

Gospel: John 12:1-8

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

Psalm 126

¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. ² Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' ³ The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. ⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. ⁵ May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. ⁶ Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Pray for these we know to be in need of resolution, healing, support and comfort:



The Cisneros family; Ivy & John Conklin; Austin Marsh; Ewalani Odachi; Brian Kurihara; George Aspeitia; Jim Gagne; Ed Sais; Carol & Larry Sullivan; Celia Torres; Hazel Booth; Aki Fukui; Lily Fukui; Karri Padilla; Susan and Gene Ramirez; Margarete Schwall; Millie Powell; Mai Madrigal and her family; Phil Stanton; Meher Montessori School; and all who are sick from COVID-19 in our nation and across the globe; for all businesses who are reopening to full capacity; for those who are struggling with returning to normalcy financially, emotionally, or mentally; for those who face discrimination; and for our country, our military and first responders. Bless all who prepare for and lead us in worship during this Season of Lent and all who contribute to our worship life here at St. Paul's; watch over those who are affected by the war in Ukraine. May all families be reunited and let there be a peaceful resolution.

Birthdays in April:

- Jennifer Cortez (April 8)
- Carol Sullivan (April 25)
- Maxine Miller (April 29)



Fifth Sunday in Lent April 3, 2022

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Sunday Service at 9:30AM

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Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

We are happy to be open for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am.

While LA County has formally rescinded the masking order as of 3/4/22, masks are still being recommended for use in public settings, such as our worship space. For the safety of our at-risk members and our current visiting pastor, please wear a mask and maintain social distancing for the time being.

If you have forgotten a mask, we do have extras, in both adult and kid sizes, in the Narthex.

News and Needs

- **The Lord's Supper**, our sharing of the bread and wine as Jesus invites us to do, is open to all who accept the presence of Jesus in this simple meal. Jesus comes to us with forgiveness independently of our human understanding. We continue to use pre-filled communion chalices for a sanitary, safe, and traditional communion experience. We rejoice in our opportunity to join together in praise and thanksgiving to God. Newcomers among us are invited to participate in every aspect of our worship. Any questions? Please ask.
 - **Thank you once again to Pr. David Berkedal** and his family for presiding over our services and worshipping with us. If you would like to hear more of his sermons, Pr. Berkedal and his wife, Rev. Sally run a YouTube channel called "Streams of Living Water" which can be found at the following link: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB7KnYS1bpHKaL2OseQWCnw>), and a blog (<http://pastorberkedalsblog.blogspot.com/>).
 - **Thank you to everyone who donated and helped prepare the Care Packages as part of our Lenten Project.** It was a great experience and we hope to have more projects like this in the future. If you have any events or projects you would like support on, please call or email Elizabeth and she will spread the word for you.
 - **Coffee Hour resumes on Easter Sunday!** Join us for refreshments & fellowship immediately following the morning service on Sunday, April 17th. The lounge will be open and ventilated. Or, take your coffee, snacks and conversation out to the front porch and enjoy our beautiful spring flowers!
-  **Bring Easter Lilies to beautify our worship space for Easter Sunday!** A bulletin insert is provided for you if you would like to bring a lily in honor of or in memory of someone. Please either leave your completed sheet with Jo Anne Mitchell or Jean Sais, or bring it by during office hours so Elizabeth can make a note of your donation.
- **Hearts of Montebello is holding an "Easter Senior Pillow Drive"** at Polly's Pies parking lot on the following dates: Wednesday April 6, 5PM-6:30PM & Sunday April 10th, 3PM-5PM. They are looking for donations to make Easter Baskets for seniors and have a Wishlist which includes pillows, bunny plushies, and healthy snacks. For a complete list of items, please see the flyer on our Community bulletin board.
 - **City of Monterey Park's Spring Egg Hunt** will be held on April 14th from 5PM-7PM at Barnes Park and will include games in addition to the egg hunt. Entry to the event is free. For more information, please call 626-307-1388.

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

⁴ even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, * the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ * and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; * but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, * I do not consider that I have made it my own; * but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly * call of God in Christ Jesus.

Prayer of the Day

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Lenten Study - Week 5: A Way in the Wilderness - which extends today's lessons and provides reflection questions. Copies of the study materials are on the table in the Narthex. Let Elizabeth know if you'd like a digital copy.



St. Paul's sanctuary will be open for quiet prayer and meditation **from 3 pm - 5 pm on Good Friday, April 15, 2022.** All are welcome! (Quiet music will be playing.)



Easter Vigil in Pasadena: The Southwest California Synod's *Foothill Conference* invites you to join their 2022 **Easter Vigil on April 16, 7 pm at Trinity, Pasadena, Bishop Bos presiding. Join with us for this solemn and joyous celebration!** Anyone wishing to car pool to this event may contact Elizabeth in our church office, who can help coordinate rides.