

April 6, 2025 Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the water of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.

- 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.

Psalm: Psalm 126

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)

- ¹ When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
 then were we like | those who dream.
² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.**
 Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great | things for them.”
³ The Lord has done great | things for us,
 and we are | glad indeed.
⁴ **Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,**
 like the watercourses | of the Negeb.
⁵ Those who | sowed with tears
 will reap with | songs of joy.
⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,**
 will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} 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 toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

*** Gospel: John 12:1-8**

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus's feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the 12th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary 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. ⁴ But 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.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Service Announcements – April 6, 2025

Mid-Week Lenten Service – We are having Mid-Week Lenten services at 11:00 AM in the Chapel space. The service is followed by a soup lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

Spring Clean-up Day - The Property Committee is organizing the annual spring clean-up for Saturday, April 19, 2025, beginning at 8:00 a.m. There will be jobs inside and outside of the church and Fellowship Building. Please join us and help as you are able.

Easter Flower Orders – Envelopes are available in the narthex and the mailroom to order flowers to decorate the church for our Easter Holy Communion Service on April 20, 2025. Orders are due **today**, Prices: White Lily - \$9.00; Chrysanthemums - \$6.75; Hyacinths - \$7.75; Tulips - \$7.75; Daffodils - \$7.75.

Church Steeple - When you give to the Building Fund on your church envelope this money is going to help offset the cost of the church steeple. - Thank you

Community Dinner - Our next dinner is Thursday, April 17th at 5:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday services will be held after dinner in the sanctuary beginning at 7:00 p.m. If you have never attended our Community Dinner, this is an excellent opportunity to experience this ministry of fellowship with our neighbors, followed by a service marking the Last Supper. Please join us.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil – We will be holding our Good Friday Prayer Vigil on April 18 from noon to 3:00 PM. *You can participate virtually (from home) or pray in person in the sanctuary.* A signup sheet is in the narthex. Crosses are also available in the narthex to allow members of the congregation to submit their prayer petitions for the prayer vigil.

Lutheran Day in the Capital - Join St. Luke's and Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa) on Tuesday, May 13th for a day of learning inspiration, advocacy and celebration. We'll gather to learn about issues that matter and be grounded in worship before heading to the Capitol to advocate as a church together. May 13th is a legislative session day. Please reach out to Pastor Amy or Dennis Faust if you are interested in participating.

Welcome Center – If you can help in 2025, please reach out to Linda Mertz (lindamertz46@aol.com and 484-447-2024) or sign-up in the Welcome Center. We need volunteers for the second half of 2025. Thank you to all who signed up for the first half of 2025!

Flea Market - The Flea Market dates have been set as May 30th and 31st. Please add this to your calendar and start spreading the word.

Cars, Coffee, & Christ - St Luke's will hold their next Cars, Coffee, and Christ on April 26th from 8:30 – 10:30 in the parking lot. CCC is a cruise-in where you can stop by and stay for a few minutes - or for the morning - and share some conversation and have some coffee, water or tea, along with light snacks. There is no admission fee. We also provide a 'Prayer Request Box' where you can leave (confidential) prayer concerns. For other info, feel free to call or text Clark VanBuskirk at 610-585-3512.

Mother's Day Collection for the Pottstown Branch of Birthright - We will be collecting diapers, sizes 2 and 3 along with baby wipes for Birthright in Pottstown. Please bring your donations and place at the foot of the wooden cross in the Sanctuary. If you would prefer to donate via a gift card, please feel free to place in my mailbox or give to me. Gift cards are used by the staff to purchase the items needed. Thank you in advance for your donations. - Judy Hunsberger for the Mission/Discipleship Committee

PRAYER REQUESTS – April 6, 2025

Members Of Saint Luke's Church

Spencer Brothers, Lily Greer, Barry Isett, Barry & Linda Mertz, Merrill Mest, Robert Pulcher, Chris Quigg, Roger Rhoads, Fern Richard, Nancy Schodle, Herb Seddon, Ron Sekellick, David Semmens, Jeff & Julene Steigelmann, Henry Stetler, Carol Welch, Stewart Young

Friends Of Saint Luke's Church

Gen Adams

Great-grandson of Judy Hunsberger

Glenn Argue

Friend of Doug & Sharon Killough

Dennis Bartchak

Cousin of Judy Hunsberger

Andry Boeno

Friend of the Way family

Rose Brendlinger

Friend of Merlyn Jordan

Lorie Carroll

Mother of Paula Bickelman

Louie Cimino

Friend of Deneen Kratz

Garrett Coyne

Friend of Ian Kratz

Dawn Curran

Friend of Kristin Bauer

Mary Daugherty

Sister of Peggy Brendlinger

Toni Faust

Sister-in-law of Dennis & Gail Faust

Sue Alderfer Glazier

Friend of Linda Mertz

Jackie

Sister of Kay Badman

Laurie Johnson

Cousin of Julie Kinzel

Chris & Shaina & daughter,
Charlotte

Friends of Brendan Greer

Bob Kelly & family

Stepfather of Brendan Greer

Lucy & Bob Kern

Friends of Nancy Schodle

Kevin & Ann

Friends of Pastor Amy

Kimberly, Geri, Cathy,
Jeanette

Friends of Chris Quigg

Joan

Friend of Pat & Dick

Stonerook

Sue Labbe & family

Aunt of Nicole Greer

Lauren

Friend of Linda Mertz

Linda McLaughlin

Friend of Carol Langton

Maureen

Friend of Judy Hunsberger

Barb Moritz

Cousin of Doug & Sharon

Killough

Tim Overholtzer

Brother-in-law of Pat Stonerook

Paula & Rick

In-laws of Linda Mertz's niece

Laurel Powanda

Friend of Linda Mertz

Lucille Powell

Friend of Nancy Schodle

Robert Quigg

Brother-in-law of Chris Quigg

Calvin Dietrich Savage

Grandson of Dennis & Gail

Faust

Wendy Speilman

Friend of Deneen Kratz

Linda Thees

Friend of David

Renninger

Pastor Stephen Winters

Father-in law of Linda Mertz's nephew

Viksne family

Extended family of Linda Mertz

Kathy Wolper

Friend of Linda Mertz

Gail Wyatt

Cousin of Audrey Reinhart

Persons In Military Service

Joseph P. Breidor, John P Carmelo, IV, Lt. Darby Driscol, Capt. Ian Driscoll, Ens. Leah Duff, Jared Kirk, JD & his Unit, Trey Knepp, Greg Kunkle, Dan Marchiano, Andrew Matsko, Guy Row, Kevin Row, Preston Schoenly, Corey Stonerook, Philip Washington

Person in Peace Corps – *Jonathan King (nephew of Cindy Fields)*

Prayer Ministry: Gwen Semmens is the Prayer Ministry Coordinator. Please call Gwen (215-872-1046) or send an email (hawksmer@comcast).