

St. Paul Lutheran Church
“Let’s Make a Difference Together”



158 Fish Hill Road

PO Box 196

Tannersville, Pennsylvania 18372

Telephone: (570) 629-1992

Fax: (570) 629-2038

Website: www.stpaultannersvillepa.org

Parish Administrator’s Email: parishadmin@stpaultannersvillepa.org

Worship Services: Sunday at 9:00 A.M.

Holy Communion: 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month & Festivals

Christian Education: Sunday’s at 10:15 A.M.

Air Conditioned & Handicapped Accessible

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Grounded in faith and growing in grace, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ by word and deed in our local community and throughout the world.



Are you visiting St. Paul? Are you interested in membership or just looking to see if St. Paul is a good fit for you and/or your family??

Please call (570-629-1992) or stop by our office during regular business hours (Mon – Thurs 9:00am – 1:00pm) and speak to our Parish

Administrator, Leanna Wickline, who will be happy to guide you through

the membership process and help you find information on all of the great programs at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

SILENT MEDITATION. . . Please note – the silent meditation is a part of the morning worship service. This is a time for individual reflection; a time for communicating with God, as well as a time of preparation for the service of worship. We encourage you to use it in a meaningful way.

Please respect the prayerful atmosphere of this holy place. We ask that you turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

Pastor: Reverend Rashion “Woody” Santiago

Parish Administrator: Mrs. Leanna D. Wickline

Choir Director/Organist: Mr. Robert Jones

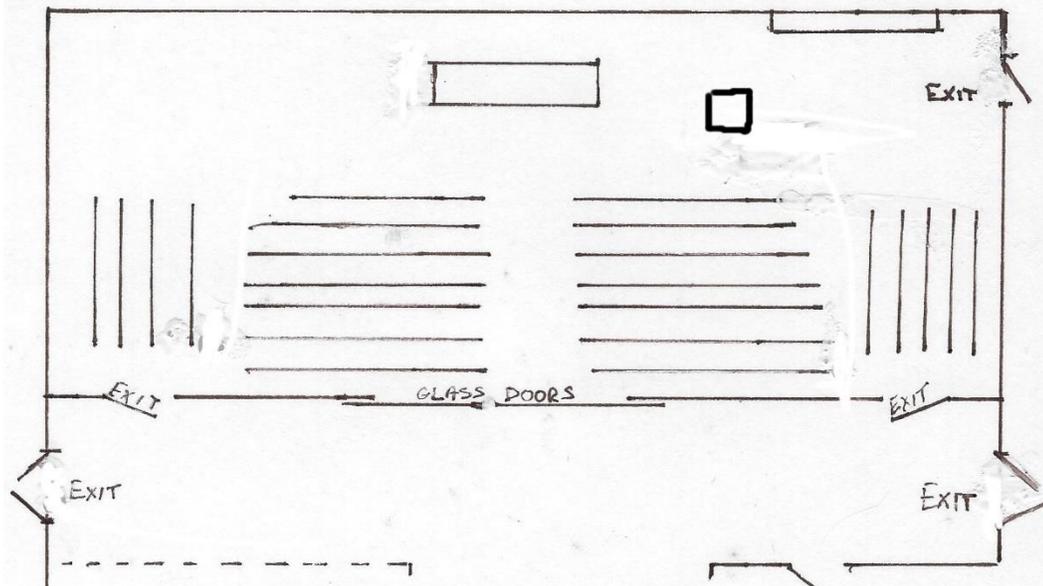
2023 Council Members

Grant Allen, Dawn Bartron, Bill Below, Chris Kinsley Sr., Nicole Kresge,
Carl Reindl, Deb Storman, Beth Werkheiser, Leanna Wickline

Website: www.stpaultannersvillepa.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaultannersvillepa

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsvvR6FI09zcaiDPY174k5A>



Worship Service

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 26, 2023

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

**Please stand, if able.*

Words in bold print denote congregational response.

Chimes

Announcements

Prelude

***Confession**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gracious God,

We acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins – those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden, and in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Absolution**

From the house of David, God raised up a mighty Savior.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.

Remembering the covenant, God delivered us from our enemies.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.

Before God we are holy and righteous, free to worship without fear.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.

With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and forgives us all our sins.

Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon us, and by the light of the Holy Spirit guides our feet into the way of peace.

Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW #886



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

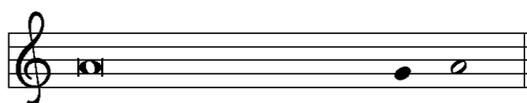
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

***Greeting**

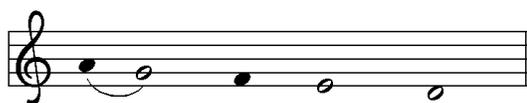
The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***Kyrie**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



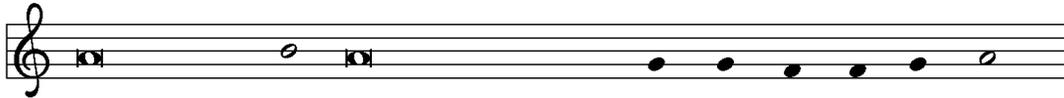
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



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

***Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share a word or sign of peace with one another, while remaining in your pew area.

***Prayer of the Day (Lector)**

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."

¹ The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by his Spirit and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones.

² He led me all around them. There were a great many of them on the surface of the valley, and they were very dry. ³ Then he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I replied, "Lord God, only you know."

⁴ He said to me, "Prophecy concerning these bones and say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! ⁵ This is what the Lord God says to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you will live. ⁶ I will put tendons on you, make flesh grow on you, and cover you with skin. I will put breath in you so that you come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord."

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ As I looked, tendons appeared on them, flesh grew, and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man. Say to it: This is what the Lord God says: Breath, come from the four winds and breathe into these slain so that they may live!" ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me; the breath entered them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Look how they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished; we are cut off.' ¹²

Therefore, prophecy and say to them, 'This is what the Lord God says: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them, my people, and lead you into the land of Israel.

¹³ You will know that I am the Lord, my people, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I am the Lord. I have spoken, and I will do it. This is the declaration of the Lord.'"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 130

¹ Out of the depths I call to you, Lord!

² **Lord, listen to my voice; let your ears be attentive to my cry for help.**

³ Lord, if you kept an account of iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

⁴ **But with you there is forgiveness, so that you may be revered.**

⁵ I wait for the Lord; I wait and put my hope in his word.

⁶ I wait for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning — more than watchmen for the morning.

⁷ Israel, put your hope in the Lord. For there is faithful love with the Lord, and with him is redemption in abundance.

⁸ And he will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

¹ Come, let's shout joyfully to the Lord, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation!

² Let's enter his presence with thanksgiving; let's shout triumphantly to him in song.

³ For the Lord is a great God, a great King above all gods.

⁴ The depths of the earth are in his hand, and the mountain peaks are his.

⁵ The sea is his; he made it. His hands formed the dry land.

⁶ Come, let's worship and bow down; let's kneel before the Lord our Maker.

⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep under his care.

Today, if you hear his voice:

⁸ Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the wilderness

⁹ where your ancestors tested me; they tried me, though they had seen what I did.

¹⁰ For forty years I was disgusted with that generation; I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray; they do not know my ways."

¹¹ So I swore in my anger, "They will not enter my rest."

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

⁶ Now the mindset of the flesh is death, but the mindset of the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mindset of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit to God's law. Indeed, it is unable to do so. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. ¹⁰ Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel. (*Lector*)

*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.

*Gospel: John 11:1-45

The holy gospel according to John, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now a man was sick, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. ³ So the sisters sent a message to him: "Lord, the one you love is sick."

⁴ When Jesus heard it, he said, "This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that he was sick, he stayed two more days in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after that, he said to the disciples, "Let's go to Judea again."

⁸ "Rabbi," the disciples told him, "just now the Jews tried to stone you, and you're going there again?"

⁹ "Aren't there twelve hours in a day?" Jesus answered. "If anyone walks during the day, he doesn't stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks during the night, he does stumble, because the light is not in him."

¹¹ He said this, and then he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I'm on my way to wake him up."

¹² Then the disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will get well."

¹³ Jesus, however, was speaking about his death, but they thought he was speaking about natural sleep. ¹⁴ So Jesus then told them plainly, "Lazarus has died. ¹⁵ I'm glad for you that I wasn't there so that you may believe. But let's go to him."

¹⁶ Then Thomas (called "Twin") said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go too so that we may die with him."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem (less than two miles away). ¹⁹ Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

²⁰ As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Then Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. ²² Yet even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."

²³ *"Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her.*

²⁴ *Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."*

²⁵ *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. ²⁶ Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

²⁷ *"Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world."*

²⁸ *Having said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."*

²⁹ *As soon as Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw that Mary got up quickly and went out. They followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to cry there.*

³² *As soon as Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and told him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died!"*

³³ *When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying, he was deeply moved in his spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you put him?" he asked.*

"Lord," they told him, "come and see."

³⁵ *Jesus wept.*

³⁶ *So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Couldn't he who opened the blind man's eyes also have kept this man from dying?"*

³⁸ *Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ "Remove the stone," Jesus said.*

Martha, the dead man's sister, told him, "Lord, there is already a stench because he has been dead four days."

⁴⁰ *Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"*

⁴¹ *So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you heard me. ⁴² I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so that they may believe you sent me." ⁴³ After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unwrap him and let him go."*

⁴⁵ *Therefore, many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what he did believed in him.*

The word of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,



say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no



fear; un-der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.



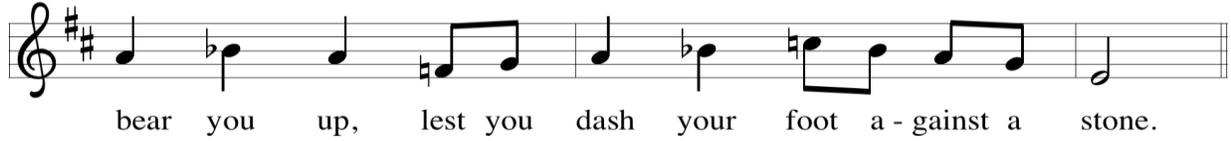
3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by



day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.



4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to



Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1957

Music: ON EAGLE'S WINGS, Michael Joncas

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*The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, 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 the People (*Lector*)

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for your church. Bless partnerships with other Christians and inter-religious dialogue. Guide the daily work of denominational and congregational leaders. Strengthen

our combined witness for the sake of the gospel, that all experience your life-giving love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the universe. All creation teems with life, from the depths of the earth and seas to the skies above. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and preservation of life. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations of the world. Topple the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbors. Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender, race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely, and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness. Give them your living water always. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, especially those preparing for baptism. Nurture their faith and pour your love into their hearts. Inspire our community by their testimony to God's grace in their lives. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for the lives of all your saints. Their hope in you sustained lives of faith and service. Encourage us with the hope they shared in you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

At this time, you are welcome to offer your joys and concerns, either aloud or silently. *Pause.* We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Choir - "How Beautiful"

***Offering Prayer**

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

***The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

***Blessing**

God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

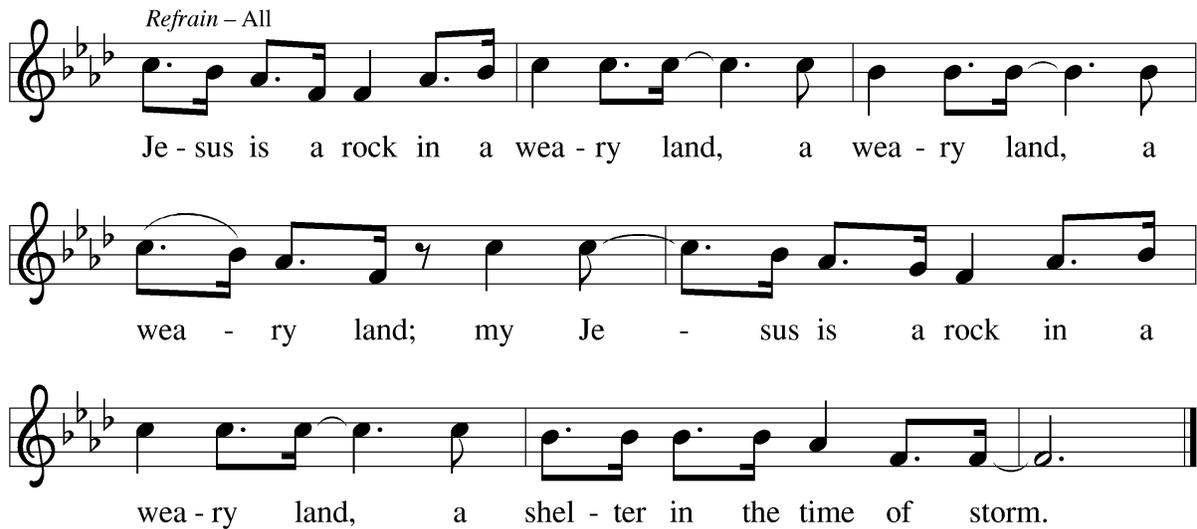
Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

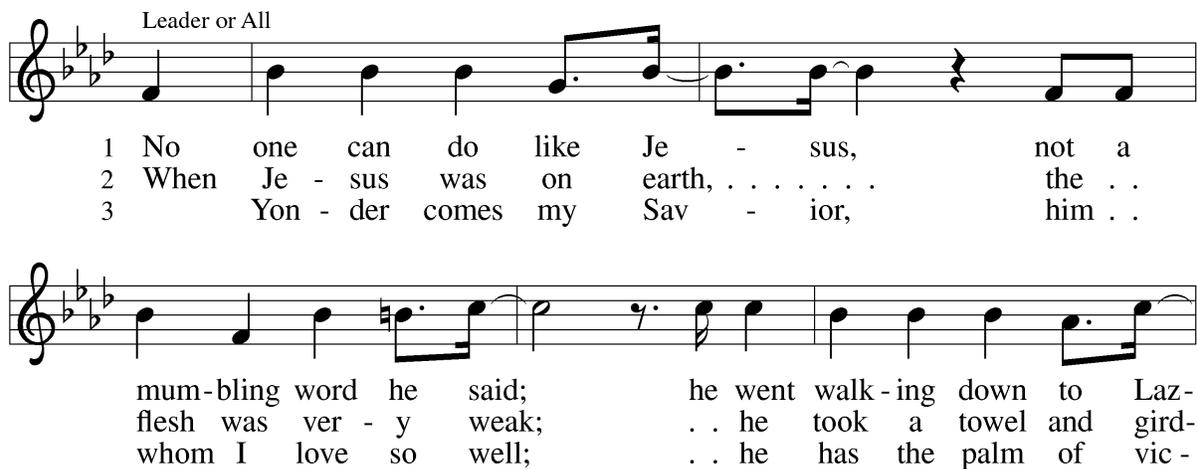
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Refrain - All



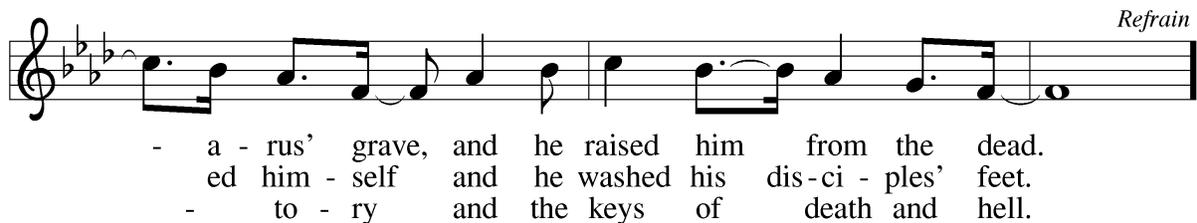
Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a
wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a
wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

Leader or All



1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a
2 When Je - sus was on earth, the . .
3 Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him . .
mum - bling word he said; he went walk - ing down to Laz -
flesh was ver - y weak; . . he took a towel and gird -
whom I love so well; . . he has the palm of vic -

Refrain



- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.
ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.
- to - ry and the keys of death and hell.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: WEARY LAND, African American spiritual

***Choral Benediction**

"Go Now and Pass It On"

May the Lord _____ walk be - side us _____ as we

6
leave _____ this qui - et place, _____ for the Lord _____ will al - ways

12
guide us _____ if we walk in the light of His grace. _____

17
_____ May we feel God's love a - round us _____ as it

22
keeps us faith - ful and strong, _____ for the peace _____

27
_____ of God sur rounds us, _____ and now we must pass it

32
on. _____ Go now and pass it on. _____

***Charge to the People**

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"The worship ends. . .the service begins."

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Prayer Requests

Prayers have been requested for the following brothers and sisters in Christ who have concerns needing God's help...

Sr. Msgt. William F. Allen; Specialist William "Blake" Allen; Sr. Master Sargent William F. Allen; Tom Altemose; Mark Anthony; Evelyn Arroyo; Daniel Bartron; Dillon Berenti; the Besecker & Cilurso families at the passing of Jane Cilurso; Major Matthew Blessing; Captain Katy Blessings; David Brong; Judi Carman; Elaine Cornelus; Nancy & Jenn Finerty at the passing of Chris; Jamie Fisher; Todd & Anna Geil; LilliAnna Daniels; Renee Depuy; Doris Drury; John Drury; Louis Genset; Tim Grover; the family of Chris Haley Jr.; the family of Matt Herzberg; Charlie Hemple; T. J. Imhof; Carol Jones; Ian Juica; Robbie Kinsley; Nikolaos Kotretsos; Eleanor Kreuger; Esther Laurito; David Leith; James Meckes; Steven Moore; Ada Morales; Nelson Morales; Donna Myers; Dr. Kenny Pearson; Annabelle Peechatka; Anna Rivera; Jean Ross; Gina Santiago; Claudette Segear; Shirley Singer; Samuel Smith, Jr.; Greg Theadford; Jim Tomedi; Brenda Van Why; Scott Wickline; Jacob Wilson; John Woodling; for Zack Storman's friends who were in a severe car accident; Jen, Steve, Mara, Tyler, and Joe; for the people of Ukraine; for all who are traveling; for all of those struggling with addictions; the members of the Armed Forces of the United States; for the families and victims of the mass shootings, for all those around the world and here at home suffering from the coronavirus pandemic.

Have your prayers been answered? Or do you still need God's help? Please let us know. Thank you to everyone who prays with us for those in need.



Thank you to all who have helped to support St. Paul's Strunk Food Pantry! Your commitment to help is a true blessing to those who are struggling to feed their families. The pantry is always in need of basic food supplies, and we need your continued support to keep this program going strong.

Pocono Mission District Assembly

April 30th our Pocono district assembly will be held at Zion Lutheran Church in Brodheadsville, from 2:00-3:30pm. Please contact Pastor or Leanna Wickline to volunteer.

Synod Assembly June 1-3, 2023

The Bishop requires two voting members from each congregation as well as the Pastor attend the Synod Assembly. It is local, so there is no need for overnight stays. This is the first in-person assembly since COVID struck in 2020. Small group information sessions and the wonderful worship opportunities make it worth attending!

2023 PATHwalk

Sunday, May 8th at 1:30pm. The Annual Karen Nickels Memorial PATHwalk is Pocono Area Transitional Housings largest fundraiser. All funds raised from the walk are used to support PATH operations. The Karen Nickels Memorial PATHwalk is an opportunity to demonstrate your support for PATH and to involve your neighbors, friends, and family. Organize a team of people to participate with you for more fun or hoof it on your own and meet some new friends.

Blood Drive

We will be hosting a blood drive on Thursday, April 13th from 11:30am – 4:00pm in Spies

Worship Assistant Schedule						
	Acolyte	Ushers	Lector	Communion Assistants	Counters	Altar Guild
3/26	Emily Kresge	Deb Storman	Bill Below		Donna Warner	
		Linda Below			Beth Werkheiser	

Hall. The last appointment will be scheduled for 3:45pm. There is a link on our website to take you to the signup area or call the office to schedule.

If you are unable to serve at your scheduled time, please contact the office.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14--27:66

Matthew 27:11-54 (alternate)