

“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.

TIME CHANGE THIS SUNDAY

SPRING FORWARD ONE HOUR

March 8, 2026

10:30 AM

Lent 3

After the ringing of the bell...

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

MARY ANNE WEIBEL, 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 confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you,

pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

LBW 499

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

DIALOGUE FOR LENT

The prophet Joel calls us to return to the Lord with all our hearts.

Lord, use this holy season of Lent to reorient our lives toward you.

As we raise our voices in prayer, praise and lament,

comfort us and give us cause for hope.

Bless our worship, our work, and our play.

Guide us with your Spirit, that we may follow where you lead in confidence and trust. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Pave the Way with Branches

Jesus is coming.

Pave the way with branches.

Jesus is coming. Hosannah.

Chorus: Hosannah. Jesus is coming.

Hosannah to the Prince of Peace

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of justice and love, you guide our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the hope we need, and empower the testimony we share through word and deed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 17:1-7

¹ 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. ² 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?” ³ 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?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

PSALM: Psalm 95

- ¹ Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
- ² **Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**
- ³ For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
- ⁴ **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**
- ⁵ The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
- ⁶ **Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**
- ⁷ For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture and the sheep of God’s hand.
Oh, that today you would hear God’s voice!
- ⁸ **“Harden not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**
- ⁹ There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.
- ¹⁰ **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,
‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’**
- ¹¹ Indeed I swore in my anger,
‘They shall never come to my rest.’”

SECOND LESSON: Romans 5:1-11

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² 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. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we

have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

VERSE

Jesus humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. (*Phil. 2:8*)

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ² Then he asked them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: ⁸ all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

⁹ “Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. ¹⁰ Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹² And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PROCLAMATION

HYMN

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.

APOSTLES' CREED

LBW p. 84

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

PEACE

The reconciling peace of Christ be with you always.
 And also with you.

Share Christ's peace with one another...

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY VERSE

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded LBW 117, vs. 3

3 What language shall I borrow
 to thank Thee, dearest Friend,
 for this, Thy dying sorrow,
 Thy pity without end?
 O make me Thine forever!
 And should I fainting be,

Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love for Thee.

THE PRAYERS

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

LBW 390

**1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.**

Refrain:

**I love to tell the story;
I'll sing this theme in glory
and tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.**

**2 I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word. [Refrain]**

**3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.**

**And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. [Refrain]**

DISMISSAL

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

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READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23;
Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14; Gospel: John 13:1-9, 33-35