

**St. Paul's
Lutheran
Church**
Milaca, MN
320-982-6703



Rev. Daniel Carlson
Pastor

March 31, 2019

**The Fourth
Sunday in Lent**

READINGS

Isaiah 12:1-6

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3; 11-32

HYMNS

CH 323

LSB 915

LSB 686

LSB 418

LSB 731

CH 319

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Fifth Sunday Celebration Service

Opening Hymn

CH 323 - At the Cross

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

- P** Today is the Lord's Day, a Sunday *in* Lent, but not part *of* it—a little Easter. Let us rejoice and be glad in it,
C in Jesus' name. Amen.
- P** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O 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.**

SERVICE of the WORD

Entrance Hymn

LSB 915 - Today Your Mercy Calls Us

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today. | 2 | Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n. |
|---|---|---|---|

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Greeting

- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** Amen.

Kyrie

- C** Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

Lenten Hymn of Praise

LSB 433 - Glory Be to Jesus

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Glory be to Jesus,
Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood
From His sacred veins! | 2 | Grace and life eternal
In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion,
Infinitely kind! |
|---|--|---|---|

Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning. Though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul.
- C** **Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 12:1–6

- A** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 12.

The LORD Is My Strength and My Song

*You will say in that day:
“I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,*

*your anger turned away,
that you might comfort me.
“Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.”*

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day :

*“Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.
“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”*

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

A The Epistle is from 2 Corinthians, chapter 5.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory

LSB 422 - On My Heart Imprint Your Image

- 1 On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!

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Congregation reads parts with the "C". A reader reads parts marked with the "L". The Pastor reads the parts with the "P"

Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

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

P In Jesus' parable, the father represents God; His words will be read by our lector. We are often like the other characters and shall all therefore read those parts.

P Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying,

C **This man receives sinners and eats with them.**

P So He told them this parable: . . .

"There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father,

C **'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.'**

P And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

But when he came to himself, he said,

C “How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’ ”

P And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him,

C “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”

P But the father said to his servants,

L *“Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.”*

P And they began to celebrate.

Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him,

C “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.”

P But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father,

C “Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!”

P And he said to him,

L *“Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.”*

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn

LSB 686 - Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

- 1 Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.

- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

- 4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
Me to realms of endless day.

Sermon

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.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various needs.

Let us pray for all who, like the people of Isaiah's day, languish under fear and oppression.

- C** **Reconciling Lord, use police and military people and resources, political powers and courageous leaders, to restore liberty and freedom to all who are displaced or denied justice. Renew in them faith in Your promises and a realization that You are in their midst even in difficult days.**

- P** Let us pray for all who, like David in his earlier days, deny their transgressions, defend their iniquities, and groan in their misery.

- C** **Reconciling Lord, by Your Word of Law and Gospel bring them to true contrition and repentance. Be a hiding place for them, and surround them with Your love. Grant that we may act as Your embracing arms.**

- P** Let us pray for clergy and lay leaders around the world, who, like Paul, are Christ's ambassadors through whom God is making His appeal.

- C** **Reconciling Lord, strengthen and protect Your Church around the world, all who bring the good news of salvation to the people they meet. Guide us as we carry the ministry of reconciliation in our various relationships. Help us encourage one another on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to You each day.**

- P** Let us pray for all who reflect the family members in Jesus' parable: those who find themselves destitute, those harboring resentment, and those offering compassionate care.

- C** **Reconciling Lord, where generations are at odds, bring understanding. Where families are fractured, bring healing. Where people are forgotten, unseen, and marginalized, bring dignity and new hope. Use us gathered here—as well as emergency personnel, health-care workers, mental health consultants, and social agencies of all sorts—to care for their needs of body, mind, and spirit.**

- P** Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P As we are about to receive our Lord's body and blood in, with, and under this bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, let us make confession to our heavenly Father.

P "I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,'

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin."**

P With God's people when Isaiah's prophecy would be fulfilled, we "give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name."

C **But we confess that when we are drained in our broken relationships, we do not always remember that God is the source of every blessing, nor do we remember that He is always ready to listen when we call out to Him.**

P With David, we rejoice that "against [us] the Lord counts no iniquity."

C **But we confess that we do not always admit all our transgressions to the Lord, groaning instead all day long.**

P With Paul, we rejoice that Christ "gave us the ministry of reconciliation."

C **But we confess that we do not always regard one another as His new creations, failing to be reconciled to one another or to God.**

P With the prodigal son in Jesus' parable, we have felt our heavenly Father's forgiving embrace, welcoming us home.

C **But we confess that at times we are more like the elder brother, feeling sorry for ourselves and seeking tangible blessings for serving our Lord through the years.**

P The Pharisees were correct, saying that Jesus "receives sinners and eats with them." Let us therefore confidently go to God, asking His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

Silence for reflection on the Word of God and for self-examination.

P Almighty God, heavenly Father,

C **we confess that we are by nature sinful. We have failed to love You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as**

ourselves. We have considered ourselves better than others; we have expected You to bless us in all things. For the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Lord, forgive us, and by the power of Your Holy Spirit cleanse our hearts and minds that we might walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

- P** Christ Jesus, true man and true God, ... May God strengthen you in your Lenten journey toward the joys of Easter.
- C** **Amen. The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**

Peace of the Lord

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **And also with you.**

Offering & Offertory

SERVICE of the SACRAMENT

Attending Communion at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

In the Lord's Supper our Lord gives not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood. We eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. Because those who eat and drink unworthily do so to great harm, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold to a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked to first speak with the pastor or an elder. For further reading in Scripture: Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34. When partaking of the Lord's Supper, after kneeling, please open your hand to indicate desire to partake. Otherwise keep hands closed and cross your arms in front of your chest to receive a blessing from the pastor.

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.**

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary ... we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, All my breath shall ev - er praise You.
Shout Ho - san - na to the King, For He comes in - to our pres - sence.



Earth be - low and heav'n a - bove Sing for - ev - er, glo - ri - fy You.
Je - sus Christ the cru - ci - fied Comes to us for our de - liv - rance.



God who tri - umphs death and hell, we ad - ore You now, for - ev - er!
Bles - sed Je - sus with us stay, take our dark and sin a - way.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, ... To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

- 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.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, ... So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

- 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.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 550 - Lamb of God

- 1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God. Refrain

- ref O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

- 2 Your Gift of love they crucified,
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:

The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. Refrain

- 3 I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. Refrain

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Distribution Hymn

LSB 418 - O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

- 1 O Lord, throughout these forty days
You prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin,
And free us from our past.
- 2 You strove with Satan, and You won;
Your faithfulness endured;
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust
In God's eternal Word.
- 3 Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed
And fixed Your mind above;
So teach us to deny ourselves,
Since we have known God's love.
- 4 Be with us through this season, Lord,
And all our earthly days,
That when the final Easter dawns,
We join in heaven's praise.

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Distribution Hymn

LSB 731 - O God, Forsake Me Not

- 1 O God, forsake me not!
Your gracious presence lend me;
Lord, lead Your helpless child;
Your Holy Spirit send me
That I my course may run.
O be my light, my lot,

My staff, my rock, my shield—
O God, forsake me not!

2 O God, forsake me not!
Take not Your Spirit from me;
Do not permit the might
Of sin to overcome me.
Increase my feeble faith,
Which You alone have wrought.
O be my strength and pow'r—
O God, forsake me not!

3 O God, forsake me not!
Lord, hear my supplication!
In ev'ry evil hour
Help me resist temptation;
And when the prince of hell
My conscience seeks to blot,
Be then not far from me—
O God, forsake me not!

4 O God, forsake me not!
Lord, I am Yours forever.
O keep me strong in faith
That I may leave You never.
Grant me a blessèd end
When my good fight is fought;
Help me in life and death—
O God, forsake me not!

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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P** Let us pray
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, ... through Jesus Christ, Your Son,
our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Benediction

Psalm 32:7, adapt.

- P** God is a hiding place for us; He preserves us from trouble.

C He surrounds us with shouts of deliverance.

P The Lord bless you and keep you in His welcoming embrace. The Lord make His face shine on you in His reconciling grace. The Lord look upon you as His new creation and † give you peace.

C Amen.

Departing Hymn

CH 319 - Near the Cross

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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Acknowledgments

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This Week at St. Paul's

TODAY: Sunday, March 31

Worship Service W/ Holy Communion..... 9:00 am

Fellowship	10:00 am
Sunday School Classes	10:30 am

Wednesday, April 3

Confirmation Class.....	5:30 pm
Lenten Meal	5:30 pm
Lenten Service	6:30 pm

Saturday, April 6

Men's Bible Study.....	7:30am
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Next Sunday, April 7

Worship Service w/ Holy Communion	9:00 am
Fellowship	10:00 am
Sunday School Classes	10:30 am
Elders Meeting.....	11:15 am

Serving the Lord with Our Attendance and Gifts

Attendance on March 24 – 62
 March 24 Offering - \$ 1,720.00
 March 27 (Midweek) attendance – 21

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Celebrating a BIRTHDAY this week – Al Gruba, Carrie Vanderpoel, Mike Larsen, Johnna Totzke.

Celebrating an ANNIVERSARY this week – Al & Maxine Gruba

Baptismal Birthdays – Derek Totzke, Julie Nelson, Carin Calander and Craige Roeschlein

Remember In Prayer

Betty Rinderknecht.....	Joyce VanDonsel	Harold Zoeller
Bob Frazier.....	Jerry Micholski	Kay VanSickle
Jean Larsen	Tom & Lela Litfin.....	David Micholski
Nicole Micholski	Luella Noack.....	Marlene Krotzer
Ron VanSickle.....	Faye Miller	Samuel Judson
Shannon Micholski	St. Paul's Church Families: Dan & Kathy Belsheim, Carla Scott	

The Lenten Season is now upon us and we continue to worship together at our Lenten Services on Wednesdays. We will be enjoying a meal together beginning at 5:30pm followed by a worship service at 6:30pm.

Do you order from Amazon.com? Check out AmazonSmile – it is a program where Amazon donates 0.5% of your purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com>

In order to keep up to date on everything here at St. Paul's, make sure that you **like and follow** us on Facebook at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Milaca. Make sure to subscribe to our You Tube Channel as well which can also be found at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Milaca. And if you haven't checked out the website lately, check it out by going to: *www.stpaulsmilaca.org*.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Confirmation classes are now meeting at 5:30pm. The last Wednesday of Confirmation is Wednesday, April 10th. There will be **NO Wednesday night Adult Bible Study** from now through the end of April.

Please continue to **SAVE YOUR TEAL'S RECEIPTS!** We will be taking advantage of Teal's Rebate program. They will donate 1% of all the receipts turned in. Please save your receipts and then place them in the box in the kitchen. Thanks to Joyce VanDonsel for her work collecting and tabulating the receipts!

This year St. Paul's will have a traditional **Passover Seder**, a history-teaching meal for the Christian Church. The Seder will be on Maundy Thursday, April 18th at 6:30 PM. A sign-up form has been posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. There is no cost for the Seder, but a free-will offering will be collected.

Jen VanDonsel is looking for a volunteer (or two) in her home daycare. A few hours a week is all that is needed to help her bundle (and unbundle) the little ones as they gear up to play outside in the warmer weather now that the Spring season is approaching. If you can help in this way or would like additional details, please contact Jen at 320-493-4691.

Our next **Quarterly Voter's Meeting** will be held on Sunday, April 28.

Thank you to Carin Calander for all of her work on our monthly newsletter! Your suggestions and submissions for the newsletter are encouraged. Articles, recipes, poems and other ideas can be e-mailed to her at calfam1@frontiernet.net or placed in her church mailbox.

Just a reminder to make it a habit to check your church mailboxes frequently. If you check it today, you will find the April 2019 issue of our monthly newsletter, St. Paul's Circular.

Our Sunday morning worship services are recorded each week on a DVD. If you would like to receive a copy to view at your convenience, please contact the church office.

Holy Week and Easter Services Calendar

Midweek Lent Services.....	April 3 and April 10.....	Meal – 5:30pm; Service – 6:30pm
Palm Sunday.....	April 14.....	9:00am
Maundy Thursday Christian Seder Meal.....	April 18.....	6:30pm
Good Friday Service.....	April 19.....	7:00pm
Easter Vigil Service.....	Saturday, April 20.....	7:00pm
Easter Sunday Services.....	April 21.....	Sunrise - 7:00am; Morning – 9:30am
Easter breakfast will be served between our two morning services.		

Two copies of the March 2019 issue of the **Lutheran Witness** are available. It is a monthly periodical that focuses on issues in the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. They are located on the shelf below the church mailboxes. Feel free to take home, read and enjoy. Return promptly so that others may do the same.

WOW! Can it be that our week of **Vacation Bible School** is just a few short months away? Monday, June 10th – Friday, June 14th to be exact. Enjoy a fun filled morning (9am – Noon) and learn about the “Miraculous Mission – Jesus Saves the World.” Keep an eye out for further details as the date approaches.