

# Welcome!

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

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

*Lent - Midweek 6*

*March 25, 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 Sustains Us on Our Journey

### AS WE GATHER

The Lord heard the cries of the Israelites and provided deliverance from the Egyptians by crossing the Red Sea. But not very much later, they grumbled that the Lord was not providing for them. Like the Israelites, we, too, have been provided with divine deliverance. Our enemies are sin, death, and the power of the devil, all of which have been defeated in Christ. And yet we, too, grumble. Today we hear the good news of how God sustains us on our journey, feeding us with the bread of life and the promise of eternal life in heaven.

### INVOCATION

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

### OPENING SENTENCES

**P** The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting.  
**C** In the morning you shall be filled with bread.

**P** I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound.  
**C** I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

**P** My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.  
**C** I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger.

### PSALM

*Psalms 103:1–4; 15–22*

**P** Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless His holy name!  
**C** Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,  
**P** who forgives all your iniquity,  
**C** who heals all your diseases,  
**P** who redeems your life from the pit,  
**C** who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

**P** As for man, his days are like grass;  
he flourishes like a flower of the field;  
**C** for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.

**P** But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him,  
**C** and His righteousness to children's children,  
to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.

**P** The LORD has established His throne in the heavens,  
**C** and His kingdom rules over all.  
Bless the LORD, O you His angels, you mighty ones  
who do His word, obeying the voice of His word!  
Bless the LORD, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will!  
Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of His dominion.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul!

### FIRST READING

*Exodus 16:1–18, 35*

<sup>1</sup>They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. <sup>2</sup>And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, <sup>3</sup>and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. <sup>5</sup>On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily." <sup>6</sup>So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, <sup>7</sup>and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your

grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?" <sup>8</sup>And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD."

<sup>9</sup>Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'" <sup>10</sup>And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. <sup>11</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, <sup>12</sup>"I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

<sup>13</sup>In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. <sup>14</sup>And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup>When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. <sup>16</sup>This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.'" <sup>17</sup>And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. <sup>18</sup>But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.

<sup>35</sup>The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

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

## SECOND READING

*John 6:25–35*

<sup>25</sup>When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but

because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup>Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." <sup>28</sup>Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." <sup>30</sup>So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?" <sup>31</sup>Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" <sup>32</sup>Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." <sup>34</sup>They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

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

## RESPONSORY

- P** The people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron.  
**C** **I am the bread of life.**

- P** I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.  
**C** **I am the bread of life.**

- P** Whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.  
**C** **I am the bread of life.**

## PASSION READING

*Mark 15:25–41*

<sup>25</sup>And it was the third hour when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup>And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." <sup>27</sup>And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup>And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in

three days, <sup>30</sup>save yourself, and come down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup>So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. <sup>32</sup>Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

<sup>33</sup>And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. <sup>34</sup>And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>35</sup>And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." <sup>36</sup>And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." <sup>37</sup>And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup>And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup>And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

<sup>40</sup>There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. <sup>41</sup>When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

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

## SERMON

## OFFERING

Matthew 6:3-4 "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father Who sees in secret will reward you."

## 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, 1674-1748  
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** Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people

**C** **that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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 provided all that the people needed in the wilderness, bless you. The Lord, who fed them until they reached the Promised Land, bless you. The Lord, who spoke to Moses and has worked faith in your hearts, bless and keep you, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**O Bless the Lord, My Soul**

**LSB 814**

#### DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

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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  $\text{†}$  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.**