

# The Messenger

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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## **The Midweek Lenten Evening Service Lenten Thursday Evenings at St. Paul's at 7:00 pm**

In the south of Burgundy, France lays a small village called Taizé, which is home to a monastic community devoted to prayer and reconciliation, founded over seventy years ago by Brother Roger. The community is made up of brothers from all the continents and major denominations who gather together three times a day, seven days a week, throughout the year to pray (whether there are 7000 young people present or only twenty).

The service that is offered on these Thursday nights is led by Deacon Hiner and made up of **Repetitive Sung Prayer, Silence, and Meditation**. The music, candles and dimmed lights in the Sanctuary can place you in a different state of mind to become closer to God, to listen for His word and to ask for meaningful things through community prayer.

**Repetitive Sung Prayer** The characteristic of Taizé worship that is most prevalent in our worship has been the use of a kind of repetitive prayer set to simple musical lines. Repetition is not a new phenomenon nor unique to Taizé. The use of repetitive prayers is a long-attested reality in the history of Christian spirituality and liturgy. The assembly is to immerse itself in the simple but profound harmonies and let itself be carried by this sung prayer. Examples of music from the Taizé community can be found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (#175, #236, #262, #348, #388, #406, #472, #528, #616, #642 and #751).

**Silence** Another characteristic of Taizé worship that has been a welcome gift to Lutheran worship is its generous use of silence. The use of silence in Taizé allows time to stand still and just be. Be with Christ, be with each other, be with your thoughts, and to listen. It's a powerful moment in contrast to our busy lives full of noise and continuous distractions.

**Meditation** The practice of meditation focuses the mind on a particular object, thought, or activity to train attention and awareness, and achieve a mentally clear and emotionally calm and stable state. To meditate on a particular scripture reading or a reflection on that reading can bring special awareness of God's direction for the listener.

Participants are asked to assemble in silence and the service commences promptly at 7:00 pm with the ringing of a bell. The service lasts approximately 30 minutes with time for private prayer at the end, once again in silence.

Icon of the Cross from the Church of Reconciliation, Taizé France





## Spring Clean Up Day

**As we prepare for the Easter Season, we would like to ensure the church looks its best. We will have our annual Spring Clean Up on Saturday, March 23 with a rain date of Saturday, March 30. More hands mean faster work!**



- 3/9 Kevin Webster
- 3/14 Emma Heinsohn
- 3/15 Corey Edsall
- 3/16 Tessa Rusch
- 3/18 Couper Barletta
- 3/22 Bobby Saathoff
- 3/22 Joseph Comer
- 3/28 Charles Skipper
- 3/28 Thomas Roesel
- 3/29 Marian Davis
- 3/30 Kelly Shannon
- 3/31 Edith Roe

### Our feeble prayers, our Father's response

In *He Still Moves Stones*, Max Lucado recalls the story of Derek Redmond, a 1992 Olympic competitor in the 400-meter race. Halfway through Redmond's semifinal run, a torn hamstring sent him tumbling to the ground. His dad, Jim, immediately ran onto the track. He met up with Derek, who, though crying, had managed to stand and was hopping forward.

"You don't have to do this," Jim said. But Derek insisted. "Well, then, we're going to finish this together," said Jim, who supported his son as he hobbled to the finish line. The crowd cheered and wept as Derek, with Dad's assistance, finished the race.

Lucado writes: "What made the father do it? ... Was it the strength of his child? No, it was the pain of his child. ... God does the same. Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."

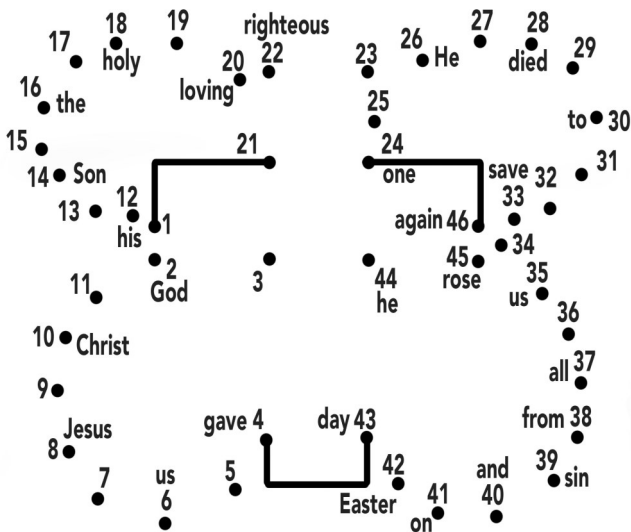
God has been generous to us in many ways. We believe that sharing these gifts in His name is a tangible way of expressing one's faith. As active Christians, we are called to give generously to assist our neighbors through our time, talents and treasures. If you are not able to attend services in-person, but still want to send offerings to the church; this can be done by mailing offerings to the church or by using Tithely.

The direct link to our Tithely account is <https://tithely.com/give?c=1747825>



# Puzzle!

Connect the dots to find two symbols of Easter. Then write the words in the correct blanks to complete an Easter poem.



2	4	6	8	10	12	14	
16	18	20	22	24			
26	28	30	33	35	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	

Answer: God gave us Jesus Christ, his Son, the holy, loving, righteous one. He died to save us all from sin, and on Easter day he rose again.



**Lenten Wednesday Evenings:  
Dinner and  
a Movie!  
5:15 pm at Grace Lutheran**

**March 6 - 60 Minutes: Holy Places-Mount Athos  
in Greece**

**March 13- Lost Worlds: Crucifixion Mysteries  
Explored**

**March 20-Timeline: Pontius Pilate, The Man  
Who Killed Christ**

**On Wednesday evenings, we will gather at Grace Lutheran Church at 5:15 pm. A simple soup supper will be available. Anyone interested in providing a crockpot of soup for one of the evenings is encouraged to be in touch with Pastor Moyers. Additional side items, especially bread, are also invited.**

**After our session with Dinner and Movie, around 6:25pm, the night prayer office called "Compline," which lasts about 15 minutes, will be prayed either in the main church or in the Good Shepherd Chapel, depending on the evening.**



**First Day of Spring  
March 19, 2024**





# THIS MONTH USHERS



## Tellers

## Ushers

March 3	Donnie Davis and Keith Davis
March 10	Hayden and Lyn Hollingsworth
March 17	Lee Heinsohn and Lee Moore
March 24	Kathy Barletta and Susan Behrens
March 28	Lee Heinsohn and Lee Moore
March 29	Help Needed
March 31	Help Needed
March 31	Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth

March 3	Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth
March 10	Debbie Dudrow and Donna Stevens
March 17	Lee Heinsohn and Lee Moore
March 24	Kathy Barletta and Susan Behrens
March 28	NA
March 29	NA
March 31	Not Needed at Sunrise Service
March 31	Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth



## Communion Assistants



## Acolytes

March 3	Joshua Lewis
March 10	Declan Corley
March 17	Corey Fisher
March 24	Couper Barletta
March 28	Help Needed
March 29	Help Needed
March 31	Sunrise
March 31	Joshua Lewis



## Communion Assistants

March 3	Addison Rice
March 17	Preston Rickwood
March 31	Gavin Corley

March 3	Betty Jean Mumford
March 10	Robert Saathoff
March 17	Bobbie Leaverton
March 24	Fred Meers
March 28	Bobbie Leaverton
March 29	NA
March 31	Help Needed
March 31	Henry Hollingsworth

## Lectors

March 3	Debbie Dudrow
March 10	Donna Stevens
March 17	Betty Jean Mumford
March 24	Robert Saathoff
March 28	Robert Saathoff
March 29	Bobbie Leaverton/Robert and Barbara Saathoff
March 31	Help Needed
March 31	Debbie Dudrow



## March

**Bobbie Leaverton**

**Peggy Boyce**

Pastor	Jonathon Moyers	304 400-5379	revjmoyers@gmail.com
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Vice President/Property	Darian Sump	410 924-7876	dsump@sumpassociates.com
Treasurer	Debbie Dudrow	410 924-8368	rdudrow@verizon.net
Secretary	Lyn Hollingsworth	410 714-3876	laph@goeaston.net
Financial Secretary	Donna Stevens	410 310-2107	dstevens62@icloud.com
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**MARCH 10, 2024**

*One intriguing person in the Passion account is the thief on the cross whom Jesus promised a same-day entrance to paradise (see Luke 23:43). Pastor and radio host Alistair Begg says he can't wait to meet that man and ask how everything unfolded. "You were cussing [Jesus] out with your friend," Begg says. "You've never been in a Bible study. You've never been baptized. You didn't know a thing about church membership, and yet you made it!"*

*In a sermon, Begg pictures an imaginary angel at the pearly gates, growing frustrated during the sinful thief's entrance interview. After receiving no clear answers from the thief about doctrines such as justification, the angel finally asks, "On what basis are you here?" The thief simply replies, "The man on the middle cross said I can come."*

For Christ also suffered once for sins,  
*the righteous for the unrighteous,*  
 to bring you to God.  
*He was put to death in the body*  
 but made alive in the Spirit.  
 1 PETER 3:18, NIV



# What is Holy Week?

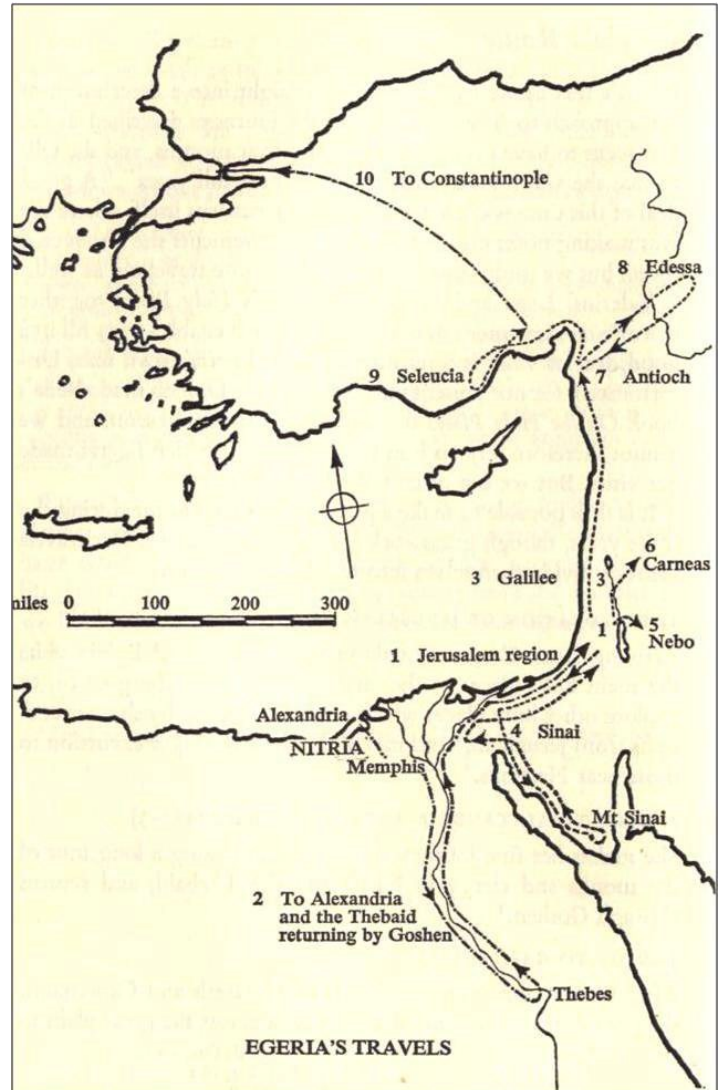
*A Journey Back in Time to Follow Jesus to the Cross and the Empty Tomb*

To someone who has not experienced them before, the worship services – called “liturgies” – of Holy Week may seem like something odd or exotic, hearkening from a place thousands of miles away and from a time centuries ago. That observation would be correct! We wave palms, hear Scripture lessons that seem almost haunting, strip the altar, venerate the Cross, and even have a liturgy that begins with lighting a fire! When we celebrate the fullness of liturgies, the Holy Thursday liturgy, commonly called Maundy, includes the washing of feet. These are not our normal experiences. Much to the contrary, they signal that the followers of Jesus are entering into a very special time in the Christian year.

For just a moment, let’s travel back in time to about the year 380. A Spanish woman named Egeria leaves her homeland and makes a very long pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way, she visits places like Mount Sinai and Constantinople. However, the largest portion of her journey, three years, is spent in Jerusalem, during the time that Saint Cyril was bishop in that city.

While in Jerusalem, Egeria takes volumes of notes on what she observes and addresses these notes, or this diary, to her “dear ladies” or “sisters.” Some believe that Egeria’s address to her sisters meant that she was a nun and addressed her notes to her spiritual companions in her community. Others believe that Egeria was a woman of substantial wealth, thus able to travel – and that she addressed her notes to other wealthy women in her region.

Thanks to this woman named Egeria, we have an ancient snapshot of how our ancestors in faith celebrated the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus! In her diary, Egeria notes the Palm Sunday procession, the Maundy Thursday liturgy, the All Night Vigil recreating Jesus’ agony in Gethsemane, the entirety of Good Friday, and the excitement of the Great Vigil of Easter. This means that all of the services noted in the Lenten brochure are of ancient origin, handed down to us through the centuries, having gained universal acceptance by the late 300s. In Holy Week, just like the Christians in every century before us, we enter into the very footsteps of Christ, following him from his entrance into Jerusalem, to the Upper Room, to Gethsemane, to the Cross, to the tomb, and to Resurrection.





Palm Sunday-Our Lord's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem (March 24)  
Holy Eucharist  
8:45am at St. Paul's & 10:45am at Grace

Holy Monday-Jesus Cleanses the Temple (March 25)  
Vespers (Evening Prayer)  
5:00pm at Grace

Holy Tuesday-Jesus Curses the Fig Tree (March 26)  
Matins (Morning Prayer)  
8:30am at St. Paul's

Holy Wednesday-Judas Iscariot Plots with the Sanhedrin (March 27)  
Holy Eucharist  
12:00 Noon at Grace

Maundy Thursday-Jesus in the Upper Room (March 28)  
Holy Eucharist  
7:00pm at St. Paul's  
All-Night Vigil  
Beginning at 10pm at St. Paul's  
following until Matins (Morning Prayer) at 7:00am Friday

Good Friday-Christ gives himself on the hard wood of the cross for our salvation (March 29)  
The Seven Last Words of Christ Devotion  
12:00 Noon at Grace  
The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday  
2:15pm at Grace  
The Evening Liturgy of Good Friday  
7:00pm at St. Paul's

Holy Saturday-This is the night! (March 30)  
The Great Vigil of Easter  
8:00pm at Grace

Easter Sunday-The Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord (March 31)  
Sunrise Service with the New Fire  
6:00am at St. Paul's  
The Festival Eucharist of Easter Day  
8:45am at St. Paul's  
10:45am at Grace

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Cordova MD 21625  
Return Service Requested

Worship Service Begins at 8:45 am  
Please inform the church office of any  
changes in your personal information:  
Address, phone number, marriage or  
divorce, or new births so that we  
can keep our records up-to-date.

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