

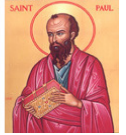
**COLLECT:** O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

**THE GOSPEL LESSON:** Luke 13:22-35 (NKJV)

And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup> Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity.' There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last." On that very day some Pharisees came, saying to Him, "Get out and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill you." And He said to them, "Go, tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.' Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' "



**ST. Paul's CEC**  
charismatic evangelical sacramental together



*Sunday January February 24<sup>th</sup>, Second Sunday of Lent.*

**Birthday February 28<sup>th</sup> = Cassie Anderson - 18 years old**

**Be persistent**, don't give up, continue to pray for healing and good continued health for Ralph Kallian, Elton Blair, Jack Gilmour, Bill Ruth, Pat Bird, Kevin Helms, Elaine Heebner, and Dorothy Hover.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT 7:00 PM IS OUR WEEKLY BIBLE  
STUDY AND PRAYERS FOR HEALING.  
THIS WEDNESDAY IS THE STUDY OF II TIMOTHY 3

**We currently have five designated funds in our church:**

- Building fund:** for our eventual relocation and for paying taxes on our land.  
**Flower fund:** For acquiring flowers to be on the Chancel in front of the Altar every Sunday. (except during Lent)  
**Missions fund:** For helping spread the Gospel in foreign lands and third-world countries, to help make the African Churches self-sustaining, and for church planting in areas where there are very limited funds available.  
**Youth Group fund:** Solely for our youth group and the activities, food, and materials needed to keep the youth group flourishing and active.  
**Education Fund:** (new) For adult and child educational materials, outreach classes, seminary books, tuition assistance and Sunday School costs.  
**You may donate** toward any of these funds by designating on your offering envelope - which fund you intend to support.  
**Please remember**, your TITHES are for the ongoing operation of this Church and you should never diminish tithing in favor of designated funds. Donating to these funds should be above and beyond your tithing.

**Please note what the giving is for, even if it is tithes. If you just put cash or a check in an envelope, we can only guess what it is for.**

## **FIRST READING Genesis 15:1-12 & 17-18** (NIV)

15 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." <sup>4</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

<sup>6</sup> Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup> He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it." <sup>8</sup> But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?" <sup>9</sup> So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. <sup>11</sup> Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup> As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates."

## **THE PSALM 27**

The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?

**\*The LORD is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?**

When the wicked advance against me to devour me,

it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

**\*Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.**

One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

**\*to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.**

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling

**\*he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.**

Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;

**\*I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

Hear my voice when I call, LORD; be merciful to me and answer me

**\*My heart says of you: "Seek his face!"**

**Your face, LORD, I will seek.**

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

**\* Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.**

## **SECOND READING Philippians 3:17-4:1** (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. <sup>18</sup> For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

4 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!