

Paradise Lutheran Church - Thomasville, PA
Fourth Sunday in Lent March 10, 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 “Lift High the Cross”

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

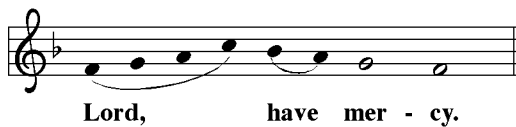
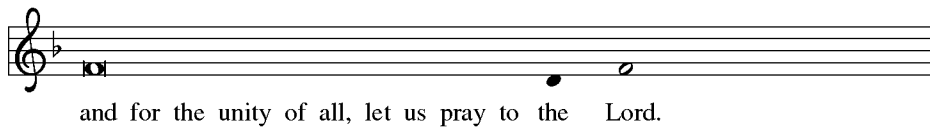
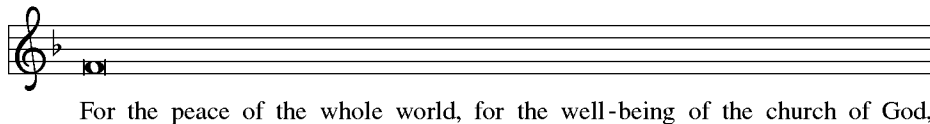
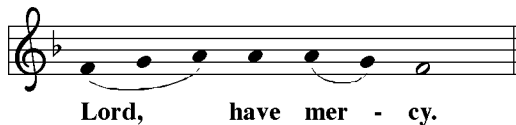
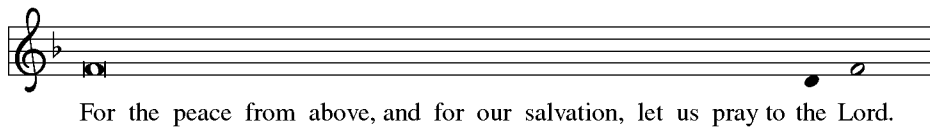
our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

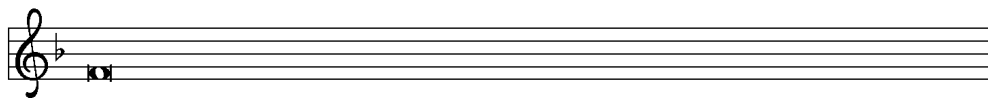
Greeting

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

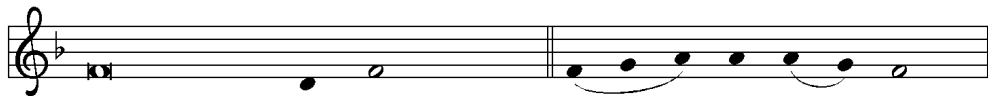
All: And also with you.

Kyrie



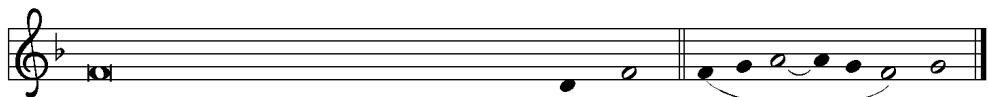


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



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

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love 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

“God So Loved the World”

Sanctuary Choir

First Reading: *Numbers 21:4-9*

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that

many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Brief silence.

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

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (read responsively)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God’s mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death’s door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

Second Reading: *Ephesians 2:1-10*

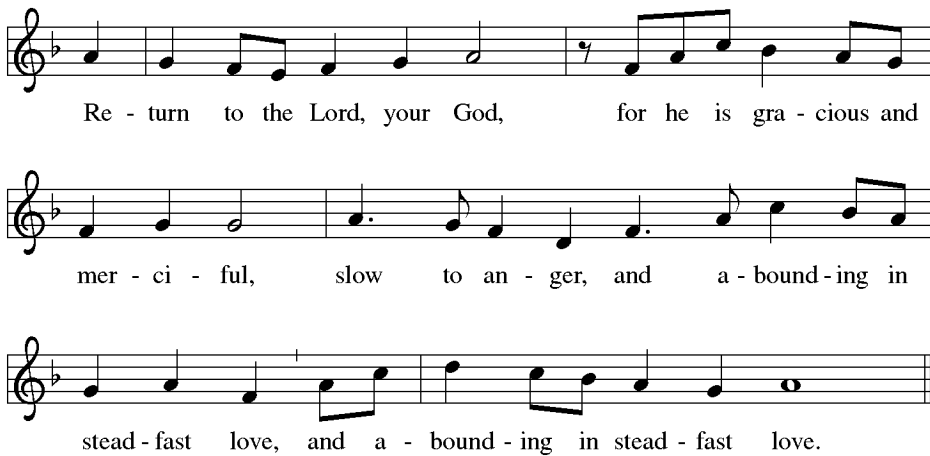
¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Brief silence.

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

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

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

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



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Gospel: *John 3:14-21*

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

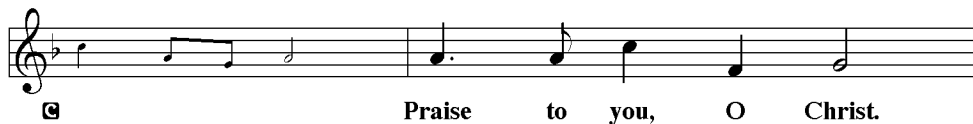
¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to

the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

After the reading:

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day “What Wondrous Love is This”

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing,
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

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”

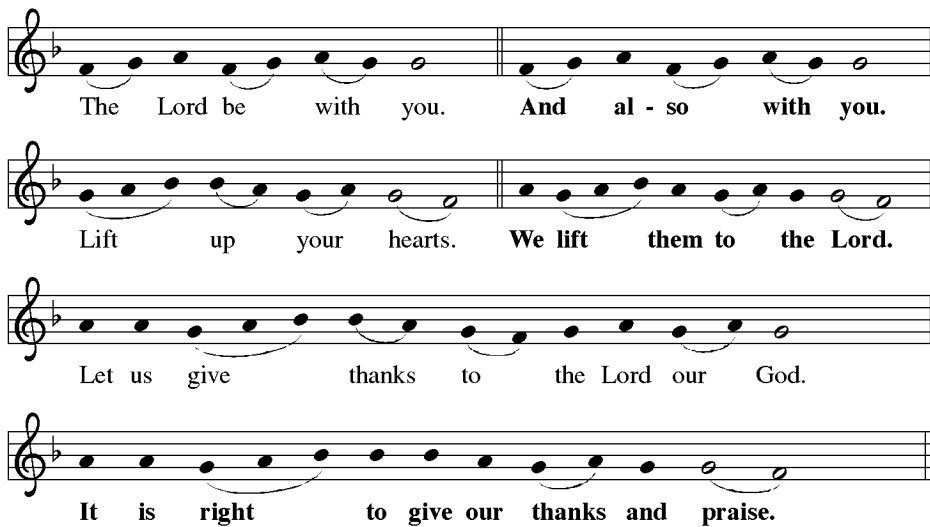
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the lyrics 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right'. The second staff contains 'spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take'. The third staff contains 'not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of'. The fourth staff contains 'your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.' The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The final note of the fourth staff is a double bar line.

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.

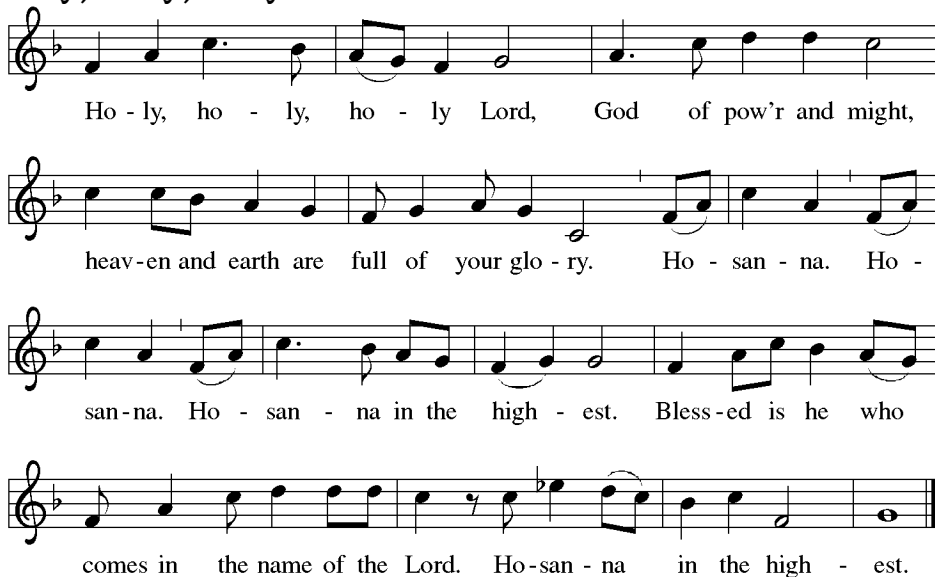
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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: “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

When all have communed, please stand.

Blessing after communion

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

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

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

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

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

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

Post-Communion Prayer

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

Announcements

Blessing

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

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

Sending Hymn: "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.

Dismissal

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

Postlude

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WELCOME to Paradise! Let's remember that we are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

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, 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, and William

For those in prison, especially Patrick and Keith

For those who mourn

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Pastor Larry McConnell and family in memory of Nancy McConnell.

THE BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God by Stacy White in honor of her sister, Kim Beard.

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 one more – March 12.

SKIT PRACTICE today and March 24, after the early service for those who attend the early service and after the late service for those who attend that service. **Dress rehearsal** will be Saturday, April 6, at 9 a.m.

FRIENDS OF PARADISE group crawls out of hibernation to meet on Tuesday, March 12! Gather at 10, the program begins at 11, and the meal is served at noon. **PREP for the meal** will be tomorrow morning starting at 9 a.m. Join the group; no cooking experience necessary! Just come and follow directions.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE meets Tuesday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL meets on Thursday, March 14, 7 p.m.

TEA FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS will be held here on Saturday, March 16, 4 p.m. for those who have reserved seats. Setup will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 15.

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: March 3: early 33; late 47; Sunday School 23

Offerings	Our budget needs for God's Mission	Your actual gifts from 3/3/24	Difference
Current	\$4,456.00	\$5,177.00	+\$721.00
Benevolence	\$283.00	\$478.00	+\$195.00
Capital Improvements	\$289.00	\$445.00	+\$156.00
	<i>Actual expenses to date</i>	<i>Total actual gifts to date</i>	<i>Difference</i>
	\$38,254.31	\$44,059.65	+\$5,805.34

Worship Participants:

Pastor: Reverend Sigrid Hipkiss

Minister of Music: Allison Trump

Greeters: Greg and Roxann Harrell

Acolyte: Daniel Hipkiss

Lector: Larry McConnell

Assisting Minister: Marty Rexroth

Usher Captain/Communion: Chris Garrett

Tech: Linda Eisenhart

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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Address: 3241 Church Road, Thomasville, PA 17364

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Website: www.paradiselutheran.weebly.com