

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



MARCH 22, 2026

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

**124 MAPLE STREET NORTH
LESTER PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
(320)-395-2573**

**Pastor Barlau: Cell (612) 394-6224
Pastor email: pastorbarlau@gmail.com
www.stpaulp.org**

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING IV P. 203-212

PRESERVICE "WONDERFUL CROSS" SUN. SCHOOL GR. 1-6 10:30 AM

OPENING HYMN "IF CHRIST HAD NOT BEEN RAISED FROM DEATH" 486

✠ CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION ✠

P. 203

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT

PSALM 116:1-4,8 ANTIPHON: V. 15

Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his saints.

**I love the Lord, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

**The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid
hold on me;**

I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the Lord:

"O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!"

**For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

**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.**

Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his saints.

KYRIE

P. 204

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon
Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore
in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

G Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

¹The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." ⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. ¹¹Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.'" ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."

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 8:1-11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous

requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 11:1-45

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

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." ¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the

house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." ²⁸When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

P. 206

HYMN OF THE DAY

"MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN"

430

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

“COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING”	686
“WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS”	543
“JESUS CHRIST, MY SURE DEFENSE”	741

NUNC DIMITTIS

P. 211

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**Attendance Last Week**

Sunday: N/A

Sunday School: N/A

Bible Study: N/A

Organist:

Jane Holasek

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. 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.
- 6. CARDS-** Easter greeting cards are available for \$1.00 each on the LWML table. Proceeds go to support the Mission projects. Thank you.
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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.

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

10. SCHEDULE- March 29: Ushers: 1st Service-Larry Hoof, Stewart Ruwersma, Jr., Derek Zebell; 2nd Service: Sheldon Ehrke, Brett Schmidt, Beau Schmidt; Acolytes: 1st Service- T. Parpart, W. Schauer; 2nd Service: L. Dressler, A. Kosek; Greeters- 1st Service: Larry & Jeanette Hoof; 2nd Service: Shadd & Julie Dial; Flowers: Lois Raduenz; Altar Guild: Linda Mensing, April Lee, Jane Roth; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

11. 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!

Calendar of Events

Sun. March 22	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study Sun. School Gr 1-6 Sing WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM
Mon. March 23		Release Time Classes
Tues. March 24	7:30 p.m.	Dartball Away vs. Mayer
Wed. March 25	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 26	6:00 p.m.	Anchor Point (Grades 7-12)
Sun. March 29	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP