



...I will forgive
their iniquity,
and remember
their sin
no more.

Jeremiah 31:34, NRSV

Sunday, March 17, 2024
9:00 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

It is a joy to gather together for worship!

St. Paul Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. In-person worship with Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. In-person Sunday School – September – May

Communion

We celebrate Jesus' presence each week in Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Supper and Jesus invites us: whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, or just considering Christianity; if you are an infant or elderly; if your family has been in the United States for generations, or has only recently arrived; if you are LGBTQIA+ or straight; if you live with disabilities, chronic illness, or are able-bodied and currently healthy; if you are home-blessed or homeless; ... YOU are welcome at God's meal of grace at St. Paul.

Accessibility

Handicap parking, entrance, wheelchair, and restrooms are available. Sound amplifiers and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Children's Offering

In March and April the children's offering will support our synod partners in Tanzania and India. The offerings will be sent directly to non-profit organizations that work with the North Central Diocese of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the Arcot Lutheran Church (ALC) in India. The Friends of Mwangaza supports education programs that tackle issues related to teaching, learning, public health, empowering women, and building community in Tanzania. Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry supports education through financially supporting students at the ALC boarding homes in India. Check out both organizations here: <https://lutheranpartners.org/what-we-do> or <https://www.mwangazapartnership.org/>

1701 16th Ave. Sterling, IL 61081

815-625-3069

Pastor Makayla Dahleen

Pastor Email: pastormakayla@stpaulsterling.com

Pastor Phone: 815-780-9401

Church email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net

www.stpaulsterling.com

Prelude

"Lord, Be Glorified"

Mark Hayes

When the prelude music begins, we invite you into a time of silent reflection to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Welcome/Announcements

Gathering Hymn

"Lift High the Cross"

ELW #660

The musical score for 'Lift High the Cross' is presented in four systems. Each system consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the staff. The first system covers the first line of the hymn, the second system covers the second line, the third system covers the third line, and the fourth system covers the fourth line and the refrain. The refrain is marked with a 'Refrain' label at the end of the line.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till
all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.
1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:
Refrain
our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

All: Amen.

P: Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

All: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ☩ Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

Kyrie

The image shows a musical score for the Kyrie. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has the lyrics 'To you all hearts are o - pen, to'. The second staff has 'you all de - sires known. To you there are no'. The third staff has 'se - crets, al - might - y God; we come to you.' and ends with a double bar line. Above the final measure of the third staff is the text 'Last time'. The music features a mix of eighth, quarter, and half notes, with a triplet of eighth notes in the third staff.

Text: John Tirro, b. 1966; based on an 11th cent. collect, tr. *Book of Common Prayer*
Music: ALL HEARTS ARE OPEN, John Tirro
Text and music © 2003 Mondo Zen Music, admin. Carol Vincent and Associates, LLC. All rights reserved.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray:

All: O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers and forgive us our sins. Strengthen us to serve you that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

R: A reading from Jeremiah

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

R: Word of God, Word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 51:1-12


Please join me in reading the Psalm Responsively:

R: ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.


All: ²Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

R: ³For I know | my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.
All: ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
R: ⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother’s womb.
All: ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
R: ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
All: ⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
R: ⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.
All: ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**
R: ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
All: ¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**


Lenten Verse




Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Gospel: John 12:20-33
P: The Holy Gospel according to John the twelfth chapter
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.
²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P: The Gospel of our Lord
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s message
Sermon

Hymn of the Day
“As the Winter Days Grow Longer”



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,
as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light —
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer —
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.
yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody
Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

Each petition ends with these words:

P: Hear us, O God,
All: Your mercy is great.

Peace
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
All: And also with you!
P: Let us share a sign of Christ’s peace in whatever way you are comfortable.

MEAL

Offering
“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
Robert Buckley Farlee

Offering Response
“Create in Me a Clean Heart”



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, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The Great Thanksgiving
P: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
All: 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.

Invitation to Communion

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion

Communion Music

“Lamb of God”

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.

“Beautiful Things”

1 All this pain; I won - der if I'll
2 All this earth; . . . could all that is
3 All a - round, . . . hope is spring - ing

ev - er find my way. I won - der if my
lost ev - er be found? . . . Could a gar - den
up from this old ground. . . . Out of cha - os,

life could real - ly change at all.
come up from this ground at all?
life is be - ing found in you.

Refrain

You make beau - ti - ful things, you make beau - ti - ful things out of the dust.

You make beau - ti - ful things, you make beau - ti -

ful things out of us.

Text: Michael Gungor, b. 1980, and Lisa Gungor, b. 1982
Music: Michael Gungor and Lisa Gungor
Text and music © 2009 wordsofprayer.com Songs, admin, CapitolCMGPublishing.com

“Lamb of God”

Anne Krentz Organ

Prayer after Communion

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

All: Amen.

P: Let us pray

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

All: Amen

Irish Blessing

P: May the road rise to meet you,

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face,

The rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again, +

May God hold you in the palm of God's hand.

All: Amen.

Sending Song

“May You Run and Not Be Weary”

May you run and not be wea - ry. May your

heart be filled with song. And may the

love of God con - tin - ue to

give you hope and keep you strong. And may you



Text: Handt Hanson
Music: JOURNEY BLESSING, Handt Hanson
Text and music © 1991 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Worthy Is the Lamb”

John Purifoy

Coffee Fellowship will be served this morning following worship the Fellowship Hall hosted by Lee & Nancy Eilers. All are welcome!

We Remember in Prayer; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Eric Brown, Dawn Grell, Michelle Klinger, Barb Lenn, Lori Dewey, Shirley Graftaas, Betty Steinke, Michael Harting, Bob Cornelsen, Larry Wahler, JoDell Cruz, Harold & Sandy Julifs, Lila Edeus, and Berta Beyer.

Placing our confidence in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of our loved ones, we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Daehle Reitzel. Daehle passed away on March 13. He is the grandpa to Jacob Reitzel, great-grandpa to Paige Reitzel.

May God’s presence bring you comfort and peace.

Worship Assistants:

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Chad Arians

Acolytes – Arians family

Greeters – Janie Billings, Karen Wright

Ushers – Nancy Beck, Diane Yoeckel

Reader – Karen Wright

Sound – Greg Zeigler

Musicians:

Julie Woessner

Dawn Zeigler

Next week – March 24

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Greg Zeigler

Acolytes – *Volunteer Needed*

Greeters – Nancy Frank, Donna Kendall

Ushers – JoAnn & Ruben Garcia

Reader – JoAnn Garcia

Sound – Greg Zeigler

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.