



THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 22, 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 430 *"My Song Is Love Unknown"*

BAPTISM OF CHARLES RUSSELL LEWIS PAGE (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, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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 *Ezekiel 37:1–14*

Ezekiel stands in the middle of dry bones. A picture of God's people, God breathes life into these lifeless bones.

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these

bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.” ⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But

there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are

clean cut off.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 8:1–11*

God’s life-giving Spirit lives in those who believe in Jesus Christ.

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set

the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 26:1–13*

In the days leading to His crucifixion, a woman shows her loving devotion to Jesus by anointing Him with costly oil.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

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

When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, ²“You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. ⁵But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

⁶Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she

poured it on his head as he reclined at table. ⁸And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? ⁹For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.”

¹⁰But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me.

¹¹For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me.

¹²In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial.

¹³Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

SERMON HYMN 425 *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

SERMON *Called to Die: “Dying to Indifference”*

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

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 452, "O Perfect Life of Love."*



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 439 “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken” (vv. 1–5, 15)

HYMN 543 “What Wondrous Love Is This”

HYMN 694 “Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower”



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 452 “O Perfect Life of Love”

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God!

This week’s takeaway: If you’re indifferent about Jesus, then there’s still time to think and act differently. Jesus’ love for you leads to acts of love for Him. How can you respond to love with love?

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Liturgist & Preacher*

John Jacobsen, *Organist*

Madie Kuecker, *Trumpet (8:00 am)*; Kahlan Haase, *Clarinet (10:30 am)*

Elena Strecker, Eden Beissenherz, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*

Amelia Shafer, Emma Cooper, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*

Eddie & Linda Kammeyer, *Greeters (8:00 am)*

Bruce & Alice Strobel, *Greeters (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: Rev. Harold Block, Ken Wodrich, Virgil Gramenz, Hudson Kloos, Nicole Maxwell, Richard Cordes, 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: Wilmer Bredehoeft, Melba Poese, Bridget Kageman, Paul Brackman, 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 Gerdtz, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Dannie Griffit, Lari Huntze, Johnny Cowherd, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball

Nation and World: the people of the Spain

Partners in Mission: Faith Lutheran Church; Dexter, MO and Rev. Justin Sponaugle; Saint Paul Lutheran High School

Birthdays: (3/22) Darryl Heimsoth, Joyce Kanoy, Hunter Luedeman, Michael Meyer; (3/23) Aaron Frerking, Pierce Strobel, Kip Vassar, Deena Wienberg; (3/24) Carmin Duncan, Roger Kammeyer, Simon Schmidt; (3/25) Melissa Hunter; (3/26) Sarah Bergman, Shari Grass, James Meyer, Sandra Oetting; (3/27) Blair Hunter, Phillip McCaslin, Takashi Sado, Brooke Shier; (3/28) Janice Blackburn, Mark Brandt, Sr., Jonathan Grass, Brittany Meineka, Alyssa Pfannkuch, Nancy Roepe
Anniversaries: (3/25) Jeremy & Courtney Goering; (3/26) Ralph & Karon Meineka

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

Have you ever replayed something over and over again in your mind, wishing things could have turned out differently? I know I have. That's regret. It is one type of grief. Regret keeps us pressing the rewind button, keeping us focused on what we should have done or could have done to lead to a different outcome, but no matter how much we rehash this, the ending is still the same. There is a different kind of grief...godly grief, which leads to repentance. We are sorry for our sin, asking God for forgiveness. Repentance doesn't magically make the situation go away, but it does place the past into Jesus' hands. Repentance focuses on a faithful Savior. Our redemption is not dependent upon our past; it rests on Christ who carries our grief, our sorrow, our regret, and still redeems us. Our past does not get the final word; Christ's crucifixion does. Instead of pressing the rewind button and living in the past, Christ has moved in with His mercy, allowing us to move forward. We are offered life! Move forward today with Jesus by your side. "For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death."(2 Corinthians 7:10)

(Ideas taken from Lutheran Church Charities devotion: Repentance Plays It Forward - March 9)

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Exodus 34:1-8; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 442 (*My First Hymnal* 62), 443, 441

"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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