

*“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 4, 2026

7:15 PM

**Lent Midweek 2**

**With Awe and Love: Creed**

*How do we express belief? How do we share our faith? The Creed, crafted in the early days of the church, gives us a simple but firm foundation for sharing and professing.*

**Opening Dialogue**

We begin in the name of God,

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

What does this mean, this belief?

**I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God daily and abundantly provides for me.**

We confess that Jesus is Lord.

**He has redeemed and freed us so that we may belong to him.**

How is this possible when we are who we are?

**We believe because the Holy Spirit calls us.**

Called, gathered, enlightened, and made holy, we praise God.

**This is most certainly true!**

**Song**

Holy God, we praise your name <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqSau9LUtFs>

**Holy God, we praise Thy name;  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!  
All on earth Thy scepter claim,  
All in Heaven above adore Thee;  
Infinite Thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is Thy reign.**

**Infinite Thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is Thy reign.**

**Hark! the loud celestial hymn  
Angel choirs above are raising,  
Cherubim and seraphim,  
In unceasing chorus praising;  
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:  
Holy, holy, holy, Lord.  
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:  
Holy, holy, holy, Lord.**

**Holy Holy -Lord God Almighty  
Holy Holy -To you all praise and glory.**

**Holy Holy -Lord God Almighty**

**Holy Holy -To you all praise and glory.**

**Holy Father, Holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, Three we name Thee;  
While in essence only One,  
Undivided God we claim Thee;  
And adoring bend the knee,  
While we own the mystery.  
And adoring bend the knee,  
While we own the mystery.**

**Reading** - Ezekiel 36:22-32

<sup>22</sup> Therefore say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. <sup>23</sup> I will sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations and which you have profaned among them, and the nations shall know that I am the Lord, says the Lord God, when through you I display my holiness before their eyes. <sup>24</sup> I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. <sup>26</sup> A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you, and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put my spirit within you and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. <sup>28</sup> Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. <sup>29</sup> I will save you from all your uncleannesses, and I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. <sup>30</sup> I will make the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field abundant, so that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations. <sup>31</sup> Then you shall remember your evil ways and your dealings that were not good, and you shall loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominable deeds. <sup>32</sup> It is not for your sake that I will act, says the Lord God; let that be known to you. Be ashamed and dismayed for your ways, O house of Israel.

**Reviewing the Small Catechism**

**THE CREED**

**The First Article:** *On Creation*

*What does this mean?*

I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties.

In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

**The Second Article:** *On Redemption*

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead [*or*, "he descended into hell," *another translation of this text in widespread use*]. On the third day he rose again; he

ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

*What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

### **The Third Article: *On Being Made Holy***

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.

*What does this mean?*

I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

### **Reflection and Learning**

#### **Community Prayer**

#### **Luther's Evening Blessing**

**I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me today. I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously to protect me tonight. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

#### **Blessing**

God the Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit watch over us all.  
**Amen.**

**Song**                      Our God our Help in Ages Past

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uWFnYkgRIY&list=RD3uWFnYkgRIY&start\\_radio=1&pp=ygUnbyBnb2Qgb3VyIGh1bHAgaW4gYWdlcyBwYXN0IHdpdGgggH1yaWNzoAcB](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uWFnYkgRIY&list=RD3uWFnYkgRIY&start_radio=1&pp=ygUnbyBnb2Qgb3VyIGh1bHAgaW4gYWdlcyBwYXN0IHdpdGgggH1yaWNzoAcB)

1. O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home!

2. Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Still may we dwell secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.

3. Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

4. A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

5. O God our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,  
And our eternal home.