



THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 8, 2026 | 8:00 AND 10:30 AM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Jesus' ministry leads to Jerusalem and to His suffering, crucifixion, and death. It was always going to lead to this moment. And where our Savior goes, His people follow. He teaches us that "whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matthew 16:25 ESV). *This is Part 4 of a year-long series, "A Year in Matthew."*

P Pastor **C** Congregation/All

✠ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.



Led by the Holy Spirit, we gather for worship.
We are prepared for worship through Confession and Absolution.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 429 *"We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died"*

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS

2 Corinthians 6:2 NIV; Genesis 3:19; Joel 2:12; Psalm 51:17; John 3:16-17

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The Lord says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you."

C **But we are dust, and to dust we shall return.**

P "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

C **The sacrifice the Lord desires is a broken and contrite heart; it will not be despised.**

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 “God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” 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.

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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.

VERSE OF THE MONTH *Revelation 5:12*

C Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

ANTHEM “*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*” arr. Sheldon Curry (*Joyful Sounds Choir*)



We hear God's Word read and proclaimed,
and we respond with our prayers and praise, tithes and offerings.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 17:1–7*

En route to their promised homeland, the people of Israel worry and quarrel that they have no water, so God commands Moses to strike a rock at a place called Horeb and water will flow from it.

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with

me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵And the LORD said to

Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it,

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 5:1–8*

Saint Paul teaches a most surprising message: in God’s right timing, while we were still sinners (that is, God’s ungodly enemies), Jesus Christ died for us.

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 19:16–30*

In response to a question from a rich young man, Jesus teaches that our own good works and our material possessions cannot secure our place in God’s eternal kingdom.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the nineteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁶And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” ¹⁷And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” ¹⁸He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery,

and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, ¹⁹Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁰The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?” ²¹Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come,

follow me.”²²When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

²³And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven.”²⁴Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”²⁵When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”²⁶But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”²⁷Then Peter said

in reply, “See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?”²⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”²⁹And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.³⁰But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED *See the inside back cover of the hymnal.*

SERMON HYMN 730 *“What Is the World to Me”*

SERMON *Called to Die: “Dying to Self-Sufficiency”*

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

FIRST GRADE STEWARDSHIP MILESTONE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The 8:00 am service concludes with the Lord’s Prayer, Benediction, and Closing Hymn 437, “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed.”



We receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation
as we share the Sacrament of the Altar.

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also 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.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary
... evermore praising You and singing:



SANCTUS | Holy, Holy, Holy *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

Tune: SOUTHWELL ("Lord Jesus, Think on Me")

- C** (sung) **O holy Lord of hosts,
Our loud hosannas cry:
Bring Your almighty pow'r to bear;
Save us, O Lord, we pray.**

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26*

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So 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.**

PAX DOMINI | Peace of the Lord *John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI | Lamb of God *John 1:29*

Tune: SOUTHWELL (“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”)

C (sung) **O spotless Lamb of God**

Who takes away our sin,

By Your great mercy and Your grace

Wash us without, within.

We believe that in the Lord’s Supper our Lord gives to us His true body and blood with the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of our sins. We recognize the charge that St. Paul offers in 1 Corinthians 11:27–28 that those who come to receive the Lord’s Supper ought to examine themselves so that they do not eat and drink in an unworthy manner. Therefore, out of concern for those who have not been instructed in the faith or who hold to a different confession, we ask that only members of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations receive the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more about what our congregation teaches, to inquire about becoming a member or have questions about our practice, please speak to one of the pastors. Adults and children who have not yet been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith are invited to come forward and receive a spoken blessing at the altar rail; please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest.

For those who require it, diluted wine is found in the purple glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups; gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Music during distribution:

HYMN 743 “*Jesus, Priceless Treasure*”

HYMN 732 “*All Depends on Our Possessing*”

HYMN 618 “*I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table*”



Even as this time of worship ends, we go out of the church into the worship of our everyday lives, ready to be God’s witnesses and do His will.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER & BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 437 “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God!

This week’s takeaway: How would you respond if Jesus spoke to you in a miraculous way and said, “Sell everything you have and follow me”? Would you feel sorrowful, doubtful, or afraid? If so, why? In Matthew 19, Jesus confronts another common idol in our lives—the security and trust we place in money and possessions. Then He invites us to place our confidence instead in the loving care that only God can provide.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Liturgist*

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*; Kathryn Oetting, *Accompanist*

Tytus Lark, Konner McKnight, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*

Cooper Steinkuhler, Bryce Strobel, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*

Gerald & Wendy Dittmer, *Greeters (8:00 am)*

Ann Wolters, *Greeter (10:30 am)*

Pat McKeage, Jim Beeran, Rod McCaslin, Darren Starbuck, *Elders on Duty*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please contact the church office to keep our prayer list up-to-date.

Our pastor “on call” number in case of emergency is (660) 580-5483.

New: Mary Schlueter, Bill Hering, Hudson Kloos, Paul Brackman, Wilmer Bredehoeft, Nicole Maxwell, Richard Cordes, Melba Poese, Bridget Kageman, Addison Wehrle, Alan Luebbert, Diane Stumpfenhaus, Lisa Arnett, Ron Roepe, Joyce Kroll, Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan, Rev. Dr. Les Mitkos, Susan Reeves, Les Bruns

Ongoing: Raymond Becker, Barbie Cowherd, Baby Felix, Gene Virus, Harry Rehkop, Nolan Kirby, Jon Spells, Joe Connell, Roger Kammeyer, Ledrue Brandt, Alyssa Pfannkuch, Alice Hildebrand, Donnie Fiene, Rev. Perry Copus, Darla Wolters, Vickie Greene, Amy Gerdts, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David

Rehmsmeyer, Dannie Griffit, Lari Huntze, Johnny Cowherd, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball

Nation and World: the people of the Somalia

Partners in Mission: Immanuel Lutheran Church; Pilot Knob, MO and Rev. Lawrence Eatherton; Saint Paul Lutheran High School

Birthdays: (3/8) Kirsten Close, Linda Hemme; (3/9) Mark Langkraehr, Orson Mueller; (3/10) Catherine Maggert; (3/11) Kollin McKnight, Jordan Oetting, Brandon Roepe, Patty Schnakenberg; (3/12) Jan Mills, Rev. Dr. Leslie Mitkos; (3/13) Everett Hinck, Melissa Luebbert, Marilyn Oehschlaeger, Helen Page, Ashley Rolf; (3/14) Lena Heimsoth, Jill Langewisch, Christy Lyons, Kathy Wilckens

Anniversaries: (3/8) Wayne & Janice Lindemann; (3/13) Gary & Sandra Bressman; (3/14) Dan & Rebecca Lemmert, Aaron & Meredith Marsh

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

There is a difference between *knowing about God* and *knowing God*. I can hear *about* God and I can read *about* what God is like, but to truly *know* God, I have to be in a relationship with Him. I believe the way that I truly get to *know* God is by going through difficult times with Him by my side. How can I experience His true comfort if I have never been scared or uneasy and called upon His name for help? How can I possibly experience His provision if I haven't been in want? How can I experience His healing if I haven't been broken? If I have a history with God, I can look back and see all of the ways that He has truly provided for me in the past. That's what gives me hope in going forward because I know that my God is with me anywhere and always and that He will provide. I also have all of those accounts of His provision for His people that are found in His Word. That doesn't promise me smooth sailing, but it does mean a steady hand to cling to. This saying has meaning for me, "I'd rather be in the storm with Jesus than on the shore without Him." While it is true that I will never know all that there is to know about God or understand His ways while I live here on this earth, it is true that if my hope is found in Him, He will always be there for me. I hope you know *about* God, but I also pray that you are getting to *know* God through being in a relationship with Him. "For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." Isaiah 41:13

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Isaiah 42:14–21; Ephesians 5:8–14; Matthew 20:29–34

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 420, 573, 617, 570, 744 (*My First Hymnal* 100), 551

"Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity."

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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