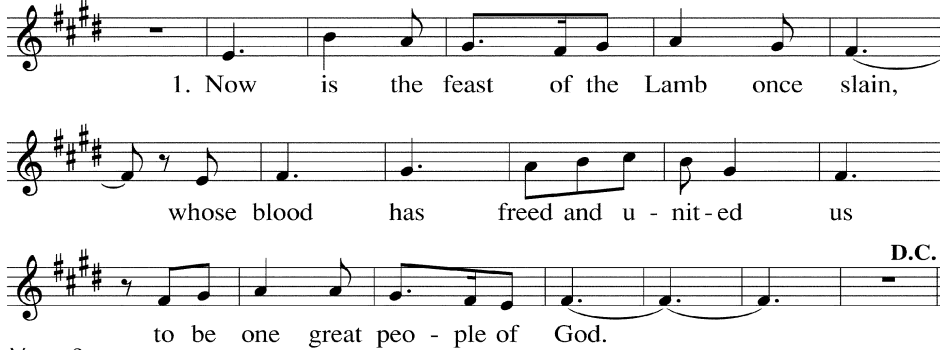
Hymn of Praise “This is the feast...”

Refrain



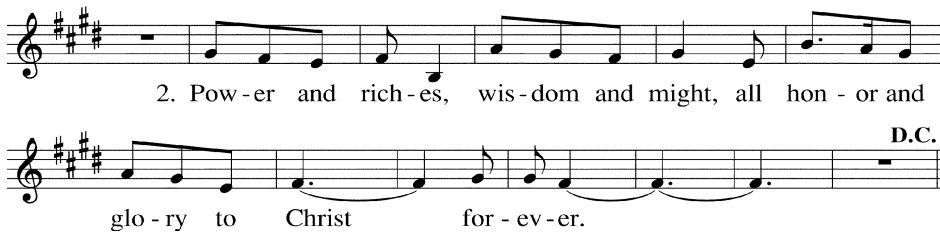
Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy, to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

Verse 1



1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and u - nit - ed us
to be one great peo - ple of God. **D.C.**

Verse 2



2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. **D.C.**

Continued ▶ ▶ ▶

Verse 3



3. For God has come to dwell with us, to make us
peo-ple of God; to make all things new. **D.C.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray. Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection 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.

Anthem “Be of Good Cheer” Sanctuary Choir

First Reading: *Acts 3:12-19*

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?”¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

Brief silence.

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

Psalm 4 (read responsively)

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear
my prayer.

²**“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”**

³Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful;
the Lord will hear me when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices,
and put your trust in the Lord.

⁶**Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”
Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.**

⁷You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when grain and wine abound.

⁸**In peace, I will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure.**

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Brief silence.

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

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

Pastor: The holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

After the reading:

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day “This Joyful Eastertide”

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son
3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the

sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
slum - - ber till trump from east to west shall
riv - - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

sprung to life this mor - - row.
wake the dead in num - - ber.
pass - ing soul de - liv - - er.

Continued >>>

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our
 faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -
 ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

Please be seated.

Nicene Creed

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

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made

man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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 “As the Grains of Wheat”

Refrain

Congregation:



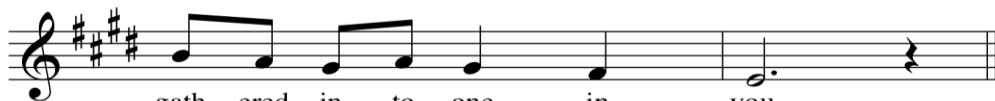
As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread;



so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be



gath - ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst

2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

to Refrain

Offertory Prayer

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **All: Amen.**

Dialog

Presider: *Congregation:*



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

Presider: *Congregation:*




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

Presider: *Congregation:*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is



right to give God thanks and praise.

Preface

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy ... praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
 Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Thanksgiving at the Table

Pastor: Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people praise you, saying:
 Your mercy endures forever.

All: Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,
 granting them life and calling them to flourish, setting the sign of
 your bow in the clouds, the colors of your love and faithfulness.
 Your mercy endures forever.

All: Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you bound yourself to your people of old, blessing them with family outnumbering the stars and calling them to be a blessing to others, showing them steadfast love in every generation and calling them to be a light to the nations. Your mercy endures forever.

All: Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved, grafting us into your living Vine, and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.

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

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

With this bread and cup we remember his life laid down and lifted up as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine. Bless us to be a blessing. Make us a sign of your faithfulness. Send us to tend and cherish the earth and to serve the world with mercy and love.

With all the saints in light, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit, 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, Christ promises to meet us here.

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
 you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 fear:
 peace:
 love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,

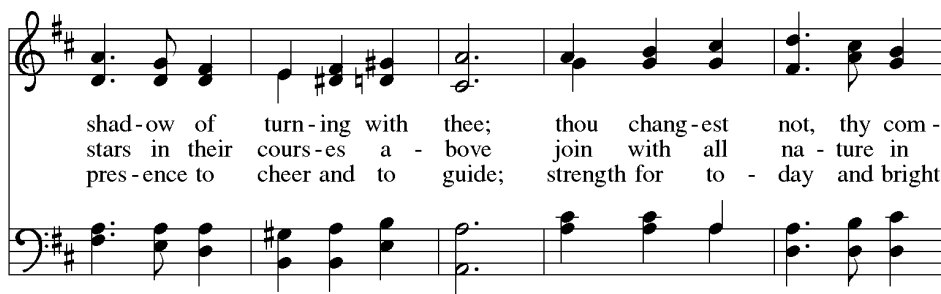


grant us peace, grant us peace.

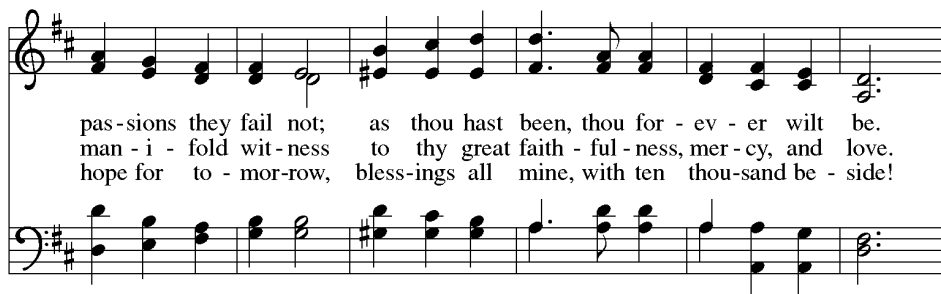
Communion Hymn: "Great is Thy Faithfulness"



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Continued ▶ ▶ ▶

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by
 morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy
 hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

After 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 “Praise to You, O God of Mercy”

Congregation:



1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:
2. From of old you loved and sought us:
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice
weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for ev - er!
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for ev - er!
Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your
love, re - mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of
life with us. 3. Praise to you, O
God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for ev - er!
Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for
ev - er! Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Post-Communion Prayer

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to welcome others as you welcome us and to share the abundant mercy of Jesus. **All: Amen.**

Announcements

Sending

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always. **All: Amen.**

Sending Hymn: “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Refrain
Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Love like Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Some worship materials from Sundays and Seasons, copyright 2023, Augsburg Fortress; Bible selections are from the New Revised Standard Version. Musical selections used by permission under CCLI license #2248273 or Augsburg/ELW/ACS #12039-L.

WELCOME to Paradise! The risen Christ was hungry and asked for some food... He really IS one of us! Praise God for that!

IN OUR PRAYERS: Louise Stambaugh, Dolores Tavarez, Larry Luckenbaugh, Allison Trump, Ken Stambaugh, Joyce Bentzel, Sherry Feeser; Kaleb Trump, Nancy and Jerry Frey-Markell, Ron Schwartz, Bob Markle, Samantha Zorbaugh, Gwen Schnetzka, Angie Zepp, 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, William Brady, Ryan Yingling, Michael Schulman, Dakota Dixon

For those in prison, especially Patrick and Keith; for those who mourn

THE BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God by Dave and Pat Zech in honor of all the volunteers who serve this church.

SUB/SANDWICH SALE deadline is TODAY! Order forms and payment envelopes are at each entrance. Pickup is noon to 1:30 p.m. AND 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24, or Thursday, April 25, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

DEADLINE for the May issue of the newsletter is tomorrow! Put your information in the office mail basket or email Julie at the church.

LAUNDRY LOVE on Tuesday, April 16, starting at 5:30 p.m. This month's volunteers: Heidi and Ralph.

PROPERTY WORKDAY! Sign up in the narthex to help with the property workday on Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m. to noon. Lots of projects equals lots of hands needed!

EARTH CARE IN APRIL: Our earth care focus for this month is the Horn Farm Center in York, which fosters ecological learning by connecting people with nature in fun and meaningful ways. Support and engage with the Horn Farm Center in two ways:

1. Come to the Horn Farm on Sunday, April 21, after the 10:15 service for a tour and some volunteer work, ending at 3 p.m. We will most likely be helping tend tree plantings. If you can come, please sign up (in the narthex or by contacting Marty Rexroth or Dave Cassel) *by April 14* so we can give the farm a count.
2. Donate supplies and gift cards through the end of April. Pick up a flyer in the narthex for a full list of supplies that we're collecting.

POTLUCK DINNER! Be thinking of what you'd like to bring to the potluck dinner on Friday, April 26, 6 p.m. There's a sign-up sheet in the narthex to let us know if you'll bring a main dish, side dish, dessert, or snack/munchie. Just dinner and conversation with good friends --- please come!

ORDER YOUR GERANIUMS for Mother's Day! Deadline is April 28; order forms are in the narthex. Proceeds benefit SpiriTrust Lutheran. Flowers will be displayed on Sunday, May 12.

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

The **April** website is sponsored by Andrew and Julie Maher in honor of their grandson Maverick’s 7th birthday (4/25). Let Julie know if you’d like to sponsor a month in **2025**. Available: February, March, November, December. Cost: \$20.

SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE for **April** will go to *Laundry Love*.

Giving of time and tithes:

Attendance: Sunday, April 7: one service: 57

Offerings	Our budget needs for God’s Mission	Your actual gifts from 4/7/24	Difference
Current	\$4,456.00	\$4,906.00	+\$450.00
Benevolence	\$283.00	\$484.00	+\$201.00
Capital Improvements	\$289.00	\$640.50	+\$351.50
	<i>Actual expenses to date</i>	<i>Total actual gifts to date</i>	<i>Difference</i>
	\$61,711.57	\$72,453.49	\$10,741.92

Worship Participants:

Pastor: The Reverend Sigrid Hipkiss

Minister of Music: Allison Trump

Greeter: Chris Garrett

Acolyte: Miriam Hipkiss

Assisting Minister: Julie Maher

Lector: Linda Eisenhart

Usher/communion: Valerie Diehl

Tech: Justice White



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