

# Welcome!

to  
*St. Paul Lutheran Church*  
*Clay Center, KS*

*Thank you*  
*for joining us for worship!*

*Lent - Midweek 4*

*March 11, 2026*

*Worship Folder*



## **St. Paul Lutheran Communion Statement:**

**COMMUNION WELCOME**-God calls upon His people to exercise care in the use of His Supper because harm results when Communion is received without repentance or a right understanding (1 Corinthians 11:23-30) and when fellowship is practiced without agreement in God's Word (Galatians 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:15, 3:14). In Communion Jesus gives us His true Body and Blood, in with and under the bread and wine, to forgive our sins (Matthew 26:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 10:16-21). We also profess agreement in the teachings of the church at whose altar we commune. Thus, we cannot offer this Supper to those who have not received instruction per the mysteries of this meal. We do invite fellow members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to join our members as we receive the Sacrament today. Others are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. Those who desire to come forward for a blessing are invited to do so, indicating their intent to receive a blessing by crossing their arms in front.

Distribution of the bread is to the hand of the communicant. "Gluten Free" wafers are available. Please let the ushers know PRIOR to service if you are needing this substitution.

Distribution of the wine is by choice of individual cup or common chalice. If you receive with the individual cup, please keep the small cup visible to the minister with the common cup. Individual cups of unfermented grape juice will be provided at the center of each of the trays for those who prefer grape juice over wine. Both are "fruit of the vine" and in the sacrament become means by which Christ grants us his blood to assure us of forgiveness, life and salvation. The unfermented grape juice is light in color.

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**PRELUDE**

## The Good News of a God Who Passes Over Us in Mercy

### AS WE GATHER

We seldom seek to be overlooked, except when we are guilty of something. But in the Passover, God passed over the Israelites' sins, and He continues to do that for us. Christ is the Lamb of God, and His sacrifice is good for us. We do not want to be overlooked! In fact, in Jesus' parable, the faithful servants are those who dare not let any opportunity for profit be overlooked. What would you want God to overlook, or see, in your life?

### INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

**P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,

**C** **whose sin is covered.**

**P** For to everyone who has will more be given,

**C** **and he will have an abundance.**

**P** I will pass over you,

**C** **and no plague will befall you to destroy you.**

### PSALM

*Psalm 32*

**P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

**C** **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

**P** For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

**C** **For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

**P** I acknowledged my sin to You,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;

**C** **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**P** Therefore let everyone who is godly  
offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found;  
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

**C** **You are a hiding place for me;  
You preserve me from trouble;  
You surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

**P** I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

**C** **Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
or it will not stay near you.**

**P** Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

**C** **but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**

**P** Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,

**C** **and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

### FIRST READING

*Exodus 12:1-14*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup>"This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. <sup>4</sup>And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, <sup>6</sup>and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

<sup>7</sup>“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. <sup>10</sup>And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup>“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.”

- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

*Matthew 25:17–30*

<sup>17</sup>So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup>But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a

hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORY

- P** Shout for joy, all you upright in heart!  
**C** **Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.**

- P** Cleanse out the old leaven.  
**C** **Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.**

- P** And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover.  
**C** **Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.**

## PASSION READING

*Mark 14:66–15:11*

<sup>66</sup>And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, <sup>67</sup>and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” <sup>68</sup>But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. <sup>69</sup>And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” <sup>70</sup>But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” <sup>71</sup>But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” <sup>72</sup>And

immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

<sup>1</sup>And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole Council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” <sup>3</sup>And the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>And Pilate again asked him, “Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.” <sup>5</sup>But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

<sup>6</sup>Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. <sup>7</sup>And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. <sup>8</sup>And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. <sup>9</sup>And he answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” <sup>10</sup>For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. <sup>11</sup>But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead.

- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Not All the Blood of Beasts

LSB 431

## SERMON

## OFFERING

John 3:16 — “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

## When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

LSB 426 *sts. 1, 4*

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a  
Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I  
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,  
count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1749  
Tune: Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, 1778, London; adapt. Edward Miller, 1731–1807  
Text and tune: Public domain

## PRAYERS

- P** Let us pray for all people who are unsure of God's hearing their prayers.
- C** **Hear their cries, O Lord, grant them courage as You accompany, and answer them speedily.**
- P** Let us ask God to strengthen the faith of those who only recently have known Him.
- C** **Reveal Yourself gently to them, Lord Jesus, through the caring of Your church.**
- P** Let us pray for those who feel trapped by circumstances beyond their control.
- C** **Assure them that You know their dilemma and that the deliverer has come: Jesus, our Savior and Lord.**
- P** Let us pray for all who fear God's punishment.
- C** **Show them mercy, O Lord, as You passed over Your Old Testament people. Grant them peace through Your presence.**
- P** Let us pray for all who know no good ways to turn, are unsure of the truth, and await only their deaths.

- C** Tell them again, Lord Jesus, that You alone are the way, and the truth, and the life.
- P** Finally, let us pray for all who are tired from opposition in the world around them and from their own conflicts within themselves.
- C** **Awaken in them a sense of Your accompanying them on their journey until that day when they and we join those who have gone before us at Your heavenly banquet hall.**
- P** O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways
- C** **and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.**
- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,
- C** **give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

- C** **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.**

#### BENEDICTION

- P** The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **Amen.**

#### Glory Be to Jesus

LSB 433

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**For those who wish, the Sacrament will be served.....**

#### Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.  
Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

#### The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples

and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **DISTRIBUTION**

### **Benediction**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**