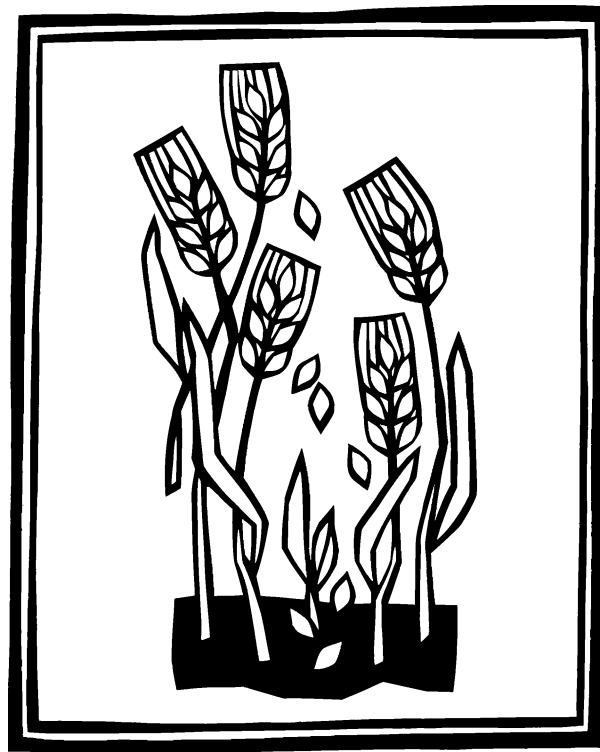


FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



March 17, 2024

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:12am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave
9:00am | Choir Practice
9:30am | Education Hour with Sunday School,
Confirmation and Adult Forum
10:30am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave
and Online
11:30am | Coffee Hour

LIVESTREAMING – Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Arlington Facebook page. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, however, without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

Sign up for Weekly Update newsletter by going to our website at www.stpaularlington.org and clicking on SUBSCRIBE.


UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Midweek Services with Supper - Wednesdays 6:30pm

During the season of Lent, we will gather together on Wednesday evenings for fellowship and Holden Evening Prayer. Our theme for these midweek gatherings is Lament. Together, we will read examples of lament in scripture and reflect on the ways lament intersects with our own lives and faith. These lessons and reflections will then be shared through The Weekly for those that are unable to attend but would like to follow along. Join us at 6:30 pm for a meal and fellowship, followed by worship at 7:15 pm.

March 20th: Communal Lament Psalm 44:1-10, 13, 17-26

Serving the community today are:



Marie Breitenbach and Geneva Carter, *Altar Guild*
Luther Oliver and Lucas Simeone, *Acolytes*
Matt Carter, *Lector*
Peter Hedlund, *Deacon*
Bob Sniffen, *Usher*
Hollie Schmidt, *Livestream Broadcast*
Peter and Hollie Schmidt, *Coffee Guild*

*As we prepare for God's presence in worship, please be aware that some prefer to be quiet at this time.
When the instruction for standing * appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable.
At the ✠, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism.
The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

L'organiste, FWV 41, 1. Poco allegretto

C. Franck (1822-1890)

WELCOME

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Have mercy, O God,
**against you, you alone,
we have sinned.**
**In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.**
**Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.**
**Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.**
Amen.

As tender as parent to child,

As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.
As far as east is from west,
so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.
Blessed be God forever.

* GATHERING HYMN

"Christ the Life of All the Living"

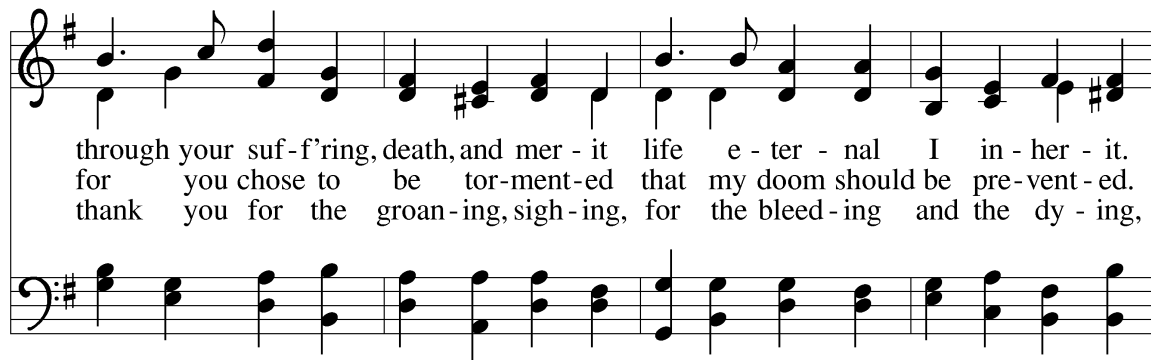
ELW 339



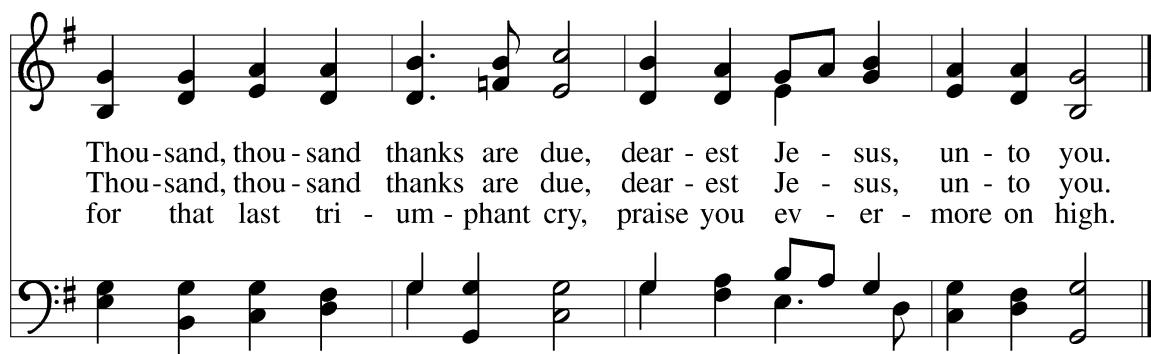
1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
 e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
 for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
 for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
 thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

* 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.

* KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31–34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for

they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

PSALM

Psalm 51:1—12

The psalm is sung responsively, with the congregation singing the bold verses.



Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**

Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,
 “You are my Son,
 today I have begotten you”;
 as he says also in another place,
 “You are a priest forever,
 according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, 10having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (10:30 only)



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

* GOSPEL

John 12:20–33

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those

who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME

Pastor Ross Goodman

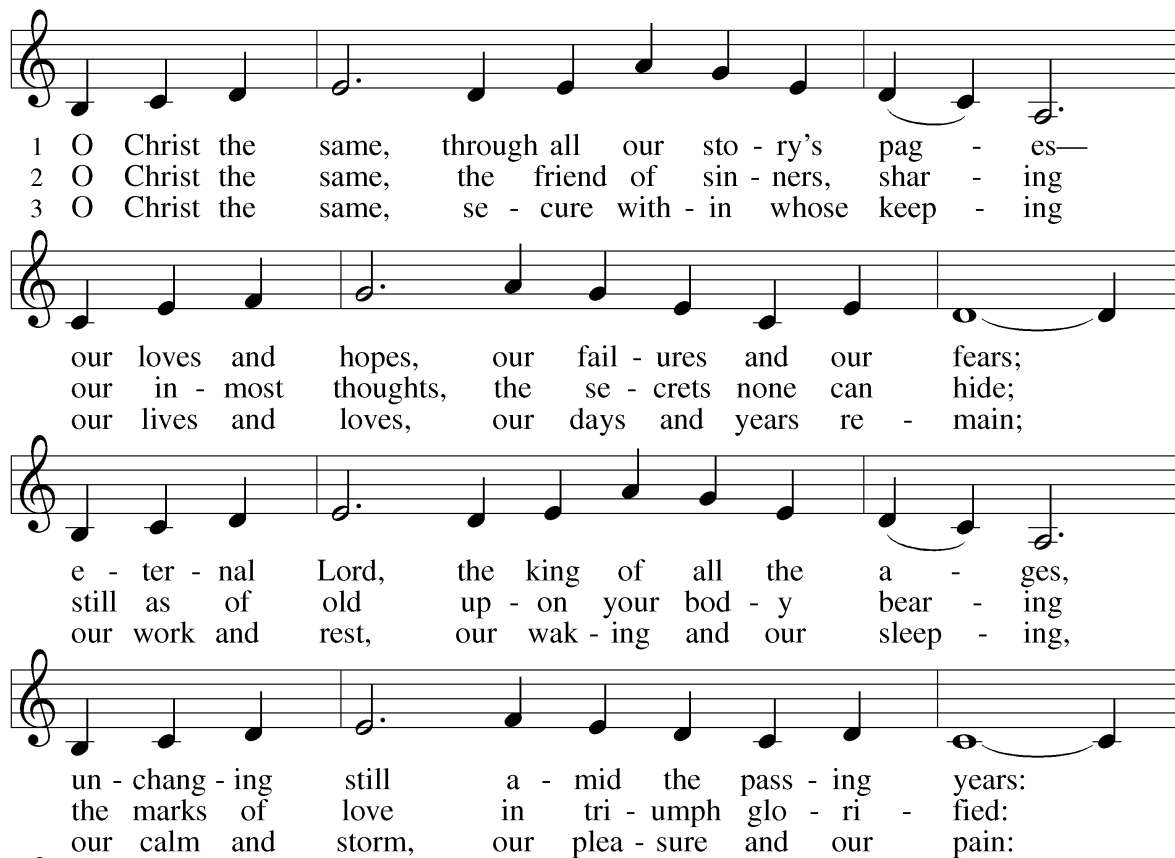
SERMON “Unless a Grain Falls”

Pastor Ross Goodman

* HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Christ the Same”

WOV 778



1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
 3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
 our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
 our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
 still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
 our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
 the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
 our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,
 who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;
 O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,
 we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
 Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

* APOSTLES CREED

In response to the gospel, let us confess the faith of the church.

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 into hell. 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

The leader will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read aloud the other prayers as they feel called.

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and protect those who live in danger, especially in Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan and all other places experiencing violence. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of healing, you care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain, especially Dan, Heather, Jeffrey, Lynn, Meredith, Owen, and Susan. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us especially Patrick, missionary to Ireland, Joseph, Guardian of Jesus, Thomas Cranmer, and Jonathan Edwards. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

* PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code:



ANTHEM

Before the Fruit Is Ripened by the Sun

Words by Thomas Troeger
Music by Randall Sensmeier

Before the fruit is ripened by the sun,
Before the petals of the leaves uncoil,
Before the first fine silken root is spun,
A seed is dropped and buried in the soil.

Before the Easter Alleluias ring,
Before the massive rock is rolled aside,
Fear of death has lost its sting,
A just and loving man is crucified.

Before we gain the grace that comes
through loss,
Before we live by more than bread and
breath,
Before we lift in joy and empty cross,
We face with Christ the seed's renewing
death.

* OFFERING PRAYER

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.

Amen.

* GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
 God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

O God triune, how majestic
 is your name in all the earth.
 Over the eons your merciful might
 evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
 Here by your wisdom
 are both life and death,
 growth and decay,
 the nest and the hunt,
 sunshine and storm,
 darkness and light.
 Sustained by these wonders,
 we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:
 The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.
 In Christ you bring life from death;
 we remember his cross,

we laud his resurrection.
Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.
Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.
Receiving this mystery,
we mortals sing our song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus,
so filled with your love for this earth.

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.

Gathered around this table,
we your children unite in this song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you create the worlds,
you uphold the living,
you embrace the dead.
Send forth your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.
Strengthen us for our journey with this meal,
the body and blood of Christ.
Give us a future that trusts in you
and cares for your earth.
Empowered by your promises,
we rise from our deaths
to praise you again:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

Amen, and amen.
Amen, and amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Leader:



All:



COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the bread and wine. Individual communion kits are available in the trays located in the center of the sanctuary.



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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN (*at 10:30 only*)

"As the Grains of Wheat"

ELW 465

Refrain



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.



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



Refrain

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

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

* TABLE BLESSING

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

Amen.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

The peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
keep your hearts and your minds
in † Christ Jesus.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING HYMN

"Lift High the Cross"

ELW 660

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!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956
 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING HAPPENINGS
at SAINT PAUL



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE AND WHATNOT

Maundy Thursday – 7:30 service

Good Friday – 7:30 service

Easter Vigil – 7:00 service. Chocolate fountain and champagne after service.

Sign up [here](#) to see what you can contribute to the dessert buffet.

Easter Sunday – 8:12 and 10:30 services. Fellowship Hall Breakfast potluck from 9:00- 10:30. Sign up [here](#) to see what you can contribute to the breakfast buffet. Pick up Hallelujah Chorus Choir for the 10:30 service will practice approximately from 9:30 – 10:00.



FOOD IN LENT!

St. Paul members are dedicated contributors to Arlington EATS....can we do even better in the season of Lent? If each family brings one item during Lent, it would increase our donation.

Requested items for March are: Gluten Free Items: cereal, snacks, pasta, mac & cheese, baking mixes/pancake mix. Regular Spotlight Items for February are: cereal, crackers, granola bars/cereal bars, dish soap. Keep in mind that many patrons do not have cars and carry their groceries so no oversized items, small and regular size is best!

CYF (CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES) UPDATE

• St. Paul will be having a **youth run worship service** that is inspired by Calumet (our Synod's summer camp) on April 7, at the 10:30 service. All our youth are welcome to participate, whether you have attended Calumet or not. Please let us know if you are interested in helping, by RSVP'ing here:

<https://forms.gle/CCFBDkChTqfctT1x7>



UPCOMING ADULT FORUM TOPICS | Sundays in Lent beginning February 18

Witness at the Cross. We will be studying the Crucifixion, both as an event and as the central point in our theology. Books are available from Pastor Liz. Sunday April 7th will be a Bible study.



SAINT PAUL

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

Staff

The Reverend Ross Goodman, *Pastor*
The Reverend Liz Senft, *Pastoral Associate*
Katie Linthicum, *Vicar*
Ana Zecic Jeffers, *Director of Music*
Paul Ricci, *Business Administrator*
Sarah Carter, *Children, Youth and
Families Director*
Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator*
Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

Church Council and Officers

Elizabeth Heichler, *President*
Monique Airasian, *Vice-President*
Eric Haugen, *Treasurer*
Kerri Frick, *Secretary*
Norma Ofsthun, *Financial Officer*
Mark Olson, *Financial Officer*
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