

# THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



**MARCH 8, 2026**

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)**

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OPENING HYMN "COME TO CALVARY'S HOLY MOUNTAIN" 435

✠ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠

P. 203

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT

PSALM 84:1-4 ANTIPHON: V. 5

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

**How lovely is your dwelling place,**

**O Lord of hosts!**

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

**Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for  
herself, where she may lay her young,**

**at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.**

Blessèd are those who dwell in your house,  
ever singing your praise!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

KYRIE

P. 204

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways 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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT

## EXODUS 17:1-7

<sup>1</sup>All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

## HEBREWS 12:2

**[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

## EPISTLE

## ROMANS 5:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. <sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to

die—<sup>8</sup>but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

**JOHN 4:5-26**

**P** The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the fourth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>5</sup>[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. <sup>7</sup>There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit,

and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”<sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.”<sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

**NICENE CREED**

**P. 206**

**HYMN OF THE DAY “BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE” 574 (T: 655)**

**SERMON**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** Lord, in your Mercy,

**G** Hear our Prayer.

**In Our Prayers:**

+ Scott Christenson

+ Darian Litzau

+ Andy Birkholz

+ Merlin Mathews

+ Dan Gueningsman

+ Karen Strei

+ Maya Radtke

+ Hillard Klaustermeier

+ Jeremy Radtke

+ Angela Litzau

+ Call Process for Associate Pastor

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY HYMN “ON MY HEART IMPRINT YOUR IMAGE” 422**

**✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠ P. 208-210**

The Sacrament is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His true body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation, to repentant, reconciled believers in Christ. Our Lord Jesus invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us (Matt. 26:26-28; 1Cor. 11:23-29; Matt.6:15).

We practice closed communion. Why? (1 Cor. 10:16-17). Because our Lord says those who eat and drink His body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. If not yet instructed, in doubt, or holding a confession differing from that of the LCMS, you are lovingly asked not to commune at this time. Pastor is happy to make an appointment to discuss adult catechesis or questions you have regarding the Sacrament of the Altar.

**Examination Questions:** Please prepare by asking yourself — Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior from sin? Do I believe that I am receiving the body and blood of Christ along with the bread and wine? Will I try, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live a more God-pleasing life?

Prayers for “Before communing” and “Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament” are printed on the front cover of the hymnal.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

“PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS”	849
“ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED”	437
“JESUS, REFUGE OF THE WEARY”	423

**NUNC DIMITTIS** P. 211

**BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION** P. 212

**CLOSING HYMN** “ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME” 761

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

<p><b><u>Attendance Last Week</u></b> Sunday: 158 Sunday School: 26 Bible Study: N/A</p>
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<p><b><u>Organist:</u></b> Lynn Mueller</p>
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<p><b>CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p>
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**1. BAKED POTATO BAR-** The Bd of Ed invites all youth and congregation members to join them for a Baked Potato Bar following second service TODAY Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your favorite topping to share. A sign-up sheet is in the Upper Narthex to indicate how many will be attending, and what topping you are bringing. Please also bring your favorite card/board game to play after lunch.

**2. LENT SCHEDULE-** Please join us for our Midweek Lenten Service, on Wednesday March 11 at 7:00 PM. A meal will be served by the LWML at 6:00 PM. Menu includes meatball subs, salad and bars

**3. ANCHOR POINT-** for 7-12 graders will now meet on Thursdays from 6:00-8:00 PM, starting March 12<sup>th</sup>. We want to provide a safe space for our youth to be youth and for them to have ownership in something together. This will be led by Pastor Barlau and Pastor Arndt.

**4. GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S CHOIR** - All children are invited to join a children's choir that will be singing for the Good Friday service. We will be rehearsing on Wednesdays at 5:45 pm in the music room. Come join us, learn a new Holy Week hymn, then grab dinner before Lenten Midweek service! Contact Amanda Barlau with any questions.

**5. EASTER GARDENS** - Join the Board of Ed on Palm Sunday (3/29) for a family Sunday School event. We will be making Resurrection gardens during the Sunday School hour. All congregation members are welcome to attend.

**6. EASTER EGG HUNT** - Join us Easter Sunday (4/5) for an Easter Egg hunt between worship services. Meet outside the preschool room at 8:15 am. Children of all ages are invited.

**7. EASTER DAY SERVICE TIME CORRECTION** - Please note that the Easter Day Services will be at 6:30 and **9:00 AM** (Update from what was in the Lamplighter)

**8. MARCH MISSION PROJECT** -Food items needed for the March mission project to supply food for several families over the Easter Break! Please take a list of **NEEDED ITEMS** from the display in the lower narthex and donate to the project by March 22nd! Thank you!

**9. EASTER BREAKFAST HELP:** Please check the sign-up sheets in the upper narthex to help with the Easter breakfast Sunday, April 5th! **ALL CONGREGATIONAL** members are encouraged to participate in this joyful fellowship! Help is needed both Saturday and Sunday morning that weekend.

**10. THRIVENT ACTION TEAM-** We are looking for a Thrivent Action Team card to purchase hymnals for some of shut-in's. If you can help, please reach out to Julie Dial.

**11. CARDS-** Easter greeting cards are available for \$1.00 each on the LWML table. Proceeds go to support the Mission projects. Thank you.

**12. LIBRARY/NURSERY ROOM** - Thank you to all who volunteered their time to update our church library. New books have been added. The room was freshened up and now includes a baby changing station and a quiet space for nursing mothers. Donations are requested for baby wipes, Lysol wipes, and diapers size Newborn through 5. Donations may be left by the changing table. ~ Bd of Ed

**13. SCHEDULE-** *March 15:* Ushers: 1<sup>st</sup> Service-Larry Hoof, Stewart Ruwersma, Jr., Derek Zebell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Sheldon Ehrke, Brett Schmidt, Beau Schmidt; Acolytes: 1<sup>st</sup> Service- B. Peterson, E. Novotny; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: A. Dawson, L. Dressler; Greeters- 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Chip & Corbey Hentges; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Craig & Tracy Jaskon; Flowers: Lois Raduenz;

Altar Guild: Linda Mensing, April Lee, Jane Roth; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

### *Calendar of Events*

<b>Sun. March 8</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b> 9:15 a.m. <b>10:30 a.m.</b> 11:30 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP W/ CONT. LINE COMM.</b> Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study <b>WORSHIP W/ CONT. LINE COMM.</b> Baked Potato Bar Lunch
Mon. March 9	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Release Time Classes Elders Meeting Council Meeting
Tues. March 10	7:30 p.m.	Dartball Home vs. Watertown
<b>Wed. March 11</b>	Noon  6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. <b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Deadline for Bulletin Release Time Confirmation Class Lent Meal <b>MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE (HERE)</b>
Thur. March 12	6:00 p.m.	Anchor Point (Grades 7-12)
<b>Sun. March 15</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b> 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION</b> Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study Sun. School Gr. 1-6 sing <b>WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION</b>

Lenten and Holy Week Schedule (Please note that the Easter Service time is changed from what was printed in the March Lamplighter).

**3/11 Midweek of Lent 3**, 6:00 p.m. Meal; 7:00 p.m. "For Us He Seeks" (Pastor Mastin)

**3/18 Midweek of Lent 4**, 7:00 p.m. "Done For Us" (at St. Peter, Pastor Beckman)

**3/25 Midweek of Lent 5**, 7:00 p.m. "For Us Betrayed" (at St. Peter, Pastor Barlau)

**3/29 Palm Sunday**, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

**4/2 Holy Thursday**, 7:00 p.m. "For Many Means For You"

**4/3 Good Friday**, 7:00 p.m. "His Dying Breath"

**4/4 Easter Vigil**, 7:45 p.m. "For Us He Rose" (at St. John, Plato)

**4/5 Easter Sunday:**

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service "For Us He Lives"

7:30-8:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast

8:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

9:00 a.m. Feast of the Resurrection Service (UPDATED TIME!)