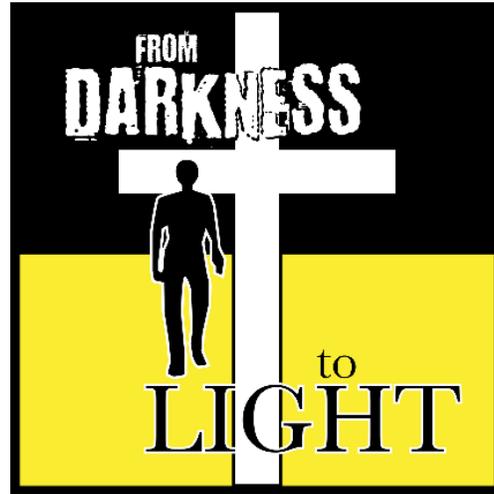


**St. Paul Lutheran Church, LCMS**  
503 S. State Street, Caro, MI 48723  
989-673-4214, [www.stpaulcaro.org](http://www.stpaulcaro.org)  
Rev. Richard Boshoven, Interim Pastor

## **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

March 15, 2026, 8:30 AM  
Contemporary Service



### **AS WE GATHER**

The Lord is grieved by the spiritual blindness of His people, but He does not forsake them. Instead, He promises to turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground (Isaiah 42:16). The Lord does not give up on His servant, Israel, but sends another Servant who is the light of the world (John 9:5). Jesus' light comes to us in His Word, His water, and His Supper. These are His means for opening our eyes to see and to live as children of light (Ephesians 5:8). Baptized into Christ, we look forward to the day when these words will come pass: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" (Ephesians 5:14).



### **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**

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

**As the deer panteth for the water,  
so my soul longeth after You.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
and I long to worship You.**

Chorus:

**You alone are my strength, my shield:  
To you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
and I long to worship You.**

**You're my friend and You are my brother  
Even though You are a King.  
I love You more than any other,  
So much more than anything.**

Chorus:

**I want You more than gold or silver,  
Only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy giver  
And the apple of my eye.**

Chorus:

## **WELCOME**

*(Please stand)*

## **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

With my voice I cry out to the LORD;  
**with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.**  
Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**“As the Deer”**

**Most merciful God, we confess that we were born in utter sin. To this day and by nature, we have eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear. We have trusted in the things we have made rather than You. Our thoughts, words, and actions have been unfruitful and dark. We have been blind to our sin, but You have seen it. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, open our eyes. 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. Jesus is the light of the world and your salvation. He has enlightened you with His gifts and given you ears to hear Jesus' words. It is He who is speaking to 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 † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **INTROIT**

*Psalm 27:4–6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15*

My eyes are ever toward the LORD,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

**One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to  
gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

**And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around  
me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;**

**I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

**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.**

My eyes are ever toward the LORD,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

*(Please be seated)*

## **SONG OF PRAISE**

*(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus)*

“Gentle Shepherd”

**Keep us safe on the journey,  
give us shelter when the day is done.  
Lead us out, out of the darkness;  
open our eyes when the morning comes,  
show us the sun.**

**Gentle Shepherd, show us the way.  
Grant us mercy, hope for tomorrow and strength for today.  
Gentle Shepherd, show us Your grace.**

**When we fall, lift us up, Lord.  
When we wander, bring us home again.  
Give us love for one another;  
Show us Your heart, help us understand  
Merciful Friend.**

**Gentle Shepherd, show us the way.  
Grant us mercy, hope for tomorrow and strength for today.  
Gentle Shepherd, show us Your grace. Your face.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. 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.

**Amen.**

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 42:14-21**

<sup>14</sup>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 labor;  
I will gasp and pant.

<sup>15</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame,  
who trust in carved idols,  
who say to metal images,  
“You are our gods.”

<sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf,  
and look, you blind, that you may see!

<sup>19</sup>Who is blind but my servant,  
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?

Who is blind as my dedicated one,  
or blind as the servant of the LORD?

<sup>20</sup>He sees many things, but does not observe them;  
his ears are open, but he does not hear.

<sup>21</sup>The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,  
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **EPISTLE: Ephesians 5:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

**HOLY GOSPEL: John 9:1-41**

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

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

<sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup>(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup>He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup>They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup>He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” <sup>28</sup>And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” <sup>30</sup>The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

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)*

### 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**

“Arise, Shine”

*(Four Verses)*

**Arise, Shine, Your light has come.  
The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light.  
The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light.**

**The Angel said a baby will be born.  
And you will call his name Immanuel.  
And you will call his name Immanuel.**

**He will save the world from its sin.  
Open up your heart and let the Christ child in.  
Open up your heart and let the Christ child in.  
Arise, Shine, Your light has come.  
The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light.  
The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light.**

## **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 Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

*(Please be seated)*

## **RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **DISTRIBUTION SONG**

“By His Wounds”

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

**He was pierced for our transgressions,  
He was crushed for our sins,  
The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him.  
And by His wounds, by His wounds we are healed.**

**Chorus:**

**We are healed by Your sacrifice,  
In the life that You gave.  
We are healed for You paid the price  
By Your grace we are saved. We are saved.**

### **DISTRIBUTION SONG**

“Ancient Words”

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

**Holy words long preserved  
for our walk in this world,  
They resound with God's own heart  
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.**

**Words of Life, words of Hope  
Give us strength, help us cope  
In this world, where e'er we roam  
Ancient words will guide us Home.**

**Chorus:**

**Ancient words ever true  
Changing me, and changing you.  
We have come with open hearts  
Oh let the ancient words impart.**

**Holy words of our Faith  
Handed down to this age.  
Came to us through sacrifice  
Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.**

**Holy words long preserved  
For our walk in this world.  
They resound with God's own heart  
Oh let the ancient words impart.  
Chorus 2X:**

**Ending:  
We have come with open hearts  
Oh let the ancient words impart**

*(Please stand)*

### **PRAYER OF THANKS**

**Amen**

### **BLESSING**

*(Please be seated)*

### **SONG TO DEPART**

**“Awesome God”**

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

**Oh when He rolls up his sleeves He ain't just puttin' on the ritz,  
Our God is an awesome God.  
There is thunder in his footsteps and lightning in his fists,  
Our God is an awesome God.**

**And the Lord wasn't joking when He kicked 'em out of Eden.  
It wasn't for no reason that He shed his blood.  
His return is very soon and so you'd better be believin' that  
Our God is an awesome God.**

**Chorus:**

**Our God is an awesome God.  
He reigns from heaven above  
with wisdom, pow'r and love  
Our God is an awesome God (repeat)**

**And when the sky was starless in the void of the night,  
Our God is an awesome God.  
He spoke into the darkness and created the light,  
Our God is an awesome God.**

**And judgment and wrath He poured out on Sodom.  
Mercy and grace He gave us at the cross.  
I hope that we have not too quickly forgotten that  
Our God is an awesome God Chorus**

## **LEAVING**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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

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**Drums:** Izzie Simon

**Song Leader:** Audrey Fisch