

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

Pastor: David Reim - 549-5250

Pianist: Julie Reim

Ushers: Willy and Roman

Read Before the Service: Psalm 84 Hymnal pg. 139

Opening Prayer

Gracious Lord, you have promised, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12) O LORD, we thank you that you have enlightened us by Your word to see your Son Jesus Christ as our only Saviour from sin. Lord, may you open our eyes to see you more clearly, and to follow you all the days of our life. Open our hearts this morning that we may hear Your Word and grow in our faith and knowledge of our sins and rejoice in your grace and mercy through our Saviour Jesus Christ. In Your most holy name we ask it. Amen.

Invocation:

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



A - men.

Opening Hymn: 37 Lord, 'Tis Not that I Did Choose Thee

1. Lord, 'tis not that I did choose Thee;
That, I know, could never be;
For this heart would still refuse Thee
Had Thy grace not chosen me.
Thou hast from the sin that stained me
Washed and cleansed and set me free
And unto this end ordained me,
That I ever live to Thee.

2. 'Twas Thy grace in Christ that called me,
Taught my darkened heart and mind;
Else the world had yet enthralled me,
To Thy heavenly glories blind.
Now my heart owns none above Thee;
For Thy grace alone I thirst,
Knowing well that, if I love Thee,
Thou, O Lord, didst love me first.

3. Praise the God of all creation;
Praise the Father's boundless love.
Praise the Lamb, our Expiation,
Priest and King enthroned above.
Praise the Spirit of salvation,
Him by whom our spirits live.
Undivided adoration
To the great Jehovah give.

Confession of Sins: P: Jesus invites us saying, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

C: We come to you Lord, with the heavy burden of our sins. We know that You bore our sins in Your own body on the cross. Therefore we are confident to confess our sins trusting in You for forgiveness.

C & P: Almighty and most merciful God, I confess that I am a sinner by my very nature, I was born in the sin of Adam. Because of my corrupt nature, I sin against you daily in my thoughts, in my words and actions. I have done the things you forbid, and I fail to do the things you command. Lord, I know I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. Yet, I come before you in repentance, because you are merciful and gracious and have given Your Son to die for me. Oh God, be merciful to me, a sinner. Forgive me, I pray, for Jesus sake.

P: God, our heavenly Father, is truly merciful and gracious, He has given His own Son into death for our sins, and raised Jesus to life for

our justification. By His unfailing word of promise, I assure you that all your sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake.



Response of Praise: Hymn 244

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit: Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory, While eternal ages run!

Glory be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to Him who bought us, Made us kings with Him to reign!
Glory, glory, To the Lamb that once was slain!

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 6:8-10

8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." 9 And he said, "Go, and say to this people: "'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' 10 Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

Response of Praise:

P: My eyes are ever toward the Lord:

C: For He shall pluck my feet out of the net.

P: Turn unto me and have mercy upon me:

C: For I am desolate and afflicted.

P: Unto You, O Lord, do I lift up my soul:

C: O my God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed.

P: Arise, O Lord; let not man prevail:

C: Let the heathen be judged in Your sight.

P: Unto You, I lift up my eyes, O You who dwell in the heavens:

C: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Confession of Faith: The 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: 284 Father of Mercies, In Thy Word

1. Father of mercies, in Thy Word
What endless glory shines!
Forever be Thy name adored
For these celestial lines.
2. Here may the blind and hungry come
And light and food receive;
Here shall the lowliest guest have room
And taste and see and live.
3. Here springs of consolation rise
To cheer the fainting mind,
And thirsting souls receive supplies
And sweet refreshment find.
4. Here the Redeemer's welcome voice
Spreads heavenly peace around,
And life and everlasting joys
Attend the blissful sound.
5. Oh, may these heavenly pages be
My ever dear delight;
And still new beauties may I see
And still increasing light!
6. Divine Instructor, gracious Lord,
Be Thou forever near;
Teach me to love Thy sacred Word
And view my Savior here.

Sermon Text: Mark 8:11-26

“11 Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him. 12 But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation.”

13 And He left them, and getting into the boat again, departed to the other side. 14 Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, and they did not have more than one loaf with them in the boat. 15 Then

He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." 16 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have no bread." 17 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened? 18 Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember? 19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?" They said to Him, "Twelve." 20 "Also, when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?" And they said, "Seven." 21 So He said to them, "How is it you do not understand?"

22 Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. 23 So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything.

24 And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking." 25 Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. 26 Then He sent him away to his house, saying, "Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town."

Theme:

THE BLIND MEET THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

- 1. The Blind Who Will NEVER See.**
- 2. The Blind Who are MADE to See.**

Hymn: 417 How Can I Thank Thee, Lord

- How can I thank Thee, Lord,
For all Thy loving-kindness,
That Thou hast patiently
Borne with me in my blindness?
When dead in many sins

And trespasses I lay,
I kindled, holy God,
Thine anger every day.

2. It is Thy work alone
That I am now converted;
O'er Satan's work in me
Thou hast Thy power asserted.
Thy mercy and Thy grace
That rise afresh each morn
Have turned my stony heart
Into a heart new-born.
3. I could but grieve Thee, Lord,
And with my sins displease Thee;
Yet to atone for sin
My works could not appease Thee.
Though I could fall from grace
And choose the way of sin,
I had no strength to rise,
A new life to begin.
4. But Thou hast raised me up
To joy and exultation
And clearly shown the way
That leads me to salvation.
My sins are washed away,
For this I thank thee, Lord;
And with my heart and soul
All dead works are abhorred.
5. Grant that Thy Spirit's help
To me be always given
Lest I should fall again
And lose the way to heaven;
That He may give me strength
In mine infirmity
And e'er renew my heart
To serve Thee willingly.
6. Oh, guide and lead me, Lord,
While here below I wander
That I may follow Thee
Till I shall see Thee yonder.

For if I led myself,
I soon would go astray;
But if Thou leadest me,
I keep the narrow way.

7. O Father, God of Love,
Hear Thou my supplication;
O Savior, Son of God,
Grant me Thy full salvation;
And Thou, O Holy Ghost,
Be Thou my faithful Guide
That I may serve Thee here
And there with Thee abide.

Offerings for Christ's Church:

Sing - while offering is brought forward Hymn 441 st. 1-2

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

Prayers 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.

P: The peace of God which surpasses all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

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.

Prayer:

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn and truly understand them, that by patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



Closing Hymn: 508 Thou Whose Almighty Word

1. Thou whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard
And took their flight,
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the Gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light!

2. Thou who didst come to bring,
On Thy redeeming wing,
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind,
Oh, now to all mankind
Let there be light!

3. Spirit of Truth and Love,
Lifegiving, holy Dove,
Speed forth Thy flight;
Move on the water's face,
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light!

4. Holy and blessed Three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might!
Boundless as ocean's tide,
Rolling in fullest pride,
Thro' the earth, far and wide,
Let there be light!



Scripture Treasure to Remember

2 Corinthians 4:6

“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today - Bible Class at 11:20.

Monday - Brass Trio and mens Choir practice at 6:30.

Wednesday - **Lenten Service** at 6:00. We continue to see how **The Deepest Stroke that Pierced Him, was the Stroke that Justice gave.** This week we consider how, **Before Herod, Jesus was Cross Examined.**

Thursday - Pastoral Study Club 2:00

Catechism Class at 4:00.

Friday - Shut-in visit with George at 1:30

Next Sunday - Worship Service at 10:00.

Bible Study at 11:20

ILC Tour Choir

We thank the Lord that the Immanuel Tour Choir has safely completed their tour of Washington state and have made it safely back to ILC. We also thank the Lord the wonderful witness they give of their Beautiful Saviour as ambassadors of Immanuel. Their concert has been streamed and can still be seen at the following link: <https://gethsemaneclc.sermon.net/main/main/22380903>

CLC Call News

Grace Lutheran Church in Sleepy Eye, MN, has called Mrs. Vanessa Wales and Mrs. Danielle Sippert to teach language arts and other courses for the 2025-2026 school year to replace Mrs. Debra Mayhew. **Teacher Claire Abbas** of Berea in Inver Grove Heights, MN, has returned the call to Luther Memorial in Fond du Lac, WI.

Pastor Caleb Schaller of Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI, has accepted the call to the Tri-parish in Valentine, NE, Mission, SD, and White River, SD.

Pastor Hein Update

"Latest March scan on left side, showed multiple new tumours, main tumour went from 7.6 cm to 14.6 cm. The cancer is getting into my soft tissue on right side of sternum, which is the area the pain has really escalated in the past few days. There are also new lymph nodes in the chest area that are now lit. New tumours on the spine in the neck and now the right pelvic area. The left pelvic/hip area has increased in size and is also where more pain is coming from.