

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 14-15, 2026

"Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education"



**Music of Preparation,
Welcome, Announcements, Greeting**

Our Ministry: We are a people of God who are: **"Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education."**

Welcome! "Come and see the works of the Lord... the Lord Almighty is with us!" (Psalm 46:8a, 10a, NIV). We rejoice that you are here today! Let us join together in praising God and witnessing His goodness through Word and Sacrament. To our visitors, your presence brings us special joy—please come again soon!

Devotions & Publications are available in the Main Entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

..... WORSHIP NOTES

Communion: *The Lord's Supper - A Reverent Sacrament

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:27,29, "Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the Lord's cup in an unworthy way is guilty of sinning against the Lord's body and blood. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the Lord's body brings judgment on himself as he eats and drinks." In view of the serious nature of the Lord's Supper, Paul commands us to examine ourselves to see if we are partaking the supper for the purposes for which Christ instituted with our hearts properly prepared. We heartily invite Confirmed members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to receive of the Lord's Supper. Other guests, we ask you to see the pastor or lay minister first so that you may receive the supper to your benefit rather than to your harm as the Apostle Paul warns.

NOTE: If you are allergic or cannot drink full strength wine, The two (2) cups in the center of each tray have water with a drop or two of wine.

Note About Attendance Cards...Remember that the only way we may know you are worshiping with us is by seeing your name on an attendance card. These cards may be completed as you enter for worship and will be collected after the offering. Use one card for each family that is gathered. ***Please list the name of each person in worship.*** (Parents, please take responsibility for signing in your children) There is a "Member" side as well as a "Guest" side. Please fill out the appropriate side and pass them to the center aisle during the gathering of the offerings. The cards are gathered after the offering has been collected.

To Our Visitors...Please sign our guest book found in the main entryway. Our school has a few nooks and crannies, so don't be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available in the main entryway.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE

(The music for the liturgy may be found on page 151 in the Hymnal)

Notes for Worship: As you prepare to receive the Lord's Supper this day, we invite you to turn to the prayer section of the Hymnal (page 305). In addition to prayers for before and after worship, there are prayers for use before and after receiving the Lord's Supper (page 308 as well as on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

Before worship prayer

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. AMEN.

5:00pm - Pre-service: "He Is Good"

Hosanna Choir

We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!

Opening Hymn: "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

LSB, hymn #435

Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.

Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.

Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more.

They that drink shall live forever; 'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.

INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

C: **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b*

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8-9*

P: Dear Friends in Christ, let us humble our hearts before our Holy God and silently reflect upon our sins.

(Moment of silent reflection)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

C: **Amen.**

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: **(Sung) 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**

(Please be Seated)

THE READING OF THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 42:14-21 *(Darkness Turned To Light!)*

For 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. I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. And 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. They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! Who 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? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14 *(Children Of Light)*

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

Stand (as you are able)

Verse - Lent *Joel 2:13*

C: (Sung) Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

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

C: (Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.

As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. . . . They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So 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." Some 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. So 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." . . . They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be Seated)

Sermon Hymn: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" *LSB, hymn #411*

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus. *Refrain*

Refrain

*In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

Sermon: "His Light In Our Darkness"

Ephesians 5:8-14

Stand (as you are able)

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the

dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *1 Timothy 2:1-4*

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. . . . Lord of Light, in Your Son, You brought light into this dark world. Bless all pastors and church workers, especially those who minister to those who are deaf and blind, that they faithfully point us to all that is good and right and true, and that we discern what is pleasing to You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Loving Father, You claimed us as Your children in Holy Baptism, bringing us out of darkness and into Your marvelous light. Help us to walk as children of light, that Your works be displayed in us while it is still day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Patient Lord, in the face of deep darkness, You remain slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Give us Your patience in our encounters with the darkness, that we graciously and fearlessly lead those who are blinded by sin back to You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful Lord, You deliver those who cry to You from the darkness of pain, sickness, and grief. Visit all who are in need and struggling to see beyond what is before them. We pray that you be with those hospitalized this past week (*Especially, . . .*). Also be with those who continue treatment and healing at home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). O God, bring them Your light and Your peace. Hide them in Your shelter and restore to them the joy of being Your children. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . .)

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

C: Hear Our Prayer.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

(Please be Seated)

Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards

8:30am - Special Music: "My Song Is Love Unknown" *Sanctuary Singers*

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

P: Dear Friends in Christ, leading and helping in the church of Jesus Christ matters! So I would like to ask that all those in leadership of our church, those who serve as volunteers (in any capacity) in our church and school to please stand.

Today, all of us here at St. Paul's are thanking God for the servant heart we see in each one of you. You are truly gifts of God to us! Even as your service is a gift to us, it's also a privilege that God has given to you. He has qualified you for service and calls you to it.

With this in mind, as you volunteer your time and talents to the Lord's work in our church and school, Will you exercise integrity? Will you model Jesus' love for each person in your sphere of influence? Will you continue to grow in faith and knowledge as you spend time daily in God's Word and prayer?

Workers: Yes, as God works this in me.

P: To the entire congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School: Will you honor and respect these leaders and workers as representatives of Jesus Himself? Will you pray for them and encourage them? Will you follow their godly example and do all you can to make their work a joy, not a burden?

Congregation: Yes, as God works this in us.

P: Let us pray, . . . Lord Jesus, You have given Your people many and varied gifts, talents, and abilities. You open doors for us to use our giftedness in our homes, communities, and here at St. Paul's.

Teach us to serve gladly, knowing that by serving others, we are serving You. Increase our love for You and for one another so that when others see our unity, they praise you for it.

Day by day, help us grow in our willingness and ability to speak words of encouragement and appreciation to one another. Protect us from envy and quarreling.

Make us more and more like the people whom Paul once named as "workers in the Lord" (Romans 16:12). Teach us to live like Phoebe, whom Paul

describes as "a servant of the church" (Romans 16:1). Make us truly thankful for those among us who serve us in your name, Lord Jesus. It's in that name we pray.

C: AMEN

P: To all those who volunteer and serve, in any way in our church and school, we give thanks to God for your presence and your service in His name. Go forth in His peace and with His strength and blessing.

C: Amen. Thanks Be To God.

Stand (as you are able)

OFFERTORY - Let The Vineyards

LSB, Hymn # 955

C: (Sung) Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

HOLY COMMUNION

(In preparation to receive the Sacrament, please read the Communion notes on page 2)

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: (Sung) And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C: (Sung) We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalms 136

C: (Sung) It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the darkness of sin and Satan and gave His light and life to many that we might once again celebrate Jesus' resurrection with joy and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

SANCTUS ~ Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9

C: (Sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P: O Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Mt 26:26-28, Mk 14:22-24, Lk 22:19-20, 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

John 20:19

C: And also with you.

Agnus Dei ~ The Lamb of God

John 1:29

C: (Sung) Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Please be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB620 - Jesus Comes Today with Healing

Jesus comes today with healing, Knocking at my door, appealing,
Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace.

He Himself makes preparation, And I hear His invitation:
"Come and taste the blessed feast."

Christ Himself, the priest presiding, Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament,
Gives the bread of life, once broken, And the cup, the precious token
Of His sacred covenant.

Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv'n for me,
Very Lamb of God from heaven, Who to bitter death was given,
Hung upon the cursed tree.

God descends with heav'nly power, Gives Himself to me this hour
In this ordinary sign.

On my tongue His pledge receiving, I accept His grace, believing
That I taste His love divine.

Let me praise God's boundless favor, Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.

Wedding garments He provides me, With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.

Now have I found consolation, Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.

God, my shield from ev'ry terror, Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

LSB704 - Renew Me, O Eternal Light

Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from Your holy face.

Remove the pow'r of sin from me
And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will
Temptations of the flesh to still.

Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire,
And with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only You may love
And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face,
O Light eternal, through Your grace.

LSB625 - Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread (Tune LSB555)

Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,
May I in grace possess You.
Let me with holy food be fed,
In hunger I address You.
Prepare me well for You, O Lord,
And, humbly by my prayer implored,
Give me Your grace and mercy.

To pastures green, Lord, safely guide,
To restful waters lead me;
Your table well for me provide,
Your wounded hand now feed me.
Though weary, sinful, sick, and weak,
Refuge in You alone I seek,
To share Your cup of healing.

O bread of heav'n, my soul's delight,
For full and free remission
I come with prayer before Your sight
In sorrow and contrition.
Your righteousness, Lord, cover me
That I receive You worthily,
Assured of Your full pardon.

I do not merit favor, Lord,
My weight of sin would break me;
In all my guilty heart's discord,
O Lord, do not forsake me.
In my distress this comforts me
That You receive me graciously,
O Christ, my Lord of mercy!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray . . . We give thanks to You, Almighty God, for opening our eyes through this gift. Help us to walk as children of light, with our eyes ever toward You in faith and toward one another with love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

BENEDICTION

P: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **(Sung) Amen**

Closing Hymn: "Not All the Blood of Beasts"

LSB, hymn #431

Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain.

But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.

My faith would lay its hand
 On that dear head of Thine,
 While as a penitent I stand,
 And there confess my sin.

My soul looks back to see
 The burden Thou didst bear
 When hanging on the cursed tree;
 I know my guilt was there.

Believing, we rejoice
 To see the curse remove;
 We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice
 And sing His bleeding love.

See You In Worship Next Week!

After worship prayer
Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after Sunday services.

Altar Flowers Altar flowers this weekend are given in honor of Ben Deck's 100th birthday, by the Deck Family; also in loving memory of our grandmothers, by Jim & Jenny Mossman.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Karl J. Koeppen Senior Pastor	Rev. David Baker Missionary to Mongolia
Rev. Roger A. Drinnon Associate Pastor	Rev. Ross Engel Adopt-A-Chaplain
Mr. Brian Porter Principal	Church & School Office: 932-0312
Church Campus 348 E. Merchant, Kankakee	
School Campus and Church & School Office 1780 Career Center Road, Bourbonnais	
Church & School Website www.stpaulslutheran.net	

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