THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 15, 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 420 *"Christ, the Life of All the Living" (vv 1–2, 6–7)*

BAPTISM OF COLSON JAMES PAUL WILES *(10:30 am)*

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 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.**

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!**

✝

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 42:14–21*

The Lord will punish evil and provide the way of salvation.

14 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 la-
bor; I will gasp and pant. 15 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. 16 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.
17 They are turned back and utterly put
to shame, who trust in carved idols, who
say to metal images, "You are our gods."
18 Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind,
that you may see! 19 Who is blind but
my servant, or deaf as my messenger
whom I send? Who is blind as my dedi-
cated one, or blind as the servant of the
LORD? 20 He sees many things, but does
not observe them; his ears are open, but
he does not hear. 21 The LORD was
pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to
magnify his law and make it glorious.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Ephesians 5:8–14*
Saint Paul says we were once darkness on account of our sin; now we are light in the Lord. Give up dark deeds and walk as children of light.

8For at one time you were darkness, but
now you are light in the Lord. Walk as
children of light 9(for the fruit of light is
found in all that is good and right and
true), 10and try to discern what is pleas-
ing to the Lord. 11Take no part in the
unfruitful works of darkness, but instead
expose them. 12For it is shameful even
to speak of the things that they do in
secret. 13But when anything is exposed
by the light, it becomes visible, 14for
anything that becomes visible is light.
Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead, and Christ will
shine on you."

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 20:29–34*
Although the crowd tries to silence them, Jesus heals two blind men who call out to Jesus for help.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

29As [Jesus and His disciples] went out
of Jericho, a great crowd followed him.
30And behold, there were two blind men
sitting by the roadside, and when they
heard that Jesus was passing by, they
cried out, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son
of David!" 31The crowd rebuked them,
telling them to be silent, but they cried
out all the more, "Lord, have mercy on
us, Son of David!" 32And stopping, Jesus
called them and said, "What do you
want me to do for you?" 33They said to
him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened."
34And Jesus in pity touched their eyes,
and immediately they recovered their
sight and followed him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED *See the inside back cover of the hymnal. (8:00 am)*

SERMON HYMN 573 *"Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee"*

SERMON *Called to Die: "Dying to Illusion"*

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

Music during the offering:
SOLO *"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" arr. Aaron David Miller (8:00 am)*
DUET *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" arr. William R. Brusick (10:30 am)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:
P Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

The 10:30 am service concludes with the Lord's Prayer, Benediction, and Closing Hymn 551, "When to Our World the Savior Came."

✝

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 617 *"O Lord, We Praise Thee"*
HYMN 570 *"Just as I Am, without One Plea"*
HYMN 744 *"Amazing Grace"*

✝

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 551 *"When to Our World the Savior Came"*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

This week's takeaway: Jesus makes blind eyes see past the devil's illusions to the reality of meaning, security, and life in God's gracious gifts and design.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Liturgist*
Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Preacher*
Katie Drefs, *Organist*
Elijah Rankin, *Soloist (8:00 am)*
Dovelyn Montrey, *Vocalist (10:30 am)*
Annabelle Walsh, *Vocalist/Violin (10:30 am)*
Jemma Oetting, Kahlan Haase, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*
Evan Rankin, Bemjamin Kuecker, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*
Phillip & Rachel Lange, *Greeters (8:00 am)*
Kathy Schnakenberg, *Greeter (10:30 am)*
Pat McKeage, Jim Beerman, 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, Wilmer Bredehoeft, Nicole Maxwell, Richard Cordes, Melba Poese, Bridget Kageman, Addison Wehrrle, Alan Luebbert, Diane Stumpenhaus, Lisa Arnett, Ron Roepe, Joyce Kroll, Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan, Rev. Dr. Les Mitkos, Susan Reeves, Les Bruns

Ongoing: Paul Brackman, 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 South Africa

Partners in Mission: Redeemer Lutheran Church; Potosi, MO; Saint Paul Lutheran High School

Birthdays: (3/15) Lonnie Fischer, Ryan Kunkel, David Strobel; (3/16) Kylie Fischer, Marjorie Foster, Tony Frerking, Dustin Inman, Joyce Innes, Betsy Lange, Dillon McGinnis; (3/17) Travis Fladermeyer, Joan Parks, Wyatt Todd; (3/18) Eli Boehmer, Ethan Boehmer, Lane Brackman, Dawson Bredehoeft, Pat Inman, Mark Shelp; (3/19) Lacey Fiene, Rebecca Haase, Joan Hemme, Dave Oetting, Stanley Oetting; (3/20) Alan Luebbert; (3/21) Isabelle Arnett, Emily Grass, Lucinda Mehl, Richard Nienhueser, Eve Strobel

Anniversaries: (3/16) Jeffrey & Sarah Heins; (3/19) Gary & Beth Maggert; (3/20) Thomas & Ruth Bennett, Leo & Marilyn Oehlschlaeger

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

I'll admit it; I'm a "weather watcher." I like the weather channel. I check the weather app on my phone every morning and maybe several more times during the day. Some of it comes with being a coach of outdoor sports, checking to see what conditions will be like at certain times and if I need to make alternative plans, but when it comes down to it, I am a sun seeker, no doubt about it. Too many cloudy, rainy days in a row, and I am itching for sunshine. Spring is always unpredictable in Missouri. Seventy degrees one day, cold rain and cloudy the next. I do realize that we must have the rain with the sunshine in order to make things grow, and beauty can be found in those clouds. I read these words in one of my devotions, "Human life has its clouds as well. They provide us with shade, refresh us, yet sometimes cover us with the darkness of night. But there is never a cloud without its "bright light." God has told us, "I have set my rainbow in the clouds" (Gen. 9:13). If only we could see clouds from above - in all their billowing glory, bathed in reflective light - we would be amazed at their shining magnificence. O dear child of God! If only you could see your sorrows and troubles from above instead of seeing them from earth. If you would look down on them from where you are seated "with Christ...in the heavenly realms" (Eph 2:6), you would know the beauty of the rainbow of colors they reflect to the hosts of heaven. You would also see the "bright light" of Christ's face and would finally be content to see those clouds cast their deep shadows over the mountain slopes of your life. Remember, clouds are always moving ahead of God's cleansing wind." (Excerpt taken from *Streams in the Desert,* devotional for May 15)

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Ezekiel 37:1–14; Romans 8:1–11; Matthew 26:1–13

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 430, 425, 439, 543, 694, 452

St. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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