

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – March 15, 2026**

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*Welcome to*

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Lakewood, Colorado**

**A Warm Welcome in Christ to our Worship Guests.** It is our prayer that your faith is strengthened today by the preaching of our Lord's pure Word and by the psalms and hymns and spiritual songs that our Scripture-based liturgy offers every week. St. Paul is a member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC). The CLC is represented by congregations throughout the United States, in Canada, and throughout the continent of Africa, India, and neighboring nations. All our churches confess that the Bible is the inspired and unerring Word of God. We invite our Guests to record their visit by signing the Guestbook and to come and worship with us again. Questions? Please speak with one of the ushers. They will happy to assist you!

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

*based on Worship Supplement 2000 (pp. 12-21)*

### Opening Prayer

### Hymn

LSB 803 "*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*"

### The Invocation

P: Welcome ... in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

### Confession of Sins & Announcement of Forgiveness

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen.

### Lord, Have Mercy

*The Kyrie*

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

### Glory to God in the Highest

*The Gloria in Excelsis*

C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,  
 3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,

Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.  
 You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
 At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:

We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
 O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,  
 Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,

Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.  
 Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.  
 With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

## First Lesson

*Romans 8:1-10*

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now

if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

## **Psalm of the Day**

*Psalm 143*

P: Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications!:

**C: In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness.**

P: Do not enter into judgment with Your servant:

**C: For in Your sight no one living is righteous.**

P: Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me:

**C: My heart within me is distressed.**

P: Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning:

**C: For in You do I trust.**

P: Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God:

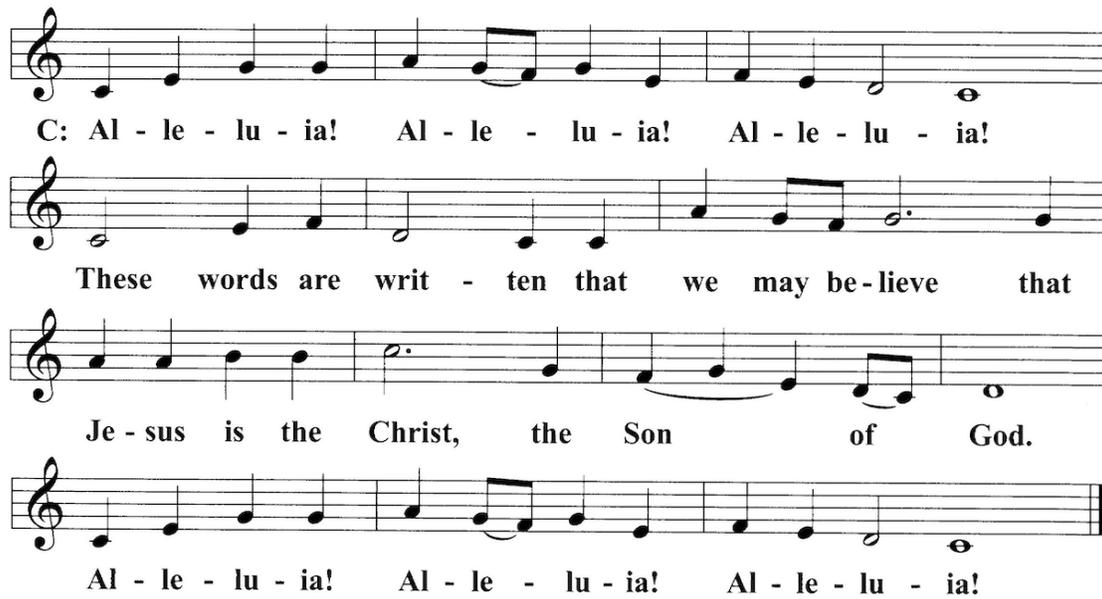
**C: Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.**

## **Second Lesson**

*Matthew 20:17-28*

17 Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, 18 “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, 19 and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.” 20 Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. 21 And He said to her, “What do you wish?” She said to Him, “Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.” 22 But Jesus answered and said, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They said to Him, “We are able.” 23 So He said to them, “You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.” 24 And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it. Alleluia!



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for the Alleluia. It consists of four staves of music in C major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'.

## Confession of Faith

## *Apostles Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Hymn of the Day

LSB 435 "*Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain*"

## Sermon

*Hosea 5:13-6:3*

### *When God Hurts Us He Wants to Help Us*

1. He has a loving reason for inflicting pain.
2. He yearns to refresh us with His healing grace.

5:13 When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah his wound, then Ephraim went to Assyria, and sent to the great king. But he is not able to cure you or heal your wound. 14 For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, and like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, even I, will tear and go away; I will carry off, and no one shall rescue. 15 I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me. 6:1 “Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. 2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. 3 Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.” [ESV]

## Offertory

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me  
 not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly  
 Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
 Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

## Offering of Thankful Hearts / Prayer of the Church

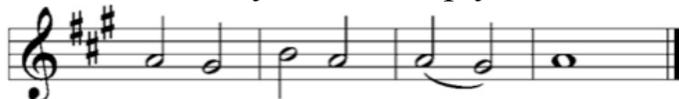
**The Lord's Prayer** – Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## Hymn

LSB 423 "*Jesus, Refuge of the Weary*"

## Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you . . .

C:   
A - men, a - men, a - men.

## Closing Hymn

LSB 923 *"Almighty Father Bless the Word"*

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### This Week at St. Paul

Today (3/15)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
Wed	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Service 5
Thur	6:30 pm	ILC Tour Choir Concert
Sun (3/22)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class

**The St. Paul 2026 Directory** has been printed. You will find a copy in your mailbox. Extra copies, for those interested, are in the tract rack.

**Prayer Needs:** We ask the Lord for His continuing gracious care for our fellow members Ethel Eastridge, Mark Hartmeister, Pat Newton, Doug Tiefel, Jerry Wamboldt, and Julie Ann Zamora.

**Our Midweek Lenten Service Schedule** will continue this Wednesday, March 18, at 7:00 pm. The service will be conducted by Pastor Sam Naumann of Prince of Peace, Loveland. Pastor Schuetze will conduct the service at Redeemer, Cheyenne.



**The Immanuel Lutheran College Tour Choir** will present a concert of sacred music titled "Shepherd and Lamb" at St. Paul this Thursday, March 19, at 6:30 pm. Concern invitations for sharing with friends and neighbors are available in the tract rack. Help yourself!

## Synod News & Notes

- Teacher Levi Schaller of Messiah Lutheran School, Hales Corners, WI, has received the call to Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY.
- Dr. Daniel Schierenbeck has accepted the two-year call from the CLC Call Committee for Educational Institutions to serve as the President of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary in Eau Claire, WI.
- Pastor Tom Naumann of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI, has accepted the call to Grace Lutheran Church, Fridley, MN.
- Pastoral vacancies currently exist at Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ; Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI; Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN; Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA; Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI; and Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI (3<sup>rd</sup> pastor).
- Teaching vacancies currently exist at Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI; and Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI; and Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY.
- Pastor Nathanael Mayhew of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has been appointed by President Michael Wilke and has accepted the call to serve as the Secretary of the Church of the Lutheran Confession through June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2026. Pastor Mayhew is filling out the two-year term of former CLC Secretary, Pastor Wayne Eichstadt. Previously, Pastor Eichstadt had accepted the appointment to serve as a member of the ILC Board of Regents. He is filling out the term of former ILC Regent board member, Pastor John Hein.

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## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

### March 16-21

**Mon John 6:1-15** Jesus provides ample food for more than five thousand people. But bread alone does not bring spiritual life, and He withdraws again when they want to force Him to be their earthly king (v15).

**Tues Galatians 4:21-31** Paul urges the Galatians to remain children of the promise (saved by grace), and not to return to slavery to the law for their hope of life. He illustrates with Sarah's and Hagar's offspring.

**Wed Isaiah 49:8-13** The Lord promises to help and guard His servant and to make Him a covenant for the people. Thus the Lord comforts His people and shows mercy to His afflicted ones (v13).

**Thurs Psalm 139:1-12** The all-knowing Lord has placed His hand on us (v.5) and is with us always, no matter where we may go (v8-9). He always sees clearly, for darkness and light are the same to Him (v12).

**Fri Psalm 139:13-24** Not only do God's knowledge and presence comfort us, but also His great power, shown in our creation. He has the power over all those who hate Him, and He leads us in the way everlasting.

**Sat Psalm 46** God's power is so high above both nations and creation in turmoil that we need never fear, though all are trembling around us. He makes wars cease and says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (v10).

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
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Sunday School Superintendent: Derek Barthels

Serving Us Today

Organist Suzannah Miller

Ushers John Sprengeler, Mike Sprengeler

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