

# Welcome!

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

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

*Lent - Midweek 5*

*March 18, 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 Makes a Way for Us

### AS WE GATHER

When the Israelites seemed trapped, the way out for them was through the middle of the sea. For Christians today, it has been through the waters of Baptism. It is Jesus who is the way, and the truth, and the life. God's Old Testament people survived to continue their escape in the desert. But we follow Christ, in our daily walk, through a resurrection like His, and on to the place He has readied for us. This is all good news for us from Exodus.

### INVOCATION

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

**C** **Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

**P** Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

**C** **In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!**

**P** I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that You have done;

**C** **I ponder the work of Your hands.**

**P** Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God!

**C** **Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!**

### PSALM

*Psalm 121*

*Left side: I lift up my eyes to the hills.*

*From where does my help come?*

*Right side: My help comes from the LORD,*

*who made heaven and earth.*

*Left side: He will not let your foot be moved;*

*Right side: He who keeps you will not slumber.*

**C** **Behold, He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

*Left side: The LORD is your keeper;*

*Right side: the LORD is your shade on your right hand.*

*Left side: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.*

*Right side: The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.*

**C** **The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.**

### FIRST READING

*Exodus 4:5–31*

<sup>5</sup>“that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.” <sup>6</sup>Again, the LORD said to him, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. <sup>7</sup>Then God said, “Put your hand back inside your cloak.” So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. <sup>8</sup>“If they will not believe you,” God said, “or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign. <sup>9</sup>If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

<sup>10</sup>But Moses said to the LORD, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” <sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? <sup>12</sup>Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.” <sup>13</sup>But he said, “Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.” <sup>14</sup>Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, “Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. <sup>15</sup>You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. <sup>16</sup>He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. <sup>17</sup>And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs.”

<sup>18</sup>Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, “Please let me go back to my brothers in Egypt to see whether they

are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace." <sup>19</sup>And the LORD said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead." <sup>20</sup>So Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on a donkey, and went back to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the staff of God in his hand.

<sup>21</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. <sup>22</sup>Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son, <sup>23</sup>and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.'

<sup>24</sup>At a lodging place on the way the LORD met him and sought to put him to death. <sup>25</sup>Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it and said, "Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me!" <sup>26</sup>So he let him alone. It was then that she said, "A bridegroom of blood," because of the circumcision.

<sup>27</sup>The LORD said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. <sup>28</sup>And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD with which he had sent him to speak, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do. <sup>29</sup>Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. <sup>30</sup>Aaron spoke all the words that the LORD had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. <sup>31</sup>And the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

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

## SECOND READING

*Romans 6:3–5*

<sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

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

## THIRD READING

*John 14:1–6*

<sup>1</sup>"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

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

## RESPONSORY

**P** Our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea.  
**C** **The Rock was Christ.**

**P** All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.  
**C** **The Rock was Christ.**

**P** All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink.  
**C** **The Rock was Christ.**

## PASSION READING

*Mark 15:12–24*

<sup>12</sup>And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" <sup>13</sup>And they cried out again, "Crucify him." <sup>14</sup>And Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." <sup>15</sup>So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

<sup>16</sup>And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. <sup>17</sup>And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup>And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup>And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup>And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

<sup>21</sup>And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. <sup>22</sup>And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). <sup>23</sup>And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.

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

### All Who Believe and Are Baptized

LSB 601

### SERMON

### OFFERING

Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

### When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

LSB 425 *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, 1674-1748  
 Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872  
 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** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul.
- C** **Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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 Lord, who protected His people throughout the exodus, bless you. The Lord, who sustained them in the desert, bless you. The Lord, who led them and you to the Promised Land, bless and keep you, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

#### Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

LSB 918

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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 ☩ 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 ✠ 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 ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**