

“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.

April 2, 2025

7:15 PM

Midweek 4

We know that following Jesus on our Lenten journey takes intentionality. It's not a spectator sport. You have to do it. So, over the coming weeks of Lent, we will inspire each other; we will invite each other deeper into faith; and we will give thanks for all God is doing in us and through us, as each week we explore a different Lenten practice.

So what is a Lenten practice? A Lenten practice is anything we do, during Lent, that opens us up and brings us closer into God's presence. A Lenten practice is like going to the gym for your faith. It may be awkward at first and difficult, but afterwards you feel good; and after doing it for a while, you notice changes and strengths, and it becomes so much a part of your routine that you can't imagine life without it. Some common and traditional Lenten practices include prayer, fasting, generosity, confession, Bible study, hospitality, working for justice, and meditation.

Tonight we explore: *I've Had Enough!*

CALL TO WORSHIP

As people of hope and wonder,
as people of peace and joy,
as disciples of Jesus, wandering his Way—
let's get ready to worship God!

To prepare ourselves, join me in the Prayer of the Three Deep Breaths!
Take a deep breath, and as you breathe out say, “Thank you, Creator.”

All: Thank you, Creator.

One: Take a deep breath, and as you breathe out say, “Thank you, Jesus Christ.”

All: Thank you, Jesus Christ.

One: Take a deep breath, and as you breathe out say, “Thank you, Holy Spirit.”

All: Thank you, Holy Spirit.

One: Thank you, loving God,
for being with us, always,
and helping us to make time, in this place.
We ask you to help us remember
all the moments of gratitude that have filled this week,
and we ask you to help us look forward
to all of the moments of gratitude that are still to come.
Blessed are you, forever and ever.
And let all the people of God say:

All: Amen!

SONG O Christ the Same

RECENT WITNESS

At least once a day, this past week, you were asked to use your God given time to worship: To enter God's presence, to listen to God's word, to respond to what you heard. Any stories to share?

ANCIENT WITNESS Psalm 23 Paraphrase

Reader 1: God is my shepherd,
everything I *need* is taken care of:
good food to eat,
sweet water to drink,
a safe place to sleep!

Reader 2: When my soul is broken,
God restores it.
When my path gets twisted,
God returns me to the right ways.

Reader 1: When I walk in shadowed places,
where death is waiting for me,
I will not be afraid.

Reader 2: I know that you are with me, God.
I am comforted by your guidance,
by your readiness to defend me.

Reader 1: Even in the presence of those who would do me harm,
you make sure that I have enough,
and more than enough!

Reader 2: You mark me as yours.

Readers in unison: We are certain that your goodness and your mercy will always be in our lives, and we will be a part of your household forever and ever.

REFLECTION

FOR CONTEMPLATION

“The Lord is my shepherd.” “I shall not want” because God provides me with everything I need.

“I shall not want” because I trust in God, who came in Jesus the Word made flesh; to reconcile and make new.

Jesus clearly taught and lived that we are inter-connected and inter-related; neighbours to one another; to love and serve each other, sharing what we have and who we are for each other’s good.

How do these principles impact how we share our financial gifts, gifts of time and gifts of talent?

CHALLENGE

This week, do an “Appreciation Inventory.” Look, touch, smell, remember, and immerse yourself in what you have been given. Use the model of the insurance inventory or insurance tour. Take time to walk around and take note of all your have : people, things, experiences. What shows me “I shall not want.”

OFFERING

Prayer Before the Offering

The Way of Lent is a path that we travel each year as a time for us to remember Jesus’ journey.

On that journey, Jesus met many people.

In everything he did, he reminded people of the importance of God in their lives.

Jesus talked differently to people who had power and privilege than he did to those who were without.

He challenged people with big “asks,” like,

“Sell everything you own, and come, follow me!”

Help us trust God with all that we have, and all that we are.

Encourage us to follow with all that we have, and all that we are. AMEN.

PRAYERS

LORD’S PRAYER

BLESSING

One: Let's go into the world as people of gratitude.

All: Let's go into the world as people of hope.

One: Let's go into the world as people of joyfulness.

All: Let's go into the world ready to share Christ's love!

One: And let us go knowing this: we are never, ever alone.

**All: The peace of Christ holds us,
the love of the Creator enfolds us,
and the wings of the Holy Spirit carry us,
today and always.**

Amen!

SONG We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,

Thanks be to God.