



**The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024**

**9:00 am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church • 106 Maple St. • Reading, OH 45215
513-821-0987 • mail@stpaulreading.org**

March 10, 2024: The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Gathering

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand as you are able. The sign of the cross may be made by all.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Please kneel or sit as you are able.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

Entrance Hymn #520 (green hymnal)

“Give to Our God Immortal Praise!”

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

LBW Setting 1

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

Hymn of Praise

LBW Setting 1



♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



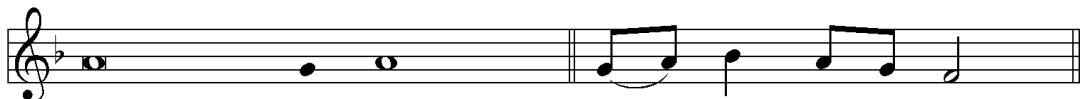
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

Prayer of the Day

LBW Setting 1



♩ The Lord be with you.

♩ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Word

Blessing of the Lector

P: Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart. Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Let us pray.

Bless Linda, O God of mercy, and bless us as we listen to the words of the scriptures. May they touch our hearts and lead us to return to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way.

⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

“God Is So Good to Us” (Psalm 107)

Refrain (Leader): God is so good to us.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks unto Your God

for His redeeming grace.

God is so good to us.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks unto Your God

for all that God has done.

Refrain (All):



God is so good to us. His love en-dures for - ev - er.---



Give thanks un - to Your God for His re-deem - ing grace.



God is so good to us. His love en-dures for - ev - er.---



Give thanks un - to Your God for all that God has done.

Leader:

1. Hungry, thirsty,
lost and alone —
Know that God hears your cry.
Remember the desert,
when Israel lost hope:
water sprang forth,
manna fell from the sky.

Refrain (All)

Leader:

2. Chained and suffering,
far from our God:
oft we stray into sin.
But as we confess,
God lifts our distress,
heals our inflictions,
sets us free again!

Refrain (All)

Leader:

3. Storms and tempests
stagger the soul.
Danger melts us with fear.
Yet cannot God still
all storms through His Will?
In every danger
is our God not near!

Refrain (All)

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

Paul writes: ¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature

children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Verse

LBW Setting 1

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Silence for reflection and meditation.

Hymn of the Day

“God Loved the World”



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Please stand as you are able.

The Apostles' Creed

A: Let us confess our common faith with all Christians throughout time and place, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

Prayers of Intercession

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

After the last petition:

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

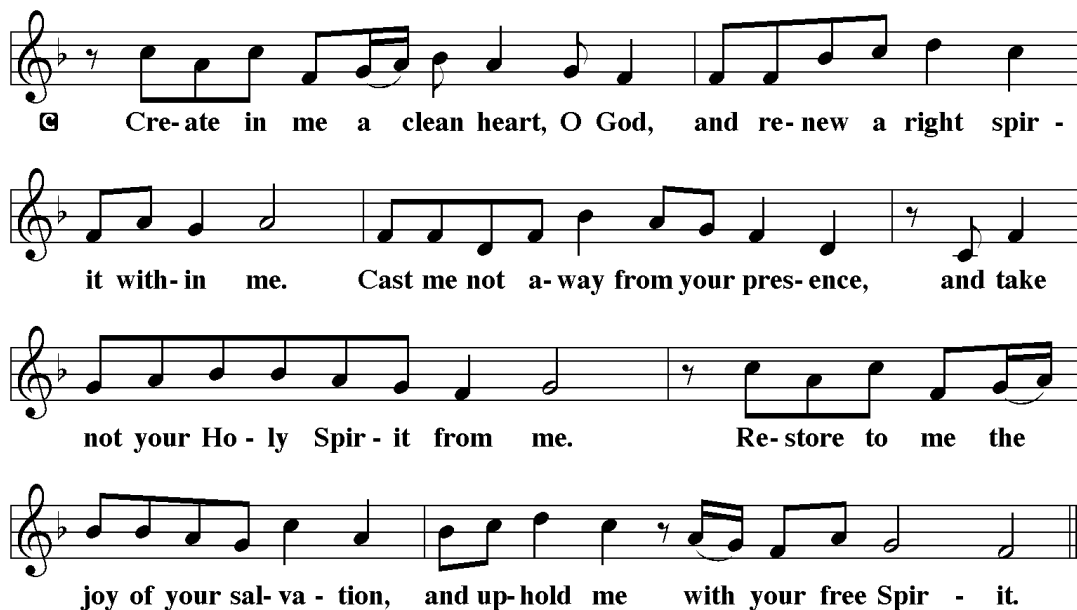
The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Invitation to Offering

A: “Do not say to yourself, ‘My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.’ But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.” (*Deut. 8:17-18*) Let us, then, not take glory for ourselves, but give back to God what he has first given to us, that we might praise him.

Offering

LBW



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dialogue

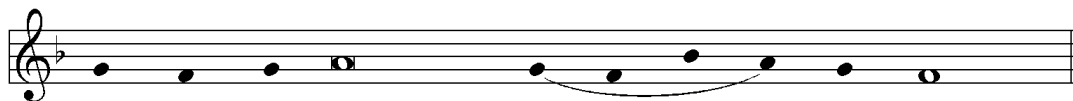
LBW Setting 1



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

LBW Setting 1



☞ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take

and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

♩ Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -
 might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

Invitation to Communion

P: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Please be seated.

Agnus Dei

LBW Setting 1

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion

P: The Body of Christ, broken for you.

The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

Those who wish to commune at the altar rail may either bring forward their individual Communion kit, or receive the wafer and wine/grape juice by intinction (dipping) from the Communion Ministers, when they are directed forward by the usher. Those who wish to commune in their seat with their individual Communion kit may remain seated.

Communion Hymn #385 (green hymnal)

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle

LBW Setting 1



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.



My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre- pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re- veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo- ple Is - ra - el.



Glo- ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be- gin - ning, is now, and will be for- ev - er. A - men

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Silence for reflection.

Sending

Announcements For God's Mission in the World

Please stand as you are able.

Blessing

LBW Setting 1



Almighty God, Father, † Son,
and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever.

A - men

Closing Hymn #73 (maroon hymnal)

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director ***away*

Kate Wollenburg, Organist ***away*

Carolyn Koehl, Organist

Addy Kruse, Hymn Leader

Chet Laine, Assisting Minister

Linda Miller, Reader

Our Life Together

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Psalmistry Music.

What Wondrous Love Is This: Arr. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, ad-
min. Augsburg Fortress.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 10: 4th Sunday in Lent

9 am Intergenerational Sunday School
10:30 am Worship Service

Wednesday, March 13

2:30 pm Bible study
7 pm Lenten Worship Service: Witnesses at the Cross (“The Beloved Disciple,” Pastor Tyler Moquin-Lee)

Thursday, March 14

6 pm Confirmation Class

Saturday, March 16

4 pm Community Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 17: 5th Sunday in Lent

9 am Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship Service

Monday, March 18

7 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 20

2:30 pm Bible study
7 pm Lenten Worship Service: Witnesses at the Cross (“The Women”, Pastor Aly Mazzei-Baker)

Announcements

This Wednesday, March 13, is our fourth Lenten service in the *Witnesses at the Cross* series. Each Wednesday in Lent, we will worship using the service of Holden Evening Prayer, and hear a sermon from a different ELCA pastor. This week, guest pastor Rev. Tyler Moquin-Lee will preach on the Beloved Disciple.

March 16 is the annual Community Easter Egg Hunt! Please see the Evangelism Committee if you're able to help with candy donations or with setup, hosting, or cleanup of the event.