



St. Paul Lutheran Church

9:30a Service of Worship

Pastor ~ Reverend Ashley Nicolls

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany | February 8, 2026

May God's grace continue to overflow to and through you.

Assisting In Worship

Assisting Minister

Irene Felicetti

Reader
Carolyn Masters

Acolyte
Kellen Masse

Sound
Rick Barry
Mike Scherr

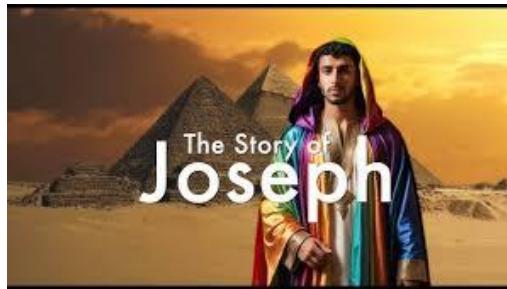
Camera Operator
Sue Scherr

Screen Operator
Mike Scherr

Ushers
Judy Roberts &
Kathie Snyder

Greeter
Hank Roberts

Church Security
TBD



Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church!

We hope you will use this bulletin during the week to have a song to sing, prayers to pray and give comfort, whether you are worshipping in person or from home on your electronic devices.

Although not all of us are physically together to worship, our Lord is still with us. We give thanks for those who attend in-person and the technology that allows us to share the bulletin and the worship service on the website.

St. Paul has a Community Prayer Cross located outside near the road. You are welcome to leave a prayer request there or in the box when you enter, and it will be placed on the cross.

Important community ministries of St. Paul include the Tuesday Community Meal, Saturday Food Pantry, and the Early Childhood Learning Center. Your financial gift makes a difference for Christ and His kingdom and enables St. Paul to be *the community church that cares*. It can be made by online giving, on Sunday morning, mailed to the church, or dropped off during normal office hours
- Monday-Friday • 9a-12noon.

May God bless you and give you peace!

Pre-Service Song ~ We Are the Church

Refrain



We are the church, the body of our Lord;



we are all God's children. We have been re-stored.



1 The church is not a build - ing
2 You can go to wor - ship
3 The church is not a busi - ness,
4 The church, it is the peo - ple



but where people go to pray;
but you can - not go to church;
a com - mit - tee or a board;
lives, a their



it's not made out of sticks and stones,
you can't find a build - ing that's a - live
it's not a cor - por - a - tion for
called, en - light - ened, a sanc - ti - fied

Refrain



it's not made out of clay.
no mat - ter how you search.
the busi - ness of the Lord.
for the work of Je - sus Christ.

Text: Jay Beech
Music: THE CHURCH SONG, Jay Beech

Text and music © 1988 Jay Beech

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Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God” – Arr. By Matt Limbaugh – Fonda Davies

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the \div Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Response: Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Response: Amen.**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (pause for self-reflection)

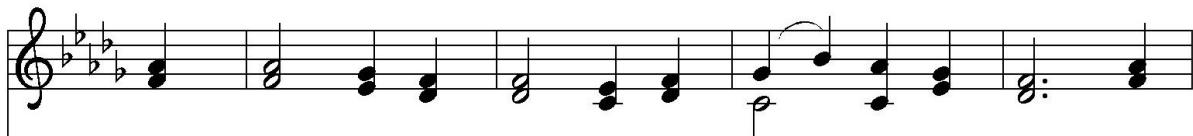
Pastor: Most merciful God,

Response: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Response: Amen.

Gathering Hymn ~ *When Peace Like a River*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888
 Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Lord God,

Response: with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Ministry in MUSIC

“Come, Now is the Time to Worship” - Doerksen - The St Paul Singers

Children's Message ~ Esther Smith

Scripture ~ Genesis 37:1-8, 12-14a, 17b-20, 26-28; 39:1-6a

¹ Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ² These are the descendants of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him. ⁵ Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. ⁶ He said to them, "Listen to this dream that I dreamed. ⁷ There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." ⁸ His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words.

¹² Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." ¹⁴ So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, ¹⁷ The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸ They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹ They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." ²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed.

²⁸ When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt. ¹ Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there.

² The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³ His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hands. ⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him; he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. ⁵ From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶ So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Scripture ~ Genesis 39:6-21a; 40:1-3, 5, 8-9, 12-16, 18-23

⁶ So Potipher left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and with him there he had no concern for anything but the food that he ate. Now Joseph was handsome and good-looking. ⁷ And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." ⁸ But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, with me here, my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my hand. ⁹ He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" ¹⁰ And although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not consent to lie beside her or to be with her.

¹¹ One day, however, when he went into the house to do his work, and while no one else was in the house, ¹² she caught hold of his garment, saying, "Lie with me!" But he left his garment in her hand and fled and ran outside. ¹³ When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside, ¹⁴ she called out to the members of her household and said to them, "See, my husband has brought among us a Hebrew to insult us! He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice, ¹⁵ and when he heard me raise my voice and cry out, he left his garment beside me and fled outside." ¹⁶ Then she kept his garment by her until his master came home, ¹⁷ and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to insult me, ¹⁸ but as soon as I raised my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled outside." ¹⁹ When his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, saying, "This is the way your servant treated me," he became enraged. ²⁰ And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; he remained there in prison.

²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love; he gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.

¹ Some time after this, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker offended their lord the king of Egypt. ² Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, ³ and he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined. ⁵ One night they both dreamed—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt who were confined in the prison—each his own dream and each dream with its own meaning. ⁸ They said to him, “We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them.” And Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me.”

¹² Then Joseph said to him, “This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days; ¹³ within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh’s cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. ¹⁴ But remember me when it is well with you; please do me the kindness to make mention of me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this place. ¹⁵ For in fact I was stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should have put me into the dungeon.”

¹⁶ When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, “I also had a dream: there were three cake baskets on my head, ¹⁸ And Joseph answered, “This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days; ¹⁹ within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head—from you!—and hang you on a pole, and the birds will eat the flesh from you.”

²⁰ On the third day, which was Pharaoh’s birthday, he made a feast for all his servants and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. ²¹ He restored the chief cupbearer to his cupbearing, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh’s hand, ²² but the chief baker he hanged, just as Joseph had interpreted to them. ²³ Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph but forgot him.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

SCRIPTURE ~ Genesis 41:1-14a, 15-16, 25-41, 46-47, 53-42:2, 6-9a, 10-11, 13, 15-24

¹ After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, ² and there came up out of the Nile seven sleek and fat cows, and they grazed in the reed grass. ³ Then seven

other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile.⁴ The ugly and thin cows ate up the seven sleek and fat cows. And Pharaoh awoke.⁵ Then he fell asleep and dreamed a second time; seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk.⁶ Then seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them.⁷ The thin ears swallowed up the seven plump and full ears. Pharaoh awoke, and it was a dream.⁸ In the morning his spirit was troubled, so he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

⁹ Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, “I remember my faults today.¹⁰ Once Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard.¹¹ We dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own meaning.¹² A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each according to his dream.¹³ As he interpreted to us, so it turned out; I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged.”

¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was hurriedly brought out of the dungeon.¹⁵ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.”¹⁶ Joseph answered Pharaoh, “It is not I; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.”¹⁷ Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “Pharaoh’s dreams are one and the same; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.¹⁸ The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one.¹⁹ The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, as are the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind. They are seven years of famine.²⁰ It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do.²¹ There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt.²² After them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; the famine will consume the land.²³ The plenty will no longer be known in the land because of the famine that will follow, for it will be very grievous.²⁴ And the doubling of Pharaoh’s dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about.

²⁵ Now therefore let Pharaoh select a man who is discerning and wise and set him over the land of Egypt.²⁶ Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plenteous years.²⁷ Let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and lay up grain under the authority of Pharaoh

for food in the cities, and let them keep it.³⁶ That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to befall the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine.”³⁷ The proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants.

³⁸ Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find anyone else like this, one in whom is the spirit of God?”³⁹ So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has shown you all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you.⁴⁰ You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command; only with regard to the throne will I be greater than you.”⁴¹ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.”⁴⁶ Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt.

⁴⁷ During the seven plenteous years the earth produced abundantly.⁵³ The seven years of plenty that prevailed in the land of Egypt came to an end,⁵⁴ and the seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in every country, but throughout the land of Egypt there was bread.⁵⁵ When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph; what he says to you, do.”⁵⁶ And since the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt.⁵⁷ Moreover, all the world came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine became severe throughout the world.

¹ When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why do you keep looking at one another? ² I have heard,” he said, “that there is grain in Egypt; go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die.”⁶ Now Joseph was governor over the land; it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph’s brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground.⁷ When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke harshly to them. “Where do you come from?” he said. They said, “From the land of Canaan to buy food.”

⁸ Although Joseph had recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. ⁹ Joseph also remembered the dreams that he had dreamed about them. He said to them, “You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land!”¹⁰ They said to him, “No, my lord; your servants have come to buy food.¹¹ We are all sons of one man; we are honest men; your servants have never been spies.”¹³ They said, “We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of a certain man in the land of Canaan; the youngest, however, is now with our father, and one is no more.” [Joseph replied,]¹⁵ Here is how you shall be tested: as Pharaoh lives,

you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here! ¹⁶ Let one of you go and bring your brother, while the rest of you remain in prison, in order that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you, or else, as Pharaoh lives, surely you are spies.” ¹⁷ And he put them all together in prison for three days.

¹⁸ On the third day Joseph said to them, “Do this and you will live, for I fear God: ¹⁹ if you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here where you are imprisoned. The rest of you shall go and carry grain for the famine of your households ²⁰ and bring your youngest brother to me. Thus your words will be verified, and you shall not die.” And they agreed to do so.

²¹ They said to one another, “Alas, we are paying the penalty for what we did to our brother; we saw his anguish when he pleaded with us, but we would not listen. That is why this anguish has come upon us.” ²² Then Reuben answered them, “Did I not tell you not to wrong the boy? But you would not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood.” ²³ They did not know that Joseph understood them, since he spoke with them through an interpreter. ²⁴ He turned away from them and wept; then he returned and spoke to them. And he picked out Simeon and had him bound before their eyes.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Scripture ~ Genesis 42:26, 29, 38—43:5, 15, 27-30

²⁶ They loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed. ²⁹ When they came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying, ³⁸ But he said, “My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he alone is left. If harm should come to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol.”

¹ Now the famine was severe in the land. ² And when they had eaten up the grain that they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, “Go again; buy us a little more food.” ³ But Judah said to him, “The man solemnly warned us, saying, ‘You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.’ ⁴ If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food, ⁵ but if you will not send him, we will not go down, for the man said to us, ‘You shall not see my face, unless your brother is with you.’ ”

They went on their way down to Egypt and stood before Joseph. ²⁷ He inquired about their welfare and said, “Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?”

²⁸ They said, "Your servant our father is well; he is still alive." And they bowed their heads and did obeisance. ²⁹ Then he looked up and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me? God be gracious to you, my son!" ³⁰ With that, Joseph hurried out, because he was overcome with affection for his brother, and he was about to weep. So he went into a private room and wept there.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Scripture ~ Genesis 44:1-6, 9, 11-45:1, 3-5, 7-11a, 13-15, 25-28

¹ Then [Joseph] commanded the steward of his house, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the top of his sack. ² Put my cup, the silver cup, in the top of the sack of the youngest, with his money for the grain." And he did as Joseph told him.

³ As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away with their donkeys. ⁴ When they had gone only a short distance from the city, Joseph said to his steward, "Go, follow after the men, and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you returned evil for good? Why have you stolen my silver cup? ⁵ Is it not from this that my lord drinks? Does he not indeed use it for divination? You have done wrong in doing this.'" ⁶ When he overtook them, he repeated these words to them. [One of the brothers said:] ⁹"Should it be found with any one of your servants, let him die; moreover, the rest of us will become my lord's slaves." ¹¹ Then each one quickly lowered his sack to the ground, and each opened his sack. ¹² He searched, beginning with the eldest and ending with the youngest, and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

¹³ At this they tore their clothes. Then each one loaded his donkey, and they returned to the city. ¹⁴ Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house while he was still there, and they fell to the ground before him. ¹⁵ Joseph said to them, "What deed is this that you have done? Do you not know that one such as I can practice divination?"

¹⁶ And Judah said, "What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? How can we clear ourselves? God has found out the guilt of your servants; here we are then, my lord's slaves, both we and also the one in whose possession the cup has been found."

¹⁷ But he said, "Far be it from me that I should do so! Only the one in whose possession the cup was found shall be my slave, but as for you, go up in peace to your father."

¹⁸ Then Judah stepped up to [Joseph] and said, “O my lord, let your servant please speak a word in my lord’s ears, and do not be angry with your servant, for you are like Pharaoh himself. ¹⁹ My lord asked his servants, saying, ‘Have you a father or a brother?’ ²⁰ And we said to my lord, ‘We have a father, an old man, and a young brother, the child of his old age. His brother is dead; he alone is left of his mother’s children, and his father loves him.’ ²¹ Then you said to your servants, ‘Bring him down to me, so that I may set my eyes on him.’ ²² We said to my lord, ‘The boy cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.’ ²³ Then you said to your servants, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.’ ²⁴ When we went back to your servant my father we told him the words of my lord. ²⁵ And when our father said, ‘Go again; buy us a little food,’ ²⁶ we said, ‘We cannot go down. Only if our youngest brother goes with us will we go down, for we cannot see the man’s face unless our youngest brother is with us.’ ²⁷ Then your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife bore me two sons; ²⁸ one left me, and I said, Surely he has been torn to pieces, and I have never seen him since. ²⁹ If you take this one also from me and harm comes to him, you will bring down my gray hairs in sorrow to Sheol.’

³⁰ Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father and the boy is not with us, then, as his life is bound up in the boy’s life, ³¹ when he sees that the boy is not with us, he will die, and your servants will bring down the gray hairs of your servant our father with sorrow to Sheol. ³² For your servant became surety for the boy to my father, saying, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, then I will bear the blame in the sight of my father all my life.’ ³³ Now therefore, please let your servant remain as a slave to my lord in place of the boy, and let the boy go back with his brothers. ³⁴ For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the suffering that would come upon my father.”

¹ Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who

sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.'

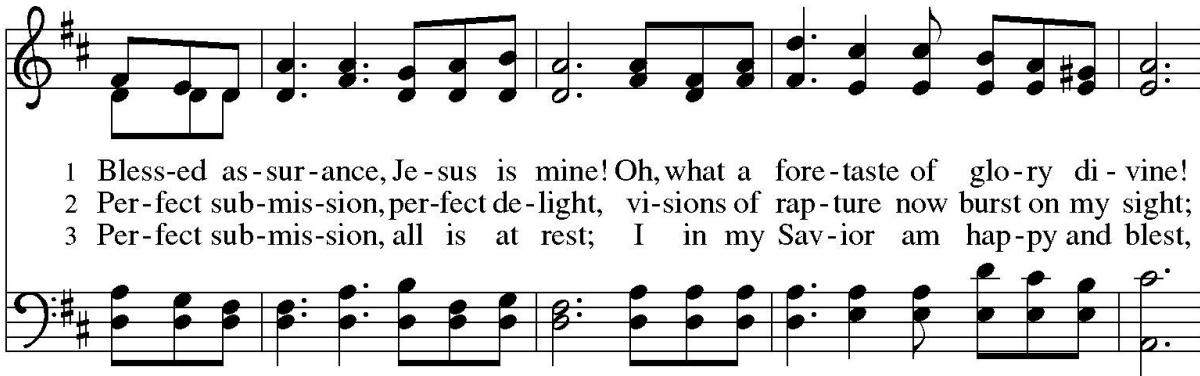
¹³ You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

²⁵ So they went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. ²⁶ And they told him, "Joseph is still alive! He is even ruler over all the land of Egypt." He was stunned; he could not believe them. ²⁷ But when they told him all the words of Joseph that he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. ²⁸ Israel said, "Enough! My son Joseph is still alive. I must go and see him before I die."

Word of God. Word of Life. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Hymn of the Day ~ *Blessed Assurance*



The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in common time and use a key signature of two sharps. The treble staff has a melody line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass staff provides harmonic support with sustained notes and chords. The music is divided into three stanzas, each with three lines of lyrics.

1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine!
2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of rap - ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav - ior am hap - py and blest,



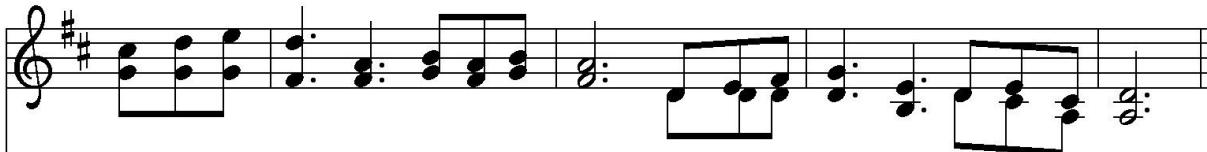
Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.



Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Prayers of the Church

Assisting Minister: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

(pause for silence)

Assisting Minister: Your church does ministry in many and various ways.

Response: Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world.

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response: Receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Your marvelous creation cries out to you.

Response: Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth.

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response: Receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence.

Response: Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones. We pray for our enemies.

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response: Receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Your blessings are poured out for all in need.

Response: Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving.

Assisting Minister: Be especially with those we name now aloud or in our hearts. (pause)

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response: Receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries.

Response: Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ.

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response: Receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet.

Response: We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love.

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response: Receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Response: Amen.**

The Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always. **Response: And also with you.**

Offering

(The collection plates will be brought forward at this time. Offering plates can still be found at the back of the sanctuary if you did not place your offering in the plates when you entered. Online giving at www.stpaulsarasota.org is also available.)

Offering Song ~ We are an Offering



We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an



of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our



lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,

all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you.

we are an offering, we are an offering.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957

Music: Dwight Liles

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OFFERING
PM

Offering Prayer

Assisting Minister: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Response: Amen.**

Spiritual Communion Prayer

Pastor: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in this most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Holy Communion

(Those who want to partake of Christ's body and blood in their in their seats may lift up their elements at this time).

Pastor: 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Response: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your love and teach us to pray.

Response: 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.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Those who wish to remain at their seats to partake of Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine/grape juice may do so now. The body and blood of Christ is given and shed for you. Take and eat. Take and drink. If you wish to come to the altar, you may do so at the ushers' direction.

Communion MUSIC ~ *In a Bulb There is Flower*



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap-ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - 'ry si - lence, seek-ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid-den prom-ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - 'ry dark-ness, bring-ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty;

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys-ter - y,
 in our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un-re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some-thing God a-lone can see.

Text: Natalie Sleeth

Music: HYMN OF PROMISE, Natalie Sleeth

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Post Communion Blessing

Pastor: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace now and forever. **Response: Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Assisting Minister: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Response: Amen.**

Blessing

Pastor: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise  bless you now and forever. **Response: Amen.**

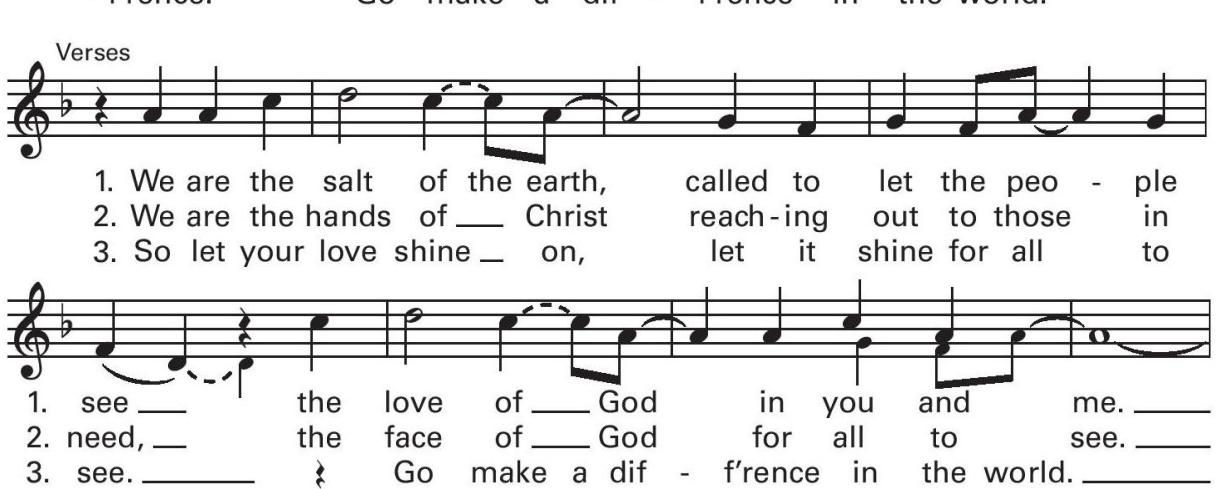
Sending Hymn ~ Go Make a Difference

Refrain



Go make a dif - f'rence. We can make a dif - f'rence.
Go make a dif - f'rence in the world.
Go make a dif - f'rence.
We can make a dif - f'rence.
Go make a dif - f'rence in the world.

Veres



1. We are the salt of the earth, called to let the people
2. We are the hands of Christ reaching out to those in
3. So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to
1. see the love of God in you and me.
2. need, the face of God for all to see.
3. see. Go make a dif - f'rence in the world.

1. We are the light of the world, not to be hid - den but be
 2. We are the spir - it of hope; & we are the voice of
 3. And the spir - it of Christ will be with us as we

1. seen. Go make a dif - f'rence in the world.
 2. peace. Go make a dif - f'rence in the world.
 3. go. Go make a dif - f'rence in the world.

to Refrain

Text: Based on Matthew 5:13-16. Text and music © 1997, Steve Angrisano and Thomas N. Tomaszek.
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Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

Children: And all God's children say, **Response: Amen. Yes!**

Postlude

"Carillon Toccata" - Douglas Wagner – Fonda Davies

Coffee & Social Hour is held in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

Flowers are given this week by: George and Marilyn Hutfilz in honor of our 62nd wedding anniversary and Doris Schlotterback's 93rd birthday.

Attendance for last Sunday: 73 in-person; 188 views online. (2/2/26)

ST. PAUL MISSION STATEMENT

As a Holy Spirit-led family of God, we are called through baptism to proclaim and bear witness to God's reconciling grace in Jesus Christ to all so that by joyfully sharing God's Word and encouraging each other to service for the sake of others, our lives together make a difference for Christ and His kingdom.

Please remember in your prayers...

All those serving in the U.S. Military, especially Gage Fournier. The homeless in our neighborhood, our city, our nation and the world. The Florida-Bahamas Synod Office of the Bishop Staff: Bishop Pedro, Assisting Ministers to the Bishop Pastors Carlos, Derek, Nicole, and Rob, Specialists Kim, Bill, & Brittney, Support Staff Tina, Yuliet, & Ileana.

SURE – Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity. Community Meal and Food Pantry guests. Prayers upon the HOPE Community Prayer Cross. The Arlington Park Neighborhood.

St. Paul members, especially, Carolyn Mele, Pr. Fred Melton, Addison, Emilee, J.D. and Tonia Miller

St. Paul Early Childhood Learning Center families and teachers, especially Grant, Callahan, Marley, Ms. Tiffany & Ms. Susie

Members	Sandi Acevedo – sister-in-law of Acevedo Jesus Alegria – niece-in-law of Sandy Tull Reyna Alegria – niece-in-law of Sandy Tull Kareem Ali – friend of Fred Melton Clinton Allen – friend of Jim Paulsson Laura Anderson – niece of Roberts Sheryl Brandes – sister-in-law of Sue Scherr Buete and Pearson family – family of Brian McCulley Caroline Burmaster – sister-in-law of Susan Burmaster Todd Couch – son of Sandy Choquette Mike Cunningham – friend of H. Roberts Fonda Davies – Director of Music Ministries David Eller – friend of Carolyn Mele John and Joy Emanuelli – friends of Roberts Gladys Faraone – friend of H. Roberts Tony Felicetti – brother of Irene Felicetti Bill & Vickie Hall – family of Fonda Davies Niklaus Heisler – great-grandson of Irene Felicetti Katy Hernandev – niece of M. Acevedo Pr. John Hilficker – friend of Conrad Hellwege, Jr. Nicole Ketler – friend of Susan Burmaster Kate Kretschmann – family of L. Lindemann	Karen Kugler – friend of Marty Hillerich Jesse Lugo – brother of Jose Lugo David McCall – brother of J. Roberts Marsha McKinney – former member Becky Nobles – friend of Lindy Lindemann Linda and Jim Norris – family of Doris Schlotterback Karen Paulsson – sister of J. Paulsson Manny Ribas – friend of Cindy Schlotterback Anita Rose – friend of Irene Felicetti Claude Russell – uncle of T. Bateman Brian and Ken Schlotterback – sons of Doris Schlotterback Haley Schlotterback – granddaughter-in-law of Doris Schlotterback. Bill Schroeder – friend of Conrad Hellwege, Jr. Bethany Smith – daughter of B&B Smith Joyce Swartzbaugh – Former Member Natalie Smownton Boxx – great-granddaughter of Betty Smownton Noel Scott Studenwalt – nephew of B&B Smith Bill Sweeney – grandson of Marilyn and George Hutzilz Dan Torrence – friend of K. Snyder David Van Ness – brother of Missy Craig Elaine & Mark Vanderweight – friends of Jim Paulsson Andrea Waltje – friend of Irene Felicetti Curtis Weckwerth – cousin of Rich Weckwerth John and Janet Welther – family of Ethel Hamilton
Homebound Members		
Donna Casala Evelyn Gulliksen Lindy Lindemann Virginia McQuaig Michael Reiter Doris Schlotterback Carole Wilson		
Friends and Family		
Alice – friend of JoAnn Jordan Brad – brother of Cindy Paxton Debbie – friend of Scherrs Donnie – community meal guest Ed – friend of Sandy Choquette Jeff – community meal guest Mark – friend of M & D Hillerich MJ – friend of Ron Zimmerman Ryan – community meal guest Sharon – friend of Jane Schubert T.J and family. – community meal guest		

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

and Early Childhood Learning Center

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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The Rev. Don Hillerich, D.D. - Pastor Emeritus – djhillerich@yahoo.com

Executive Committee

JoAnn Jordan, President Judy Roberts, Vice President

George Hutfilz, Treasurer Bob Lariviere, Secretary

Congregation Council

Irene Felicetti

Bob Lariviere

Judy Roberts

George Hutfilz

Pr. Ashley Nicolls

Mike Scherr

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Esther Smith



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