

St. Paul Lutheran Church, LCMS
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Rev. Richard Boshoven, Interim Pastor

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 22, 2026, 2026, 11:00 AM
Contemporary Service



AS WE GATHER

Lent is a time when God prepares His people to celebrate the Paschal Feast, the resurrection of Jesus, with sincerity and truth. In the Reading from Ezekiel 37, we see the power of the Word that transforms dry bones into living flesh with the breath of the Spirit. This same Spirit lives in us and will raise us at the Last Day, which is exactly what we hear from Paul in the Reading from Romans 8. The Spirit who raised Christ will also give life to us. Having received the Spirit in

Baptism, we join with Martha in confessing boldly that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who comes to us today in His Word and Sacrament and will come again to call us out of our graves.



FOR THOSE DESIRING HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor. For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.)

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

“Change My Heart, Oh God”

(Chorus, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus)

**Change my heart, oh God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God. May I be like You.**

**You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; This is what I pray.**

WELCOME

(Please stand)

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 130:1-4

Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!

**O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my
pleas for mercy!**

If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**Most merciful God, we cry to You from the depths of our sin. We
were born into those depths and need Your Word to call us out of
them. We have sinned against You with our thoughts, our words,
our actions, and our inactions. We have lived according to the flesh
rather than the Spirit. From the depths, we wait for You. For the
sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, deliver our soul from death, our
eyes from tears, and our feet from stumbling. 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.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake
forgives you all your sins. You are precious in His sight because Christ is in
you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive
you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy
Spirit.

Amen.

INTROIT

Psalm 116:1–4, 8; antiphon: v. 15

Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.

**I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

**The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold
on me;**

I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the LORD:

“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”

**For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.

(Please be seated)

SONG OF PRAISE

“Alive”

(Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus)

**He is alive, I’m thankful. The King is alive, I’m free.
He is alive I’m thankful. The King is alive in me.**

**He let Himself be put on a tree, but that could not hold Him down.
He rolled that stone away from the grave, that could not hold Him
down.**

Chorus:

**Jesus said, “Go and tell of Me,” and “I will be back again.
I’ll be in ev’ry word you say,” and “I will be back again.”**

Chorus:

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.

Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ezekiel 37:1–14

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, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, 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 prophecy, 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.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: Romans 8:1–11

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

HOLY GOSPEL: John 11:1–45

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴But when Jesus heard it

he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she

fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” ⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

(Please be seated)

Sunday School Kids will Sing the Song of the Month

CHILDREN'S SONG OF THE MONTH:

“God Loves Me Dearly”

**God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.**

Refrain

**Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.**

**He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus And set me free. *Refrain***

**Now will I praise You, O love Eternal;
Now will I praise You All my life long. *Refrain***

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY

(4 Verses)

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light**

**Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one**

**Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art**

“Be Thou My Vision”

High King of heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Son
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

MESSAGE

OFFERING *(Please fill out the fellowship pad beside you)*
(Please stand)

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

HOLY COMMUNION

(Visitors, please read the statement at the beginning of this service folder.)

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

O Christ Lamb of God You take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us
O Christ Lamb of God You take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

(Please be seated)

RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER

DISTRIBUTION SONG

“Breathe”

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Chorus, Ending)

**This is the air I breathe, This is the air I breathe:
Your Holy presence living in me.
This is my daily bread, This is my daily bread:
Your very Word spoken to me.**

Chorus:

And I, I’m desperate for You. And I, I’m lost without You.

Ending:

**I’m lost without You. I’m lost without You.
This is the air I breathe. This is the air I breathe.**

DISTRIBUTION SONG

“Better Is One Day”

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus)

**How lovely is Your dwelling place,
oh Lord Almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for You
For here my heart is satisfied,
within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings**

**Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere (repeat)**

**One thing I ask and I would seek, to see Your beauty
To find You in the place Your glory dwells
One thing I ask and I would seek, to see Your beauty
To find You in the place Your glory dwells**

Bridge:

**My heart and flesh cry out, for You the living God
Your spirit’s water for my soul.
I’ve tasted and I’ve seen, come once again to me
I will draw near to You, I will draw near to You**

(Please stand)

PRAYER OF THANKS

Amen

BLESSING

(Please be seated)

SONG TO DEPART

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Chorus)

“Lord, I Lift Your Name On High”

**Lord I lift Your name on high,
Lord I love to sing Your praises.
I’m so glad You’re in my life,
I’m so glad You came to save us.**

**You came from heaven to earth, to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,
From the cross to the grave,
From the grave to the sky,
Lord I lift Your name on high.**

LEAVING

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.

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St. Paul Lutheran Church LCMS, 503 S. State St., Caro, Michigan CCLI#277564

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