

“Landmark of the Gospel Since 1834”

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Our Purpose: Led by the Word of God, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is a family who lives and shares the gospel of Jesus Christ through love and service to all.

March 16, 2025

10:30 AM

Lent 2

After the ringing of the bell...

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

ELLERY ELICK, ORGANIST

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God’s arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God’s house forever.

Amen.

HYMN

Thy Holy Wings

WOV 741

**Thy holy wings O Savior,
Spread gently over me
And let me rest securely**

**Through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion,
My rock and hiding place,
And let my every moment
Be lived without thy grace.**

**Oh, let me nestle near thee,
within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort
and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me
and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn
and need thy tender care.**

**Oh, wash me in the waters
of Noah's cleansing flood.
give me a willing spirit,
a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping
thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber,
enfold us one and all.**

CALL TO THE JOURNEY

God of the open road,
God of the twisting path,
God of the narrow and upward way,
your people are gathered for worship!
In this hour, give us provision for the journey,
**courage and faith and compassion,
and endurance to face any hardship.**
Open our eyes to see you walking beside us,
protecting us, encouraging us, loving us
with an abundance we cannot imagine.
**We pray this in the name of Jesus,
who moves us, Amen**

KYRIE ELEISON

CLIFF HOOVER, GUITAR

First time leader sings refrain:
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

Refrain: Repeat after leader the first time and after each verse.

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

Each verse ends: Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. and then the Refrain is sung again by all.

Verses:

For peace in the world, for the health of the church,
for the unity of all; for this holy house,
for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

That we may live out your impassioned response
to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,
for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives
in the water and the word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years

old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

PSALM: Psalm 27

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

² **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the
beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and
make music to the LORD.**

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”**

Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

¹⁰ **Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me in.**

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD;

lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

¹² **Subject me not to the will of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!

¹⁴ **Wait for the LORD and be strong.**

Take heart and wait for the LORD!

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 3:17—4:1

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven,

and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ⁴¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. Here ends the reading.

GOSPEL VERSE

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

WOV#713

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.*

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PROCLAMATION

HYMN OF THE DAY

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

LBW 343

**1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
Hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.**

**2 Open now the crystal fountain
Where the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
Shield me with your mighty arm,
Shield me with your mighty arm.**

**3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises
I will raise forevermore;
I will raise forevermore.**

CREED

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

OFFERING SONG

We Are an Offering

R#232

**We lift our voices,
We lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering.**

Lord, use our voices

**Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are yours:
We are an offering.**

**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.**

THE PEACE

May Christ's peace go with you on this Lenten journey.

And also with you.

Share Christ's peace with one another...

THE PRAYERS

Each petition ends, "God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**"

LORD'S PRAYER

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,

✝ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

LBW 453, vs.1&4

**1 If you but trust in God to guide you
and place your confidence in him,
you'll find him always there beside you
to give you hope and strength within;
for those who trust God's changeless love
build on the rock that will not move.**

**3 Sing, pray, and keep his ways unswerving,
offer your service faithfully,
and trust his word; though undeserving,
you'll find his promise true to be.
God never will forsake in need
the soul that trusts in him indeed.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ through love and service to all.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.