

# Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Church Office - 716-632-8221

[paulspals@gmail.com](mailto:paulspals@gmail.com)

Priest - The Rev. Jason M. Miller

[jason@stpaulsharrishill.org](mailto:jason@stpaulsharrishill.org)

[www.stpaulsharrishill.org](http://www.stpaulsharrishill.org)

## **March 8, 2026 - 10:00 AM Bulletin** **The Third Sunday in Lent & Confirmation**

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***Thank you for joining us today!***

*If you are new or visiting, please fill out a card from the pew and place it in the collection so that we may follow up.*

***Coffee and conversation take place after the service in the parish hall. Follow the hallway at the right front of the church to the right and past the kitchen.***



*There are three bathrooms located in the hallway between the church and the parish hall.*



*Please be advised that we livestream our church services online through various electronic means such as Facebook and YouTube. These broadcasts provide valuable information to visitors to our site and those planning to attend our services in person. We may use any recorded media in materials produced by and for our church.*



*Would you like to donate - but don't have cash or checks? Visit [www.stpaulsharrishill.org/give](http://www.stpaulsharrishill.org/give).*

***Congregational responses are in bold type.***

## ***Serving Today***

Officiant	The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane
Priest	The Rev. Jason M. Miller
Deacon	The Ven. Diana Leiker
Organist	Rob Boccaccio
Music Director	Kerrykate Abel
Readers	Gerri Garrard, Paul Mikulski
Acolytes	Emelia Brown, Colin Matthews

## ***Notices***

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## **Organ Prelude**

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*Please rise in body or in spirit and join in singing the Opening Hymn.*

# Opening Hymn

## ♪ Hymnal 511 – “Holy Spirit ever living”

1 Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er liv - ing as the Church's  
2 Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er work - ing through the Church's

ve - ry life; Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er striv - ing  
min - is - try; quick - ening, strength - ening, and ab - solv - ing,

through her in a cease - less strife; Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er  
set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free; Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er

form - ing in the Church the mind of Christ; thee we praise with  
bind - ing age to age, and soul to soul, in a fel - low -

end - less wor - ship for thy fruits and gifts un - priced.  
ship un - end - ing thee we wor - ship and ex - tol.

## Opening Acclamation

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*Bishop* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* **His mercy endures forever.**

*Bishop* There is one Body and one Spirit;

*People* **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

*Bishop* One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

*People* **One God and Father of all.**

## The Collect of the Day

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*Bishop* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Bishop* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## The First Reading

## Exodus 17:1-7

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From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children

and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Response**

## **Psalm 95**

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*Please remain seated and pray the Psalm responsively as indicated.*

Come, let us sing to the LORD;  
**let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
**and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

For the LORD is a great God,  
**and a great King above all gods.**

In his hand are the caverns of the earth,  
**and the heights of the hills are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it,  
**and his hands have molded the dry land.**

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,  
**and kneel before the LORD our Maker.**

For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.  
**Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did in the wilderness,  
**at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,  
when they tempted me.**

They put me to the test,  
**though they had seen my works.**

Forty years long I detested that generation and said,  
**“This people are wayward in their hearts;  
they do not know my ways.”**

So I swore in my wrath,  
**“They shall not enter into my rest.”**

## **The Second Reading**

## **Romans 5:1-11**

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Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we

have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## The Sequence Hymn

### ♪ *Hymnal 685 – “Rock of Ages”*

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
 2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know,  
 3 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side that flowed,  
 all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone;  
 when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.  
 in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Words: Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778), alt. Music: *Toplady*, Thomas Hastings (1784-1872).

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship

is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest?’ But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

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### The Presentation & Examination of Candidates

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*The Bishop says*

The Candidates will now be presented.

*The Candidates and their Presenters come forward. Each is presented individually.*

*Presenter* I present this person for Confirmation.

*or* I present this person to be received into this Communion.

*or* I present this person who desires to reaffirm their baptismal vows.

*Bishop* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

*Candidate* I do.

*Bishop* Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*Candidate* I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

*After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

*People*            **We will.**

*The Bishop then says these or similar words*

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

*Please rise as you are able*

## **The Baptismal Covenant**

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Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**I will, with God's help.**

## **Prayers for the Candidates**

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Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

*A reader leads the following petitions*

Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Send them into the world in witness to your love.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

*A period of silence follows.*

*Then the Bishop says*

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you have made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **List of Candidates**

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### ***For Confirmation***

Noelle Deanna Gerstung  
Matthew Stephen McClain  
Zachary Theodore Miller  
Joseph Raymond Abraham  
Katherine Marie Reeve  
Courtney René Shed

### ***For Reception***

Robert Troy Boccaccio  
Paula Mari Reimann  
Gordon William Weisbeck

### ***For Reaffirmation***

Kerrykate Abel

## Confirmation

*The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says*

Defend, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your heavenly grace, that *he* may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until *he* comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

## Reception

*N.*, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

## Reaffirmation

*N.*, may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

*The Bishop concludes with this prayer*

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Peace is then exchanged*

## The Peace

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The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

*Please greet one another with a visible sign of God's peace.*

## Announcements

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*Please be seated for a brief list of announcements.*

The loose collection today will be allocated for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. If you prefer to have your donation tracked, please use one of the Bishop's Discretionary Fund envelopes and put your name on the outside. You may also allocate a portion of your electronic gift to this fund.

## Offertory Sentence

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### Offertory Hymn

#### ♪ *Voices Found #51 – "Loving Spirit, loving Spirit"*

1 Lov - ing Spi - rit, lov - ing Spi - rit, you have chos - en me to be;  
2 Like a mo - ther you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own.  
3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me. Teach me the dis - cern - ing eye.  
4 Friend and lov - er in your close - ness I am known and held and blest:  
5 Lov - ing Spi - rit, lov - ing Spi - rit, you have chos - en me to be;

you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.  
Feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.  
Hoist me up up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.  
in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.  
you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The second system also has a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The music is in 3/4 time and G major.

Words: Shirley Frena Murray © 1987 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188).  
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Music: *Omni die*, melody from *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, 1631; harm. William Smith Rockstro (1823–1895).

*Please rise in body or in spirit and join in singing.*

#### ♪ *The Doxology – Hymn 380, verse 3*

## The Great Thanksgiving (EOW 1)

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The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

Because in Jesus Christ our Lord you have received us as your sons and daughters, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of

salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Paul and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

**AMEN.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

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*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*Please come forward to receive communion one row at a time. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms when approached with the bread.*

## Communion Music

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### Post-Communion Prayer

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Let us pray.

**Loving God,**

**we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.**

**Now send us forth**

**a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;**

**that we may proclaim your love to the world**

**and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

# The Episcopal Blessing

*Bishop* Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

*People* **The maker of heaven and earth.**

*Bishop* Blessed be the Name of the Lord;

*People* **From this time forth for evermore.**

*Bishop* The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

### ♯ *"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"*

C7

1 I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de -  
2 Though none go with me, still I will fol - low; though none go  
3 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be -

F C

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de - cid - ed to fol - low  
with me, still I will fol - low; though none go with me, still I will  
hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -

C G7 C

Je - sus;  
fol - low; no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
fore me;

## Dismissal

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Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

## Organ Postlude

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Please join us following the service in the Parish Hall for a reception to welcome our confirmands and those received and reaffirming themselves today. Bishop Steve will be holding a Q&A during the reception.

Title: "ABBOT'S LEIGH"

Music - ©1942, 1970 Hope Publishing Company

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