

St. Paul Lutheran Church, LCMS

503 S. State Street, Caro, MI 48723

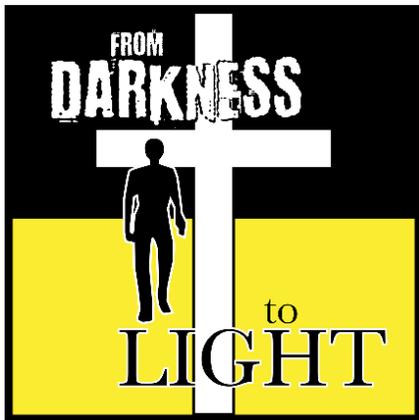
989-673-4214, www.stpaulcaro.org

Rev. Richard Boshoven, Interim Pastor

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 15, 2026, 11:00 AM

Divine Service Setting 3 Abbreviated



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.)

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

HYMN OF INVOCATION

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" LSB 425

(Please stand)

INVOCATION *(Spoken responses)*

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

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

Amen.

EXHORTATION

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

CONFESSION OF SINS

O almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

ABSOLUTION

[John 20:19–23]

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ 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.

GLORIA PATRI ♪

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

KYRIE ♪

Mark 10:47

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY: Lent 4

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

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.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 42:14–21

¹⁴For 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.

¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.

¹⁶And 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.

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

¹⁸Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!

¹⁹Who 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?

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

²¹The 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

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 pleasing 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.”

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 be to Thee, O Lord.

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

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He 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.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So 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.” ¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷So 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.”

¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and

asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But 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." ²²(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.) ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

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

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹Jesus 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 be to Thee, 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

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” LSB 411

SERMON

OFFERING *(Please fill out the fellowship pad in the pew.)*

(Please stand, sing)

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free
spirit. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PREFACE *(Sing responses)*

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

PROPER PREFACE (Abbreviated)

It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS 

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He,
blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28;

PAX DOMINI *(Sing response)*

John 20:19

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI ♪

John 1:29

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

VISITORS:

Please read the communion statement at the beginning of this worship folder.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN:

“O Jesus, King Most Wonderful” LSB 554

DISTRIBUTION HYMN:

“God Loved the World So That He Gave” LSB 571
(Please stand for stanza 6)

NUNC DIMITTIS ♪

Luke 2:29–32

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy
word,**

**for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared
before the face of all people,**

a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
and His mercy endureth forever.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Let us pray...

Amen

SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

BENECICAMUS

Psalm 103:1

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen, amen, amen.

(Please be seated)

HYMN TO DEPART: “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” LSB 849

LEAVING

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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