Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)
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Pastor email: pastorbarlau@gmail.com
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Divine Service Setting IV p. 203-212

PRESERVICE "Wonderful Cross" Sun. School Gr. 1-6 10:30 AM

Opening Hymn "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" 873

✠ Confession and Absolution ✠
p. 203

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Introit Psalm 27:4-6 Antiphon: Psalm 25:15

My eyes are ever toward the Lord,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.
For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.
And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.
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.
My eyes are ever toward the Lord,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

Kyrie p. 204

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P Let us pray.
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. 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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT — ISAIAH 42:14-21

14For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained
myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. 15I
will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will
turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. 16And I will lead the
blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known
I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the
rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not
forsake them. 17They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who
trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods."
18Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! 19Who is blind
but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind
as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the Lord? 20He sees
many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does
not hear. 21The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to
magnify his law and make it glorious.

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 — EPHESIANS 5:8-14

8For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the
Lord. Walk as children of light 9(for the fruit of light is found in all
that is good and right and true), 10and try to discern what is pleasing
to the Lord. 11Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but
instead expose them. 12For it is shameful even to speak of the
things that they do in secret. 13But when anything is exposed by the
light, it becomes visible, 14for anything that becomes visible is light.
Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and
Christ will shine on you."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL **JOHN 9:1-41**

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

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

1As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2And his disciples
asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was
born blind?" 3Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his
parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4We must
work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming,
when no one can work. 5As long as I am in the world, I am the light of
the world." 6Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made
mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the
mud 7and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means
Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. 8The neighbors
and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this
not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9Some said, "It is he." Others
said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." 10So they
said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11He answered, "The
man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go
to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my
sight." 12They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." 13They
brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14Now
it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his
eyes. 15So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight.
And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I
see." 16Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he
does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a
sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. 17So they
said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has
opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." 18The Jews did not believe
that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the
parents of the man who had received his sight 19and asked them, "Is
this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now
see?" 20His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he
was born blind. 21But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know
who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for
himself." 22(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews,
for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to
be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) 23Therefore his
parents said, "He is of age; ask him." 24So for the second time they
called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God.
We know that this man is a sinner." 25He answered, "Whether he is a
sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind,
now I see." 26They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open
your eyes?" 27He answered them, "I have told you already, and you

would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want
to become his disciples?" [28]And they reviled him, saying, "You are his
disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. [29]We know that God has spoken
to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes
from." [30]The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not
know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. [31]We know
that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God
and does his will, God listens to him. [32]Never since the world began has
it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. [33]If this
man were not from God, he could do nothing." [34]They answered him,
"You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast
him out. [35]Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found
him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" [36]He answered, "And
who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" [37]Jesus said to him, "You have
seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." [38]He said, "Lord, I
believe," and he worshiped him. [39]Jesus said, "For judgment I came into
this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may
become blind." [40]Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things,
and said to him, "Are we also blind?" [41]Jesus said to them, "If you were
blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your
guilt remains."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED **P. 207**

HYMN OF THE DAY "GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO THAT HE GAVE" 571

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in your Mercy, **C** **Hear our Prayer.**

In Our Prayers:

+ Scott Christenson	+ Darian Litzau
+ Andy Birkholz	+ Merlin Mathews
+ Dan Gueningsman	+ Karen Strei
+ Maya Radtke	+ Hillard Klaustermeier
+ Sonya Clausen	+ Angela Litzau
+ Bonnie Rehmann	+ 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

"O Son of God, in Galilee"	841 (T: 526)
"Lamb of God"	550
"Christ, the Life of All the Living"	420
"Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"	697

Nunc Dimittis p. 211

Benedicamus & Benediction p. 212

Closing Hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" 425

Acknowledgments

Attendance Last Week
Sunday: 148
Sunday School: 34
Bible Study: 25

Organist:
Lynn Mueller

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. LENT - This week's Lenten supper and Service will be held at St. Peter.

2. 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.

3. EASTER GARDENS - Join the Board of Ed on Palm Sunday (3/29) for a family Sun. School event. We will be making Resurrection gardens during the Sunday School hour. Everyone is welcome to attend.

4. 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.

5. 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!

6. 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.

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

8. 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

9. BINGO PRIZE DONATIONS- The Board of Education is seeking donations for our end of year Sunday School party. Prize donations are requested for a variety of age ranges. Donations may be dropped off in the bin in the north education wing.

10. MISSION TRIP- The Mission Trip to Camp Lutherhaven in July has been changed to Camp Omega June 7th – 12th, this trip is open to youth in grades 8-12th! We will complete some servant work for the camp and have some fun around camp. On Sunday, March 29th we will

have a meeting between services for parents and youth to learn more.

11. ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY ditch clean-up will take place on Sunday, May 17th. Please watch for more information.

12. SCHEDULE- *March 22:* Ushers: 1st Service-Brendan Feltmann, Jim Klaustermeier, Don Hoof; 2nd Service: Cory Schauer, Cole Ehrke, Jason Lyons Acolytes: 1st Service- B. Thompson, J. Barlau; 2nd Service: M. Schauer, L. Schauer; Greeters- 1st Service: Jerome Herrmann; 2nd Service: Wayne & Tanya Mathews; Flowers: Lois Raduenz; Altar Guild: Linda Mensing, April Lee, Jane Roth; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

13. MCLEOD FOOD SHELF MARCH CAMPAIGN is happening now! Every donation made between now and April 6 will be matched through the GMCC Grant. You can give online at https://mcleodemergencyfoodshelf.org/donate, mail a check to 719 13th Street East, Glencoe, MN 55336, or stop by one of the food shelf locations in Hutchinson or Glencoe. Financial gifts help provide additional food purchases and support program expenses, allowing the food shelf to serve more families in need. Thank you for your generosity and continued support!

14. BLOOD DRIVE- LP HS and Community Blood Drive will be held on Wednesday, March 18 from 1:00-7:00 PM. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter LesterHS to schedule an appointment. See bulletin board for more information.

Calendar of Events

Sun. March 15	**8:00 a.m.** 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. **10:30 a.m.**	**WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION** Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study Sun. School Gr. 1-6 sing **WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION**
Mon. March 16	 Noon	Release Time Classes Lamplighter Deadline
Wed. March 18	Noon 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. **7:00 p.m.**	Deadline for Bulletin Release Time Confirmation Class (at St. Peter) Lent Meal (at St. Peter) **LENTEN SERVICE (at St. Peter)**
Thur. March 19	8:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Sandwich Ministry Anchor Point (Grades 7-12)
Fri. March 20		Church Offices Closed
Sun. March 22	**8:00 a.m.** 9:15 a.m. **10:30 a.m.**	**WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM** Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study **WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM**