



# THE EPISCOPAL MESSENGER

APRIL-MAY 2026

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Analyzing the Collect for the Second Sunday of Easter

*Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

This collect has been used by the church since approximately 600 AD when it was part of the Gregorian Sacramentary (altar book). When Thomas Cranmer published the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549, he used this collect for the Thursday of Easter Week. It is now used both for Easter Thursday and the Second Sunday of Easter.

The previous covenants between God and humanity were based on mutual promises and actions and the reality is, that in each case, humanity failed to live up to its promises. Paul in his letter to the Romans succinctly captured the dilemma, "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want but do the very thing I hate." I think I am safe in saying this has

been true for us and all our preceding generations.

The collect, as is traditional, comes in two parts. The first half focuses on a characteristic of God. In this case, through Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension, he paid the price for all our sins and put in place the covenant of reconciliation by restoring the broken relationship between God and humanity. The restoration was done entirely by God; we are then given the opportunity to accept this gracious gift.

The second half of the collect addresses our petition. In this case, we are asking God to give us the ability to demonstrate our faith by living lives worthy of this priceless gift we have been given. We can't earn our way into reconciliation with God, but we can express our gratitude by the way we live. – *Deacon Jim*



*Easter Sunday*



*Palm Sunday*



*Easter Vigil*



*Easter*



*Palm Sunday*



*Easter*



*Easter (Thanks Betsy and Dennis)*



*Easter Vigil*



*Easter*



*Mason and Wyatt Halye*



Easter



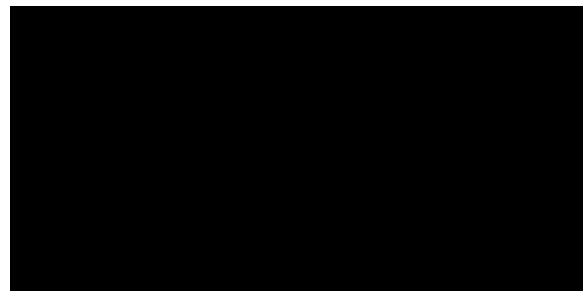
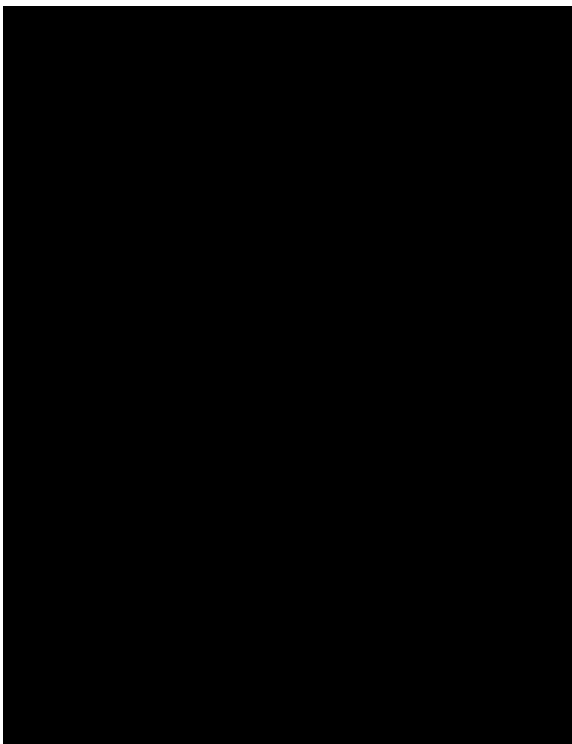
Easter



Easter



Easter



In Thanksgiving	Constantine
Their Lives	Betsy & Dennis
Family	Sandra
All My Family, present & past	Cindy
53 Years of Marriage	Ken & Karen
Linda & Bruce Candlish	Ken & Karen
Karen Roszel	Ken
Family	Victoria

# Kids' Sunday School

Our Kids' Sunday School has been learning about the stories of Moses since January, presently finishing with the Tabernacle (a Lego model) and the end of the wilderness journey for Israel. The Lego model will be in the upper parish hall for a few weeks, so take a look. This summer we'll do a study of the Fruit of the Spirit!

Kids' Sunday School for School-aged children meets on the **2nd and 4th Sundays** during the **10:30 a.m. service**, in the downstairs Parish Hall.



# Fig trees, Anyone?

By J.C.

A few years ago, Father Howie gave me a small jar of jam that he had canned. It was made from figs on the tree growing in the church yard. I learned that the tree produced figs almost every year and that they ripened around the time of the Bloomsburg Fair.



A few years later I started to grow some fig trees on my farm and took an interest in learning about fig trees and their propagation. I learned that there are varieties that can grow in our climate, sometimes even in the ground.

Often trees that grow in the Northeast will die back to the ground in winter and the roots will send up new growth. This is how the tree at St. Paul's grows.

Two years ago, I attempted to take cuttings from the tree at St. Paul's and get them to root and possibly sell the clones as a fundraiser. I was unsuccessful.

This past November I took more cuttings and tried a different method and was able to get them rooted and potted. I have 20 trees started in pots. Hopefully they can be sold at the Renaissance Jamboree and should be able to be sold for \$20 per tree.



If anyone has information about the origin of our fig tree, please let me know so it can be properly named. In the meantime, and in the fashion of naming unknown (UNK) fig varieties, I have called it *UNK St. Paul's Bloomsburg*.



*What is it? It is a way of faking out the carpenter bees, who think it is a wasp nest. (Courtesy of Victoria Wilcox)*

# Choir is woven into worship

As this newsletter reaches you in mid-April, we find ourselves just beyond the celebration of Easter - a season that, while marked by a single day, continues to unfold in the weeks that follow. The message of Easter remains ever-present: hope endures, light overcomes darkness, and new life emerges in ways both seen and unseen.

The music of Holy Week and Easter at St. Paul's sought to reflect this sacred journey from the quiet solemnity of the cross to the radiant joy of the resurrection. I am deeply grateful to the choir who offered their gifts so faithfully, enriching our worship and helping to proclaim the story of our faith in ways that transcend words.

As we move further into the Easter season and toward the fullness of spring, our music continues to reflect themes of renewal, promise, and the assurance of what is yet to come. One anthem we look forward to sharing in May is "*I Shall See*," arranged by Michael John Trotta. Rooted in a text of hope and quiet confidence, this piece speaks to the promise of seeing God more clearly; of moving from uncertainty into understanding, from waiting into fulfillment. It is a fitting musical reflection for this season, echoing the resurrection promise that what is not yet fully seen is nonetheless already unfolding.

Spring itself offers a similar witness. After a long season of stillness, the world begins to awaken - subtle at first, then unmistakable. In much the same way, our

faith invites us to trust in the slow and steady work of transformation.

As always, the choir remains an integral part of our worship life by leading hymns, supporting the liturgy, and offering anthems that deepen our connection to scripture and prayer. Their presence is not separate from worship, but woven into it, helping to shape the rhythm and spirit of our time together.

Looking for more musical opportunities? On April 19th at 2:00 p.m., join Carl Ruck and Alan for an afternoon piano and organ concert of "*Hymns & Classics*" at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. In addition, join the Jubilate Choir and Catawissa Military Band on May 17th at 3:00 p.m. for a special combined concert honoring the 250th anniversary of our nation, while also acknowledging the complexity of the times in which we live. The program will blend patriotic themes with a deeper call for peace, unity, and reflection. Both events are offered freely as an opportunity to gather, reflect, and be renewed through music. – *Dr. Alan, Music Director*



*It's 52 years for Bruce and Linda, and 53 years for Karen and Ken. Happy Anniversary!*

## Brass returns on May 3rd

The Brass Menagerie Brass Quintet returns to St. Paul's for a concert on Sunday, May 3rd at 4:00 p.m. Featuring works written specifically for the Brass Menagerie, including the world premiere of a new piece by California-based composer Thomas Candlish and favorites by the late Dr. Steven Wallace, the group will blend music written in a variety of styles, and by composers from the 17th to the 21st centuries. Additional composers represented on the program include J.S. Bach, Scott Joplin, George Gershwin, Samuel Scheidt, and John Cheetham.

Formed in 1983, the Brass Menagerie has been performing in venues throughout the Susquehanna Valley for over 40 years. It enjoys playing both classical and popular works and looks forward to sharing its music with the Bloomsburg community.

Admission to the concert is free. A freewill offering will be taken to support St. Paul's William Decker concert series.

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A newsletter for the parish family of

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Bloomsburg



## A really good course!

The Adult education classes are using the video series, *The Alpha Course*, through the Spring. This coming Saturday morning, April 18th, we will take a mini retreat at St. Paul's to focus on the Holy Spirit, his work in our lives and how to come into a closer relationship with this Helper and Comforter that Jesus promised to all believers.

If you have any questions, see Deacon Jim Jenkins or Susie Vollmer.

## 'Noisy' Collection

In April and May, the Noisy Collection at St. Paul's will go to the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard. If you do not have the opportunity to place your coins in the collection plate during Sunday services at the church, you may send a check and write "BFC" on the memo line.

# Priest Search Update

The Search Committee has worked diligently during the last three months to complete the Position Profile for St. Paul's Church. Our job opening was posted April 7<sup>th</sup> on VOCATION HUB, which is the Episcopal Church clergy deployment site and search platform. Our posting complies with the new template for all profiles as issued by the Episcopal National Church Office.

Tuesday evening gatherings will continue bi-weekly through the end of April. Beginning on May 5<sup>th</sup>, we will meet every Tuesday at 6 p.m. for food and fellowship. Tentatively planning a Cinco de Mayo theme for that evening.

Over the past months, I have been continually inspired by the faithfulness and generosity of our parish. Whether through worship, outreach, fellowship, or quiet acts of care, each of you contribute to the vibrant life of our church. Our shared commitment sustains not only our ministries but also the spirit of community that makes St. Paul's so meaningful.

Looking ahead, there are many opportunities to deepen our connection with God and with one another. I encourage you to take part in upcoming services, programs, and gatherings. Invite a friend, lend a hand, or simply make time to be present. Each step helps strengthen the fabric of our parish life.

Thank you for your continued support, your prayers, and your presence. It is a privilege to serve alongside you.

– Katherine, Senior Warden



# Outreach Report

## OOM Dessert Mission

The remaining dates for the 2026 February - June dessert mission schedule:

April 12 Cindy

May 10 Patty

June 14

April 26 Elaine & Mike

May 24

June 28 Patty



## Ways to Help at Renaissance Jamboree

**Saturday, April 25**

- Prepare strawberries: Strawberries will be in the kitchen on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. All you need to do is pick them up at St. Paul's, clean, slice, and return them to church refrigerators by Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at 5 pm. Prep directions are on the table next to sign-up sheets.
- Bake shortcake: Take a pan, which includes recipe and Crisco, bake it up according to the recipe (for "product standardization"), and bring it to the church by Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Work at St. Paul's booth: We would like to have 3 people for each hour + a backup person who can be called if a volunteer can't make it. Sign up in the back of the church so we know all time slots are covered.
- Donate funds to purchase strawberries – envelopes provided. Checks: St. Paul's Episcopal Church with Ren Jam on the memo line.

## Request for help: Event Poster Distribution

For many years St. Paul's has relied on community bulletin boards to share information about upcoming events, including special services, concerts, and fundraisers. Many locations, including Weis, Giant, Sheetz, and Dunkin' have done away with their community bulletin boards. Outreach currently distributes posters to AGAPE, Bloom Health & Fitness, Bloom Naturally, Bloomin' Bagels (Iron & Main location only), Bloomsburg Food Cupboard, Bloomsburg Post Office, Bloomsburg Public Library, Bloomsburg YMCA, Brewski's, Briar Creek Farm Market, Crest Haven Farm Market, Exchange, Laundromat (Market St.), Phillips Emporium, Root 11, Salvation Army, & Town Park.

We are looking for additional locations, so if you are willing to take posters to organizations/businesses you already frequent, but are not on our list, please let Outreach know!



## Rectory Cleanup

At 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 28th, eight brothers from Lambda Chi removed all the unnecessary items from the attic and the basement of the rectory. One team worked in the basement with Victoria, while the other team worked with Elaine in the attic. Bruce took two trailer loads to the Transfer Station (Heap's) in Millville, while Rachel took 2 carloads to Sal-Val. We did not get photos of Lambda in action because they cleared everything out in 25 minutes. However, here are two LCA members who rode to Millville with Bruce to unload and came back at St. Paul's to put the second load onto the trailer. We are grateful for our ongoing relationship with Lambda Chi.



## Pop-up Outreach Opportunity: April 12 - 26



In late March a CU student named Kendra reached out to St. Paul's regarding a project she is organizing through Blessing Backpacks. She is collecting new/gently used backpacks and several types of personal care items. The backpacks will be filled and distributed to local individuals who are unhoused.

Initially Kendra wanted St. Paul's to serve as a drop-off location for community donations. We are not a good choice; drop-offs need to have easy access, regular foot-traffic, and extensive hours of operation. We agreed to help her with a congregational Outreach collection from April 12- April 26. Given the short timeline, St. Paul's will only be collecting items from 3 categories: new/gently used backpacks; general hygiene products (soap, toothbrushes, deodorant, mouthwash, etc.), and feminine hygiene products (pads, tampons, cleansing cloths, etc.). Collection containers are in the Outreach area in the foyer. Also, check out the nice article from the Press-Enterprise about Kendra's mission.



The following report on the Thanksgiving for Community turkey dinner has been submitted by Alan, who chaired the project:

One hundred sixty-five takeout dinners were distributed at the church, while another 35 were taken to the veterans' home in Orangeville. Donations totaling \$1,116 was split between the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard and St. Paul's.

Thank you to everyone who was able to donate time, effort, food and money to help make the project a success.

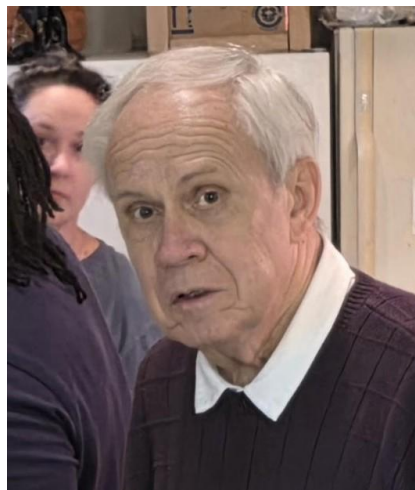


Photo by Alton!!

## IN OUR PRAYERS:

***O God of all mercy, look with favor on your servants who are in sickness, danger, sorrow or any other kind of trouble, especially:***

Abby \* Aiden \* Alan \* Alexis  
\* Allison \* Allyson \* Amber \*  
Andrew \* Angela \* Anne \*  
Becky \* Beth \* Billie \* Blaze  
\* Bob \* Brandi \* Brandon \*  
Bryan \* Caitlin \* Carol \*  
Cathy \* Christian \* Christina  
\* Cindy \* Connor \* Dan \*  
Daphne \* Dee \* Devon \*  
Doris \* Dorothy \* Ellen and  
her family \* Emily \* Ebert \*  
Emanuel \* Emily \* Erin \*  
Ethan \* Evie \* Frankie \*  
Gene \* Genny \* George \*  
Greg \* Hailey \* Harrison \*  
Helena \* Holly \* Howard \*  
Jackie \* Jamie \* Jane \*  
Janet \* Janice \* Jay \* Jean \*  
Jerry \* Jesse \* Jessica \* Jill  
\* Jim \* Joanne \* Joe \* John  
\* Jon \* Josh \* Judy \* Julie \*  
Karen \* Katie \* Kennedy \*  
Kiki \* Kim \* Krista \* Laurie \*  
Leslie \* Linda \* Ling \* Lori \*  
Lou \* Luann \* Lynn \* Maeve  
\* Maria \* Mariann \* Marie \*  
Mary \* Mary Beth \* Megan \*  
Meredith \* Michael \*  
Michelle \* Mike \* Nancy \*  
Nate \* Nina \* Pam \* Patty \*  
Paul \* Ralph \* Ray \*  
Rebecca \* Richard \* Rick \*  
Ronnie \* Rosemary \* Russ \*  
Ruth \* Scott \* Sean \* Simuel  
\* Steve \* Tasha \* Terry \*  
Tim \* Tina \* TJ \* Todd \*  
Van \* Victoria \* Vinny \*  
Wendy \* Wesley \* Willie \*  
Faisal and family in Bahrain \*  
Military personnel/families

# April/May Lectionary

## 4/19 – Third Sunday of Easter

- [Acts 2:14a,36-41](#)
- [1 Peter 1:17-23](#)
- [Luke 24:13-35](#)
- [Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17](#)

## 4/25 – St. Mark, Evangelist

- [Isaiah 52:7-10](#)
- [Ephesians 4:7-8,11-16](#)
- [Mark 1:1-15](#) or [Mark 16:15-20](#)
- [Psalm 2](#) or [2:7-10](#)

## 4/26 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

- [Acts 2:42-47](#)
- [1 Peter 2:19-25](#)
- [John 10:1-10](#)
- [Psalm 23](#)

## 5/1 – Saint Philip and Saint James

- [Isaiah 30:18-21](#)
- [2 Corinthians 4:1-6](#)
- [John 14:6-14](#)
- [Psalm 119:33-40](#)

## 5/3 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

- [Acts 7:55-60](#)
- [1 Peter 2:2-10](#)
- [John 14:1-14](#)
- [Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16](#)

## 5/10 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

- [Acts 17:22-31](#)
- [1 Peter 3:13-22](#)
- [John 14:15-21](#)
- [Psalm 66:7-18](#)

## 5/14 – Ascension Day

- [Acts 1:1-11](#)
- [Ephesians 1:15-23](#)
- [Luke 24:44-53](#)
- [Psalm 47](#) or [Psalm 93](#)

## 5/17 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

- [Acts 1:6-14](#)
- [1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11](#)
- [John 17:1-11](#)
- [Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36](#)

## 5/24 – Pentecost/Whitsunday

- [Acts 2:1-21](#) or [Numbers 11:24-30](#)
- [1 Corinthians 12:3b-13](#)
- or [Acts 2:1-21](#)
- [John 20:19-23](#) or [John 7:37-39](#)
- [Psalm 104:25-35, 37](#)

## 5/31 – Trinity Sunday

- [Genesis 1:1-2:4a](#)
- [2 Corinthians 13:11-13](#)
- [Matthew 28:16-20](#)
- [Psalm 8](#) or [Canticle 13](#) (or Canticle 2)