

First Sunday in Lent

# February 26, 2023

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3383 EAST LAKE LANSING ROAD

EAST LANSING, MI 48823

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Pastor Carl E. Ballard

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**VISITORS WELCOME!** If this is your first time worshipping with us, please sign our guest registry just outside the sanctuary doors. We hope you are blessed through worship today. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church at (517) 351-8541.

**Children** are always welcome in worship! We consider the sounds of children a joyful noise. The choir room (off the sanctuary) can also be used as a ***cry room*** for younger children and includes a sound system so parents may continue to participate in the service. Clipboards with children’s bulletins, activities and crayons are available for use during the service.

**Sunday School/Education** is available September-May.

**This Bulletin** is for your use during the service and to take with you for the upcoming week. If you choose not to take it home, please place in the recycle receptacle in the back.

**Newsletters and Calendars of Upcoming Events** are available in the

lobby/narthex. We welcome anyone who has an interest in our small groups or activities! You can also look us up on the web at www.stpaul-el.org.

**Contacting Us:** Our office manager is Maria Oliver. The office e-mail address is officemanager@stpaul-el.org. Our Director of Music is Elene Kobulashvili. You may leave a message at (517) 351-8541.

**Holy Communion** is available at most services. All who believe in the real presence of Christ in the bread and the wine are invited to celebrate Communion with us. Those who wish can come forward for a blessing.

**You are invited** to share in fellowship after worship. Kay (with the assistance of Bob) usually makes the most delicious snacks to our delight. We would love this opportunity to introduce you to the St. Paul community.

**P: Presiding Minister A: Assisting Minister C: Congregation**

**PRELUDE**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Today's gospel tells of Jesus’ temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God’s mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

**GATHERING**

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

(*Please rise as you are able)*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who makes all things new,

whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,

**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,**

**and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have not practiced your righteousness.**

**Our hearts have turned away from you.**

**For the sake of the world you so love,**

**forgive us,**

**that we may be reconciled to one another**

**for the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

P: Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass

and new things I now declare.”

God’s mercy makes us new.

As a called and ordained minister in the Church of Christ and by his authority I therefore declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* *ELW 504***

*1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
through life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!*

**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 ELW Setting 2, Page 120**

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

***Lord, have mercy.***

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

***Lord, have mercy.***

*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.*

***Lord, have mercy.***

*For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.*

***Lord, have mercy.***

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

***Amen.***

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*(Children are invited to Sunday School)*

***Lord, Let my Heart be Good Soil* *ELW 512***

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,*

*Open to the seed of your word.*

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,*

*Where love can grow and peace is understood.*

**THE WORD**

P: God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song.

###  **FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

*Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent’s promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

15The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”
 3:1Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” 2The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” 4But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; 5for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 32**

  Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. *(Ps. 32:10)*

 1Happy are they whose transgressions **|** are forgiven,
  and whose sin is **|** put away!
 2**Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,**
  **and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**
 3While I held my tongue, my bones with- **|** ered away,
  because of my groaning **|** all day long.
 4**For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;**
  **my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer. R**
 5Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- **|** ceal my guilt.
  I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt **|** of my sin.
 6**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;**
  **when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**
 7You are my hiding-place; you preserve **|** me from trouble;
  you surround me with shouts **|** of deliverance.
 8**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;**
  **I will guide you | with my eye. R**
 9Do not be like horse or mule, which have no **|** understanding;
  who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will **|** not stay near you.”
 10**Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;**
  **but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.**
 11Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice **|** in the Lord;
  shout for joy, all who are **|** true of heart.**R**

### **SECOND READING:  Romans 5:12-19**

 *Through Adam’s disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ’s obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.*

12Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—13sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. 14Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.
 15But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. 16And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. 17If, because of the one man’s trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.
 18Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. 19For just as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## (Please rise as you are able.)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW Setting 2, Page 124**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Lord, to whom shall we go?*

*You have the words of eternal life.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia*.

### **GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT:  Matthew 4:1-11**

The Gospel according to Matthew the 4th chapter

**C: Glory to You O Lord**

*After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led into the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”*

1Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. 3The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4But he answered, “It is written,
 ‘One does not live by bread alone,
  but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”
 5Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,
 ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
  and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
 so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”
7Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”
 8Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” 10Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
 ‘Worship the Lord your God,
  and serve only him.’ ”
11Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: The Praise to you, O Christ.**

## (Please be seated.)

**SERMON Pastor Carl Ballard**

## (Please rise as you are able.)

### **HYMN OF THE DAY *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me***

###  **ELW 325**

*1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

**APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. \***

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come 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.**

## (Please be seated.)

**THE PRAYERS**

A:Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*(A brief silence.)*

You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards, that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially worship greeters, coffee hour hosts, and nursery attendants. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

Send angels of protection to provide care and compassion to those who serve in our armed forces as they face the trauma of war. We pray especially for Beth & Ryan, Coen, Jonathan, Jacob, Noah, Irene, and Alex. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

Healing God, raise up any who are bowed down with illness or sorrow. Deepen our care and concern for one another. We lift to you all who are undergoing transition in relationships, occupation, living situation, or health condition especially Ahren, Anne & Bob, Bev, Dan, David, John, Jon, Jordan, Lawton, Lera & family, Carrie, and Tim. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

We especially lift up to you Presiding Bishop Elizabeth, our Synod Bishop Craig, and Pastor Carl. We ask that you be with their respective staffs as they live out their callings to serve. As we are called to be one, even as Jesus and the Father are one, be with the leaders and the congregation of St. Paul Lutheran Church, in Au Gres. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer,**

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**Amen.**

**GREETING OF PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

# **C: And also with you.**

# THE MEAL

*The gifts of the bread, wine and contributions*

*are brought forward to the altar.*

# **OFFERTORY Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful ELW 184**

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,*

*and ﬁll to the brim our cup of blessing.*

*Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,*

*that we may be fed with the bread of life.*

*Gather the hopes and dreams of all;*

*unite them with the prayers we offer.*

*Grace our table with your presence,*

*and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**C: Liberating God,**

**you break the bonds of injustice**

**and let the oppressed go free.**

**Receive these offerings in thanksgiving**

**for all your works of merciful power,**

**and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.**

**You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,**

**C: Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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 our thanks and praise.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# **HOLY, HOLY** **ELW Setting 10, Page 207**

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.*

# **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

# **C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

# **C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

# **C: Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

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

# **C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*All who believe in the real presence of Christ in the bread and the wine (juice) are welcome to the table. Others may come forward for a blessing.*

*Communion will be offered a couple of ways. You may either take a communion cup with host as you enter worship and come forward to the rail or take part where you are seated. Or you may come forward and receive Communion directly from the Pastor at the rail.*

*When approaching the communion rail, come forward down the side aisle, kneel, if you are able, starting at the front of the communion rail (spot closest to the font) on your side and filling in toward the back. After receiving both the bread and the wine, you may return to your seat by the center aisle. If you prefer grape juice, please ask the assisting minister.*

# **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

P: The body of Christ, given for you.

# **C: Amen.**

A: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

# **C: Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together* ELW 471**

*Let us break bread together on our knees;*

*let us break bread together on our knees.* ***[Refrain]***

***Refrain****:*

*When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,*

*O Lord, have mercy on me.*

*Let us drink wine together on our knees;*

*let us drink wine together on our knees****. [Refrain]***

***Refrain:***

*When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,*

*O Lord, have mercy on me.*

*Let us praise God together on our knees;*

*let us praise God together on our knees. [****Refrain****]*

***Refrain:***

*When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,*

*O Lord, have mercy on me.*

## (When all have returned to their seats,

## please stand as you are able.)

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

# **C: Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Let us pray.

Holy One, we thank you for the healing

that springs forth abundantly from this table.

Renew our strength to do justice,

love kindness,

and journey humbly with you.

Amen.

**BLESSING**

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice

and breaks the oppressor’s rod

☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,

today and always.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN  *Lord Jesus, You Shall be my Song* ELW 671**

*1 Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;*

*I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:*

*you alone are our life and our peace and our love.*

*Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.*

*2 Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.*

*May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.*

*May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.*

*Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.*

*3 As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,*

*to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.*

*For you saved me by giving your body and blood.*

*As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.*

*4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;*

*but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.*

*And with all of the family you saved by your love,*

*we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.*

**DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Announcements:**

Sunday Funday is today! Ice Skating at Munn Ice Arena from 3:30-5:30

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