

ORDER OF WORSHIP

3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 3, 2024

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8100 SHADY GROVE RD.
MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111

SAINTPAUL-LCMS.COM

804.427.7500

LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

Sunday Schedule

Adult Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.

Traditional Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Rodney E. Bitely, Pastor
Mr. Bill Moats, Choir Director
Mr. Roger Sethmann, Organist
Mrs. Debbie Harris, Church Secretary

A Word About Communion

We Lutherans believe in the Real Presence, namely that Christ's body and blood are actually present with the bread and wine in a very special way (1 Cor. 10:16). Because we want to honor Christ and to grow closer to Him through this precious gift of forgiveness we practice close communion. Our faith in Christ brings us closer to Him and to each other. This sacrament is His way of keeping us close, that is, in union or communion with Him and fellow Christians. In order to build closeness, please read below before communing. As a Baptized Christian:

- ✦ I confess my sins to God and rely on Jesus Christ to save me from them.
- ✦ I believe that Christ is truly present in this Sacrament and that with the bread and wine I actually receive His true body and blood.
- ✦ I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend my sinful life and live a life that is pleasing to God.



As We Gather

In our Gospel today, we find Jesus clearing the temple of all those who have made it a house of trade. Jesus disrupts not just the sinfulness of these practices, showing a different side of Him than we expect to see. He also disrupted the status quo—everyday realities that had come to be accepted in the temple. May Jesus so disrupt our lives where it is needed.

Key:

- △ – Stand
- ▣ – Pastor
- ▣ – Assistant/Reader
- ▣ – Congregation

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Stand

427 In the Cross of Christ | Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872
Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815-67
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession & Absolution

1 John 1:8-9; [John 20:19-23]

- 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.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- 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. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 69:14–16; antiphon: v. 9

- P** For zeal for your house has consumed me,
C **and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.**
- P** Deliver me from sinking in the mire;
C **let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.**
- P** Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up,
C **or the pit close its mouth over me.**
- P** Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good;
C **according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.**
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
C **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** For zeal for your house has consumed me,
C **and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.**

Kyrie

Lord, Have Mercy

- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**

728 How Firm a Foundation

sts. 1-3



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
 For I am your God and will still give you aid;
 I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;



What more can He say than to you He has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!

Text: A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.
 Tune: Genuine Church Music, 1832, Winchester
 Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Lent 3

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray... O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

God offers ten words for the people He delivered from Egypt

A The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, chapter 20.

And God spoke all these words, saying,
“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

“You shall have no other gods before me.

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

We preach Christ crucified.

A The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 1.

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choral Anthem

Stand

Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

P [O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,

C **the founder and perfecter of our faith,**

P who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,

C **and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Jesus cleanses the temple

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

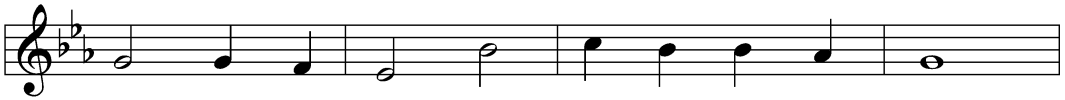
Sit

Children's Message

All children, preschool age through elementary school, are invited to come forward for a special message.

878 Abide with Me

sts. 1-3



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
 Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847, alt.
 Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-89
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon - 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, "The Power of God"

*"The word of the cross is folly
 to those who are perishing,
 but to us who are being saved
 it is the power of God."*

1 Corinthians 1:18

Stand

878 Abide with Me

sts. 4-6



4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
 6 Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 Ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.



Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still if Thou a - bide with me!
 In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847, alt.
 Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-89
 Text and tune: Public domain

Apostles' Creed

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

Prayer of the Church

P On our hearts imprint Your image,
C blessed Jesus, King of grace.

P Lord Jesus Christ, lead Your church on earth to be a house of prayer for all the nations. Disrupt our petty preferences and cultural bias so that we might welcome people from every nation, language, and background. On our hearts imprint Your image,
C blessed Jesus, King of grace.

P Lord Jesus Christ, You are well acquainted with grief and death. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief, *especially*... Point them to the hope that in Your Father's house are many rooms and that You have gone to prepare a place for us. On our hearts imprint Your image,
C blessed Jesus, King of grace.

P Lord Jesus Christ, intercede for all those struggling with relationship issues, whether in friendships, family dynamics, marital struggles, or relationships within the church. We pray that You would bring repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation in the midst of such struggle. On our hearts imprint Your image,
C blessed Jesus, King of grace.

P Lord Jesus Christ, send Your strength to all missionaries, *especially* ,,,. Embolden them to preach the power of Your cross. Encourage them in their service by the same message they proclaim that You have died and are risen for us and our salvation. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C **blessed Jesus, King of grace.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, *especially*... Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your good and gracious will. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C **blessed Jesus, King of grace.**

(additional petitions may be offered.)

P Lord Jesus, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers and intercede for us, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Voluntary

Stand

956 Create in Me

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 Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal-va-tion;

and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A-men.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12
 Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

P The Lord be with you.

C And al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

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 assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity 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 saying:

Sanctus

Holy Lord

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

- P** 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.

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

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 cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God



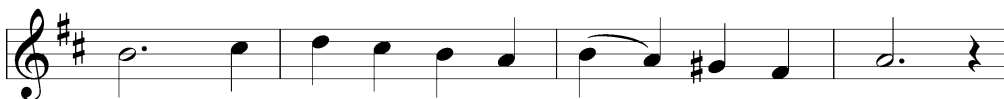
C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

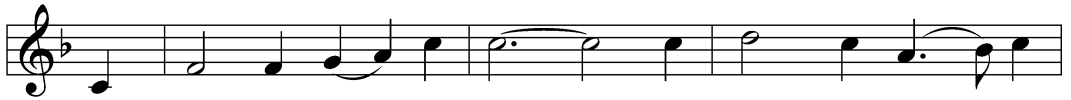
Amen.

Stand

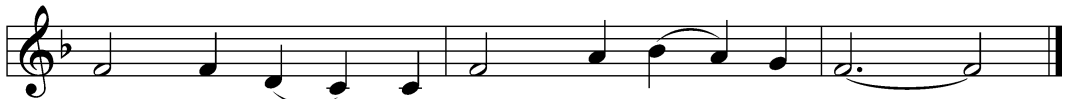
937 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace



1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,
△ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,



Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1-2): James Quinn, 1919-2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948

Tune: American

Text (sts. 1-2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005347

Tune: Public domain

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

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 A - men.
P Go in peace.
C Serve the Lord!

707 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat-utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in Thy com-ands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
Let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, But keep my con-science clear.
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan-d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870
Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Service, 2024-03-03, Lent 3 - DS2.docx

"...[Jesus] said, 'It is finished'
and He bowed His head
and gave up His spirit."

John 19:30b



A Congregation Sharing Christ's Salvation
By Grace...
Through Faith...
Revealed in Scripture...
Alone.