

# St. Paul Lutheran Church, LCMS

503 S. State Street, Caro, MI 48723

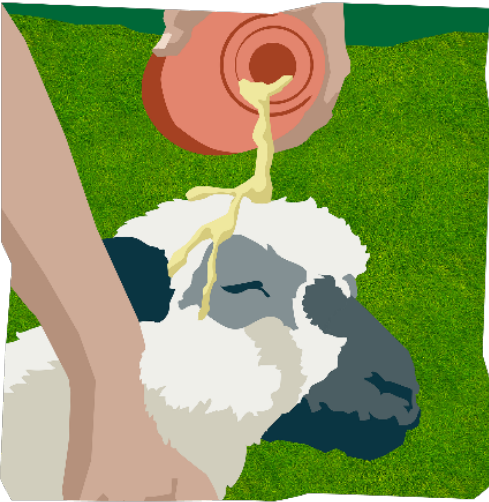
989-673-4214, [www.stpaulcaro.org](http://www.stpaulcaro.org)

Rev. Richard Boshoven, Interim Pastor

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2026, 11:00 AM

Contemporary Service



### AS WE GATHER

One of the longest lasting of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World was the Pharos Lighthouse that was constructed at the entry of the harbor of Alexandria, Egypt, in the third century BC. Although weakened by a series of earthquakes, it remained standing in part until AD 1480. Initially, its source of light was the brightness of the sun reflected in a great mirror by day and the flames of a great wood fire reflected by the same mirror at

night. The gradual disintegration of the tower, initially some 330 feet in height, finally extinguished its light. As He spoke with His disciples, Jesus described Himself as the light that never will be extinguished. John reports: "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'" (John 8:12). On our journey through this dark world, we are blessed to have the light of Christ as our unfailing guide. It truly is the light no darkness can overcome.



### 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**

**“The River Is Here”**

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

**Down the mountain the river flows  
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes  
Through the valleys and over the fields  
The river is rushing and the river is here**

**Chorus:**

**The river of God sets our feet to dancing  
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer  
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter  
And we rejoice for the river is here**

**The river of God is teeming with life  
And all who touch it can be revived  
And all who linger on this river's shore  
will come back thirsting  
For more of the Lord. Chorus:**

**Up to the mountain we love to go  
To find the presence of the Lord  
Along the banks of the river we run  
We dance with laughter  
Giving praise to the Son. Chorus:**

## **WELCOME**

*(Please stand)*

## **INVOCATION**

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

## **BAPTISM of *Jordyn Louise Decker***

## **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Because all men are born in sin and our Lord Jesus Christ has said: “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God,” and has commanded us: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing

them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” and has promised: “He who believes and is baptized will be saved,” it is fitting and right that in obedience to His command and trusting in His promise, you bring this child to be baptized in His name.

Receive the sign of the holy cross both upon the forehead and upon the heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ, the Crucified.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Hear the holy Gospel according to St. Mark:

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them. (Mark 10:13-16 NIV)

### **ADMONITION TO THE PARENTS**

Dear Parents: In asking that your child be baptized, you are acting in accordance with Christ's command. As Christian people you are also accepting the responsibility of rearing her as a Christian. It will be your duty to teach her, by word and example, the truths God has revealed in His Word concerning her sin, and her Savior, Jesus Christ, and to help her as she struggles with the sinful nature to live a Christ-like life. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking? If so then answer, “We do.”

PARENTS: **We Do.**

### **ADMONITION TO THE SPONSORS**

After this child has been baptized, it is your duty and privilege, along with her parents, to remember her in your prayers, put her in mind of her Baptism, give your counsel and aid that she be brought up in the true knowledge and worship of God and be taught the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer; and that, as she grows in years, you place in her hands the Holy Scriptures, bring her to the services of God's house, and provide for her further instruction in the Christian faith, that she come to the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood and thus, abiding in his baptismal grace in the

communion with the Church, she may grow up to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations? If so then answer, "Yes"

SPONSORS: **Yes.**

May God make you able to will and to do this act of love, and with His grace fulfill what you are unable to do.

### **ADMONITION TO THE CONGREGATION**

We as members of St. Paul Lutheran Church and fellow Christians, in accepting this child as a member of the family of Christ, accept a responsibility of Christian love and concern too. I ask you: Will you accept this child as your fellow-member of the body of Christ, and provide and continue those efforts as God's people that will enable her to grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ? If so then answer, "We will."

CONGREGATION: **We will.**

Let us then, as the first act of our responsibility, implore the blessing of the Lord Jesus Christ upon this child as we together pray the Lord's Prayer.

(all please stand)

### **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.**

The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even forevermore.

**Amen.**

Let us all confess the Christian faith which we believe and into which this child is to be baptized.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(congregation may be seated)

I now ask parents and sponsors to answer on behalf of this child. Because you, as parents have been given authority and responsibility for this child by God, and because you, as sponsors have been given spiritual authority by these parents I ask you all to speak for this child.

Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways? If so then answer, "I do renounce them."

**PARENTS AND SPONSORS: I do renounce them.**

Do you believe in God Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as confessed by the family of Christ in the Apostles' Creed? If so then answer, "I do."

**PARENTS AND SPONSORS: I do.**

Do you desire to be baptized into this Christian faith? If so then answer, "I do."

**PARENTS AND SPONSORS: I do.**

Then come and be baptized.

Jordyn Louise Decker, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Lord, in Your Holy Word You tell us the importance of Holy Baptism saying: "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Jordyn Louise Decker, May the almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has begotten you again of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace unto life everlasting.

Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank You that You have granted this, Your servant the new birth in Holy Baptism and made her a member of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ. As she has now become Your child, keep her in her baptismal grace, so that she may hold fast to the Christian faith and lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally receive the promised inheritance in heaven, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

### **PEACE**

Peace be with you.

**Amen**

### **INTROIT**

*Psalm 95:1–3, 6–7a; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b*

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

**Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;**

**let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

**For the LORD is a great God,**

**and a great King above all gods.**

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

**For he is our God,**

**and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

**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.**

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

*(Please be seated)*

## **SONG OF PRAISE**

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

## **“Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks”**

**Chorus:**

**Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord;  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.**

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth;  
He is the king of creation. Chorus**

**Spread the good news o’er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and has risen. Chorus**

**We have been crucified with Christ;  
Now we shall live forever. Chorus**

**God has proclaimed the just reward:  
Life for all people, alleluia. Chorus**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same 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)*

### **FIRST READING: Acts 2:42–47**

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE: 1 Peter 2:19–25**

<sup>19</sup>This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup>When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

**HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:1–10**

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

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

**CHILDREN'S SONG OF THE MONTH:**

“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:**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SONG OF THE DAY**

“Gentle Shepherd”

*(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus)*

**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.**

## **MESSAGE**

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

## **PRAYERS**

### **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**

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

**Son of God, shaper of the stars,**

**You alone, the dweller of my heart.**

**Mighty king, how beautiful You are,**

**How beautiful.**

**Son of God, the Father's gift to us,**

**You alone were broken on the altar of love.**

**Precious lamb, our freedom's in Your blood,**

**It's in Your blood.**

**“Son of God”**

**Chorus:**  
Jesus, oh holy one,  
I sing to You, forgiven.  
Savior, I'm overcome  
With Your great love for me.

Son of God, strength beyond compare,  
You alone the darkness cannot bear.  
Lord of all, Your kindness draws me near,  
It draws me.  
Son of God, prophecy of old,  
You alone, redeemer of my soul.  
Come again and lead Your people home,  
Come lead us home. Chorus:

**Bridge:**  
You are worthy, You are worthy,  
You are worthy of all my praise.  
You are beautiful, You are beautiful,  
I will lift up my hands and sing. (2x then Chorus)

### **DISTRIBUTION SONG**

**“Father Welcomes”**

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

**Chorus:**

Father welcomes all his children to his fam'ly through his Son.  
Father giving his salvation, Life forever has been won.

Little children, come to me, for my kingdom is of these.  
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. Chorus

In the water, in the Word, in His promise, be assured:  
Those who are baptized and believe, Shall be born again. Chorus

Let us daily die to sin; let us daily rise with him  
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God.  
Chorus

*(Please stand)*

### **PRAYER OF THANKS**

**Amen**

## **BLESSING**

*(Please be seated)*

### **SONG TO DEPART**

**“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”**

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

**We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord.**

**We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord.**

**And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.**

**Chorus:**

**And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love**

**Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.**

**And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land.**

**(Chorus)**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side.**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side.**

**And we’ll guard each man’s dignity and save each man’s pride.**

**(Chorus)**

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come.**

**And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.**

**And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.**

**(Chorus)**

## **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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**Minister of Family Life:** Zane Simon

**Guitar:** E.J. Fisch

**Song Leader:** Kim Braun