

# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent – March 23, 2025**

**A Warm Welcome in Christ to our Worship Guests!** We are glad for the opportunity to share with you the Gospel of forgiveness through Jesus. Please introduce yourself to the pastor and sign our guest book. We invite you to come worship with us again. If you would like to know more about St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church and our national organization, the Church of the Lutheran Confession, please speak with the pastor. He will be happy to call on you to share our confession and mission with you.

**Today's Order of Worship** is "Divine Worship Setting 1," as printed in the liturgy pamphlet distributed by the ushers. The service is based on pages 12-21 in *Worship Supplement 2000* (tan hymnal). Please leave your copy of the liturgy pamphlet in the pew after the service concludes or drop it into the designated box in the foyer so that it may be used in future services. Thank you



Serving Us Today  
Organist Carly Mess  
Ushers Mike Sprengeler, John Sprengeler

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 130 (pew bible, page 551)
- ◆ Today's Hymns: 814, 647, 614, 924
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Exodus 3:1-8, 10-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: Psalm 38

## **Sermon**



**Text – Luke 13:1-9**

**Theme – *"God Graciously Calls Us to Repent"***

1. Repentance is absolutely necessary.
2. God gives us a time of grace for repentance.

*The Scripture Lessons, Psalm of the Day, and Sermon Text are printed on the following pages.*

# Today's Scriptures

## First Lesson – Exodus 3:1-8, 10-15

### *The Lord Appears to Moses in the Burning Bush*

1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” 4 So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am. 5 Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.” 6 Moreover He said, “I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. 7 And the LORD said: “I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey. | 10 Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” 11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” 12 So He said, “I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” 13 Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?” 14 And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” 15 Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.’”

## Psalm of the Day – Psalm 38

### *Prayer in Time of Chastening*

- P O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your wrath:  
C **Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure!**  
P For Your arrows pierce me deeply:  
C **And Your hand presses me down.**  
P For my iniquities have gone over my head:  
C **Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.**  
P Lord, all my desire is before You:  
C **And my sighing is not hidden from You.**  
P For in You, O LORD, I hope:  
C **You will hear, O Lord my God.**  
P Make haste to help me:  
C **O Lord, my salvation!**

## Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

### *Old Testament Examples (Warnings Against Idolatry)*

1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. 6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. 7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” 8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; 9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; 10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now all these things

happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

## Sermon Text – Luke 13:1-9

### *Repent or Perish / Jesus' Parable of the Barren Fig Tree*

<sup>1</sup> There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> And Jesus answered and said to them, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” <sup>6</sup> He also spoke this parable: “A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, “Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?” <sup>8</sup> But he answered and said to him, “Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup> And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.””

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Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are taken from *The Holy Bible*, New King James Version (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc., © 1982). Used by permission. All rights reserved.

### **This Week at St. Paul**

Today (3/23)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
Wed	7:00 pm	Lenten Service 4
Sun (3/30)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class

### **Extended Calendar**

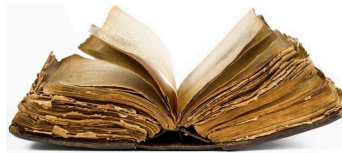
- Palm Sunday brunch served by men: Sunday, April 13, 10:45 am
- Maundy Thursday Com. Service: Thursday, April, 17, 7:00 pm
- Good Friday Worship: Friday, April 18, 7:00 pm
- Easter Sunday Worship: Sunday, April 20, 9:30 am
- Spring Clean-Up Day: Saturday, April 26, 8:00 am to noon
- Annual Front Range Mission Festival Service: Sunday, May 4, 3:00 pm, hosted this year by Prince of Peace Lutheran in Loveland (guest speaker: Pastor David Reim).
- West-Central Delegate Conference, hosted by Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Jamestown, ND: Tues-Thurs, May 20-22
- Pastor-elect Sam Naumann Installation Service at Prince of Peace, Loveland: Sunday, May 25, 3:00 pm

**In Our Prayers:** Doug Tiefel, who is suffering from an undetermined medical condition. He will be undergoing a biopsy and is expecting to have a confirmed diagnosis soon. The Lord bless and keep him with His spiritual peace.

**Pastoral Call:** I have been led to return the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Mountain View, CA. Please remember St. Stephen Congregation in your prayers, as well other CLC churches currently experiencing a pastoral vacancy, asking the Lord to supply them with a spiritual shepherd soon, in accordance with His promise: *“When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men ... He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. And He Himself gave some to be ... pastors ... for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:8-12).*

**Our Fourth Midweek Lenten Service** will be conducted this Wednesday at 7:00 pm. This year's theme is *"The Scriptures Were Fulfilled."* In each service we are giving attention to an Old Testament prophecy that was fulfilled in the Passion of Christ, which verifies that God's Word is true and Christ is the world's true Savior. Here's a full listing of service details:

***"The Scriptures Were Fulfilled"***



Mar 5	In Christ's Capture in Gethsemane	Matthew 26:55-56	Lay Minister
Mar 12	In His Being Numbered With Sinners	Mark 15:25-28	Pastor Libby
Mar 19	In Judas' Betrayal	Luke 22:21-22	Pastor Schuetze
<b>Mar 26</b>	<b>In the Scorn Christ Endured from Bystanders</b>	<b>Matthew 27:39-44</b>	<b>Lay Minister</b>
Apr 2	In the Manner of Christ's Death	John 19:30-37	Pastor Libby
Apr 9	In the Cruelty Shown by the Soldiers	Matthew 27:34-35	Pastor Schuetze

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**Call News** – Pastor Caleb Schaller of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, has accepted the call to the tri-parish of Grace Lutheran Church, Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran Church, Mission, SD, and St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, White River, SD. <> Christine Starland (part-time teacher) and Deb Owens (band) have accepted their respective calls to Berea Lutheran School of Inver Grove Heights, MN.



## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

March 24-29

**Mon Psalm 22:1-11** A psalm that was on our Savior's mind as He hung on the cross. While enemies see Him as rejected by God (v8), He still looks to God for help in the deepest distress, and calls to Him – **My God!**

**Tues John 10:23-38** The Jews gather around Jesus, asking if He is the Christ, but do not believe it when He tells them. They pick up stones to kill Him, and He answers: at least believe the Father's works which I do.

**Wed Psalm 22:12-21** Evil men surround the Savior like wild animals, and His strength is drained as they divide His garments (v18). Still He looks to the Lord, His heavenly Father, for strength and for deliverance.

**Thurs 2 Corinthians 4:7-14** The apostle's treasure, the knowledge of God's glory in Christ, is his only help in the face of every distress, persecution, and death. But its power is from God (v7), and equal to the task!

**Fri Psalm 22:22-31** Hanging on the cross, the Savior knew He would be delivered from every distress, and that the Lord's kingship would prevail. Rich and poor would praise the Lord for His gift of righteousness.

**Sat Exodus 2:11-15** Moses was weaned by his own mother and raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter, but that does not make him ruler of Israel or Egypt. His attempt ends in "exile" in Midian.